

Farmington Observer & Eccentric

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Senior citizens to have their say

By LORAIN McCLISH
 "This is an open call to all senior citizens. If you have any ripples, problems or frustrations, please step forward and we'll research them out for you."
 The call comes from Ms. Nancy Bates, a member of the Farmington Community Arts Council, who is putting together the area's first "Senior Citizen Enrichment Conference" set for June 3-7.
 The conference will be designed to enrich and revitalize the lives of seniors with experts in the fields of health, nutrition, government services, music, the arts, housing, public transportation, insurance, estate planning, "and anything else they tell us they would like to have researched for them," Ms. Bates said.
 Money for the conference comes in the form of a grant from the Michigan Council of the Arts to the Farmington Arts Council, which in turn will sponsor the five-day session in co-operation with the Farmington Branch of John Wesley College.
 The entire conference will be hosted by Dr. Harold Ellens, minister of the University Hills Christian Reform Church, on the church/college

grounds, with a wrap-up scheduled in Nardin Park Methodist Church.
 "Geriatricologists will be here and they're welcome. We'll have some pretty big brass resource people here, but most of all we want seniors here. This is their conference and if I have my way they'll walk out of here 'heads up' people," Ms. Bates said.
 "BY THE YEAR 2,000 one-third of this nation's population will be over the age of 65. Due to improved nutrition, health services and lifestyles, people are not only living longer but remaining younger and more productive longer.
 "We can't afford to discard one-third of our population and certainly not the third that is rich in experience, training and ability."
 She believes older citizens do not want the custodial care they are so often offered these days, nor do they realize all of the options that are open to them.
 "Nor do I think they realize with their numbers they have enough political clout to get just about anything they want. They can be what they want to be."

She stressed that "with all the resource people and all the brains we're getting together for this conference, after all, seniors should be resource people for seniors. They have got to tell us their areas of concern."
SESSIONS WILL be held Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. with lunch served every day.
 Speakers will be talking on better health; life enrichment that will cover personal, social and spiritual aspects; housing and transportation and new options in these areas; money management; creative use of time; job retraining; foster grandparents; and political power and influence.
 "If there is anything else, give me a call," she said.
 In addition to being project officer of the conference for the Farmington Community Arts Council, she is also administrative assistant to John Wesley College located on Farmington Rd., just south of 12 Mile.
 She can be reached by calling 477-2060.



Ms. NANCY BATES

To raise taxes 1.6 mills

Schools to ask for a 4 mill increase

By NANCY STEIN
 Farmington schools will ask voters June 10 to grant them four additional mills for school operation for a period of 10 years.
 The decision was made at Tuesday's School board meeting at the Woodcreek Elementary School.
 Originally there was consideration of asking for either three or four mills and letting the voters decide, but board member Mrs. Lillian Allen convinced them not to offer a choice.
 Mrs. Allen said, "I have heard

this larger millage of four mills doesn't seem as an enrichment. It is not the case."
 "This amount of money will allow us to repair our run down buildings, replace books, and maintain our capital investment. As good business people, we owe that to the public."
 She continued, "We are short on textbooks, musical equipment, even chemicals for science experiments, short, short, short."
 "THE BUDGET presented to

us which would be operative if we get four mills calls for a career specialist. Also additional equipment so that we can offer computer training. Nothing else that's new," she said. "Why, you almost need to know how to operate a computer to work at McDonalds today."
 "These two things are imperative if we are going to prepare our young people for the world of work."
 It was again explained by Dr.

Mervyn Ross, president of the board of education, "If a voter lives in Farmington or Farmington Hills and he votes for four mills, it will actually raise his taxes only 1.6 mills."
 "If a voter lives in West Bloomfield and the four mills is passed he will experience three new mills."
 "One old mill has been retired, and the schools elected not to ask the county for the 1.4 variable millage tax," said Ross. Therefore

school taxes will drop one mill and the people living in Farmington and Farmington Hills will experience an additional drop of 1.4 mills from last year giving them a total reduction in school taxes of 2.4 mills."
 The Farmington Education Association pledged support of the four mill request and Supt. Marinus Van Ameyde explained, "In light of pending legislation in Lansing which appears likely to pass, school costs are about to experience a great increase."
 "THERE WILL be liability for unemployment he said. They are also proposing a contributory retirement fund which will be five percent of total payroll and application of all health and safety laws that industry employs applied to schools."
 "These all represent tremendous potential increased costs for schools."
 The four mill request was passed 7-0.

Farmington sets budget hearing

FARMINGTON—The Farmington City Council set a date of May 16, at 8 p.m., for the public hearing on a proposed \$1.53 million budget for 1974-75.
 The budget calls for the same tax rate as the past three years, according to City Manager Robert Deadman.
 Increased local property assessments account for most of the projected revenue increases, up from approximately \$1.39 million last year.
 Cost-increases include salaries, up from five to eight per cent in most categories. Fixed expenses,



IN COMBAT
 Coley Cuthbert (Frank Cousins), Sir Dagon du Dairregonne (Victor Townsend) and Tyson Lang (Craig Fleischer), have at it. (Evert photo)

Farmington city council approves youth funding

FARMINGTON—Budget requests from two Farmington area youth programs were approved Monday by the Farmington City Council.
 The Farmington Area Advisory Council (FAAC) and Farmington Youth Assistance (FYA) were granted \$2,500 and \$1,300, respectively.
 Both groups had already received at least tentative budget approval from Farmington Hill's city council.
 A third youth organization, Farmington Youth Employment Service (YES), was denied funds by Farmington Hills and did not appear before the Farmington council.
 In a letter from YES to the council, a spokesman for the group said that the employment service would be terminated June 30. After that date, the letter said, an audit will be made and the books closed on the program.
THE MONEY requested by FYA was \$100 higher than last year's request.
 Kent Wilson, chairman of FYA, told the council that most of the money necessary to operate the program comes from Grand County. The contributions from Farmington and Farmington Hills are used to offset local operating expenses and secretarial services.
 FAAC's request of \$2,500 is the same as the last three years.
 John Borbi, chairman of FAAC's board of directors, said the request represents less than four percent of the program's budget.
 The remainder of the monies come from Farmington Hills and other governmental sources.
 Both budget requests were approved by a 4-0 vote of the council. (Councilman John Allen was not present.)

In the days of old, there dwelt in the land known as Farmington...

By CARL STODDARD
 In the land of Armavale — known to us mundane ones as Farmington Hills — dwells a noble squire named Coley Cuthbert.
 He, with a stalwart friend named Ban Bane, oft enjoy a knighly battle with broadsword and shields.
 But in their world, the battles end honorably — and in time for feasting and general revelry.
 The adventurous young squires are members of the Society for Creative Anachronism (SCA). The group yearns to return to the

Middle Ages, to relive the best part of those days of old when knights were bold and Arthur was the king.
THE SOCIETY was founded in Berkeley, California in 1966.
 It is a non-profit organization with more than 36 branches in this country.
 The branch in Farmington is one of the newest and presently has nine members.
 The purpose of the society is basically to become better acquainted with those periods of history up to the 17th century.
 The society's prime concern is with the Middle Ages and the Renaissance, but members from other areas and times are welcomed.
 Thus, it is not unusual to see Galic knights mingling with members of the Mongolian-hordes.
 "As my dad says, it's one step above cowboys and Indians," Frank Cousins, 21, of 27641 Kingsgate said with a grin. "But I don't agree."
COUSINS, A history major specializing in medieval times at Western Michigan University, said the society has allowed him to lump together historical research with physical and social activities.
 His group meets during the week to discuss business and practice combat techniques. On weekends they often have tournaments or revelries.
 This coming weekend they will journey to Kalamazoo for a medieval conference. They expect 300-400 members of the SCA to

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