

Walkers step out for Farmington

The first "Walk for Farmington" pulled out the stalwart of all ages to amble for 20 miles around the city.

The occasion is one the Farmington Area Jaycees hope will be an annual affair. For each mile for each walker, a pledged amount was donated by a sponsor.

The money has not yet been tallied, but the cost in shoe leather was severe.

Among the walkers, one of the more unusual was Kurt Hugger, who completed the walk on crutches for the first mile.

It was a fine way to spend a weekend.



WALKING DOG

Susan Mason and Barbara Harding walk a dog which had 13 sponsors. (Photos by Ralph Evert)



CROSSING I-696

The 20-mile path went over the expressway.



ON CRUTCHES

Kurt Hugger completed the first mile with \$60 per mile pledged.

What alternatives were available to schools?

By DAN McCOSH

FARMINGTON — Farmington Public Schools' business manager William Prisk is juggling three budgets for the coming 1974-75 school year.

The multiple budgets are the result of needing figures on a millage request to be voted on soon. The recent passage of a millage renewal was followed by the school board dropping approximately 1.4 mills in "differential millage."

"Differential millage" is a quirk in the county tax allocation, which,

until the school board action, resulted in Farmington residents of the district paying approximately 1.4 mills more in school taxes than residents who live in West Bloomfield Township.

When the school board decided not to levy the tax in Farmington, it resulted in lowered millage for the Farmington residents, although West Bloomfield pay the same they had been.

THE SCHOOL bonded indebtedness is also being paid off with a

lower millage, resulting in another one mill "saving."

The result of this arithmetic is that in Farmington, it would take 2.4 mills "extra" voted to maintain the same tax rate as last year, Prisk points out.

In West Bloomfield, it would take one mill more to stay even.

For this reason, Prisk says, the projected millage is not enough to balance an "absolute minimum" budget of approximately \$20.8 million for 1974-75.

This "absolute minimum" would cover the increase in salaries and supplies for the next year, based on the same number of employees as last year.

The "absolute minimum" budget would need the three mill levy, Prisk said.

A SECOND tentative budget is projected at \$21.6 million.

"This increase will provide for some improvement of the educational program, for some of the

badly needed repairs and replacements of equipment and buildings in the district, for salary and wage increases, and for the increased cost of materials and supplies," Prisk said.

This budget would need four additional mills to balance.

In effect, Prisk is juggling one budget "in the red," which includes a net loss of millage following recent school board actions; the "minimum" budget, and a "tentative" budget.

Sidewalk repair program slated

FARMINGTON — Things should be a little flatter and smoother in Farmington by the end of this summer.

The Farmington City Council voted Monday to let in motion the steps necessary to pave Prospect Street and repair more than 25,000 square feet of sidewalk.

City manager Robert Deadman, said the contractor for the Power Road paving program, the McCarthy Contracting Company, agreed to pave Prospect for the same price as the bid on Power Road.

The total cost of the paving project, excluding engineering and inspection, would be \$17,795, Deadman said.

Deadman noted that the project was for 422 linear feet of 31 foot

wide concrete paving with drainage.

"We believe that because of the size of the project, it would be difficult to get competitive bids which would be less than those already received on Power Road," Deadman said.

He pointed out that the contracting company was the low bidder on the Power Road project by more than \$7,000.

The city manager also noted that the contract allows the city the option of increasing the size of the project by up to 25 percent.

Council members voted by a 4-0 vote to waive normal bid procedure for paving of the street and authorized the city manager to sign the necessary contract.

As for the sidewalk repair pro-

gram, Deadman told the council an estimated 25,450 square feet of sidewalk in the city will require repair this summer.

Before any repair work is done, however, the city will notify affected property owners that they have 30 days to complete any necessary repairs prior to the city contracting for the work to be done.

So that property owners may determine which alternative to choose, Deadman said, the city will first seek bids. This will provide property owners with a comparative price.

Sidewalks requiring repairs are on Grand River, Farmington Road, Oakland and State streets, the city manager said.



Dr. William Shelton, of Farmington, was chairman of the Michigan Dental Assn. annual scientific and business meeting recently.

Farmington Observer & Eccentric

Published every Monday and Thursday by the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 3025 Schoolcraft Rd., Livonia, Michigan 48150. Second-class Postage paid at Livonia, Michigan 48151. Address all mail (subscriptions, change of address, Form 3779) to P.O. Box 2428, Livonia, Michigan 48151. Telephone 261-3800.

Co-Publishers
Henry M. Hogan, Jr. Philip H. Power
HOME DELIVERY SERVICE
Newstand.....per copy, 15c
Carrier.....monthly, 75c