School officials assessing budget; meeting is planned to look at cuts

By DIANE HUBEL
Why was the millage defeated on
June 10? More important, what effect
will that defeat have on the quality of
education in the Farmington district?
Those are the questions which face
the school board and administration
as well as the parents of school age
children.
School business manager William
Prisk is currently working out alternate budgets for the district.
If We should know definitely in a
couple of weeks what will have to be
cut if the millage fails again on July
30.
Prisk said.

the school board voted to hold a spe-cial election on July 30 to ask for the four mill increase again.

The board maintains that it needs

three mills merely to hold the current level of education in the district.

They said they are asking for the four mills because they want to add to and improve services and programs.

They are holding a special study session Tuesday, June 25, to determine exactly which services can be cut if the millage is defeated again on July

Prisk, along with the various depart-

ment heads within the school system, is trying to determine specifically which services are not necessary.

"In many cases we are already operating at minimum levels," he said.
"How can we save more by writing the said of "How can we save money by cutting out services we don't even have?"

Prisk said the largest share of the budget goes toward salaries. He said that the district had already begun to make cuts in personnel in anticipation of the June 10 defeat.

OPINIONS ON why the millage was originally defeated on June 10 are varied.

Aldo Vagnozzi, co-chairman of the

or ead turning and a "low key" campaign.

"I don't think hough emphasis was put on exactly grint the money was going to be set for." he said.
"I also think a timing might have been bad, since it was on the ballot with the school board candidates, one of whom opposed the millage. Yacully I think my drame fairly close to winning it at a difficult time."

Vagnozzi addi hat it has been diffi-cult to get millage increases passed in any district for a long time.

HIS CO-CHAIRMAN, Mrs. Max Juroskek said," I have tried to analyze the defeat myself but I'm just not

sure.
"Maybe people just didn't fully understand what the money was going to be used for. It was so close. I don't really consider the defeat a positive

really consider the defeat a positive turndown."

The millage was defeated by 268 votes out of 4862 votes cast.

In calling for the special July 30 election the school board members said that many people have indicated to them that they did not vote in the June 10 election and would like a second opportunity.

WHEN DECIDING to ask for the four mill increase in voted tax the four mill increase in voted tax the board decided to lower the amount of variable tax they receive from the county board of allocation.

Board President Dr. Mervyn Ross said. "It is pointless to consider the June 10 election now.

"I suppose the defeat was due to several factors, but the important thing to do now is look forward to the July 30 election."

Lawsuit looms over zoning

analysis

By DAN McCOSH

ARMINGTON HILLS—A court FARMINGTON HILLS—A court suft which may become a milestone in the development of the northwest side of Farmington Hills is looming over the denial of planned residential development zoning for the 320 acres owned by Pulte Homes Corp.

We are going to fight," William Pulle said after the Hills council defeated his PRD proposal unanimously last week, despite planning commission support.

The Hills council appeared to be reacting to a well-organized opposition of residents from surrounding subdivisions.

The tract of land at 12 Mile and Drake Rd. is zoned single family, but the master plan for the area calls for the PRD requested by Pulte.

"We think we went in with a very reasonable proposal." Pulte said. "This was a compromise with the people in the area. people in the area
"We are tired of playing games, we are going to attack the whole ordinance in the area. We are going to get the most we can get."

He said be

He said he expected to file a suit within a month, and his legal department is currently doing the groundwork.

IF THE COURT suit materializes, it will cap a six-year effort by Pulte to get the project off the ground.

The original zoning request in 1988 which Pulte presented to the thereby the pulte pult

Stader said the key to the PRD zon-ing was the site plan approval re-quired before construction could begin. The zoning is the first step. "Frankly, I was a little surprised the council action," Stader said.

"This way we will never get to look at the site plan." Underlying the conflict over which way the area should be zoned are sev-eral related issues:

Several major landholders, Pulte among them, have agreed to advance "front money" for the construction of the "10 Mile Arm" sewer, which will eventually develop into a sewage system for the northwest side.

Their agreement promised an advance on "tap fees," which means the land must be developed for them to collect their money.

The master plan, which was supported by the city council during the election campaigns, calls for more multiple units in the area than many present, residents would like.

•Last year, a zoning involving a PRD district at Grand River and Drake was overturned in court, with the result a court-ordered rezoning to multiple units. Key to the case was a city stand interpreted by the courts as too restrictive.

The PRD zoning, which aims at mixing multiples, single-family and open space, has proven attractive to developers.

ONE ATTRACTIVE feature is the lexibility which allows the developer to interpret the demands of the mar-ket and adjust his development ac-cordingly as he goes along.

This flexibility has been viewed with suspicion by many residents of more conventional developments, who see the PRD as an apartment complex with a ring of single-family homes.

The Pulle project and another pending in the area, proposed by Mel Rosenhaus, the developer of Hunter's Ridge, represent nearly a square mile of prime residential land.

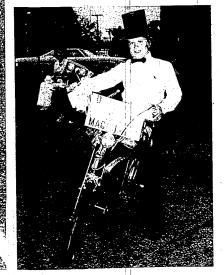
Beyond that are the land holdings of most of the northwest side, the last un-developed area left in the new city. The court case looming will likely affect the future of most of this area.



Bike-a-thon

David Tadrazynski (left) tries to David Tadrazynski (left) tries to keep his bike between the white lines during an event at the farmington area Jaycese Bilke-a-thon. Debbie Watson (right) guides her bilke through an obstacle course. Gordon Rivers, (above), "Gordon the Travelling Magician" brought his magic tricks to the Bilke-a-thon. (Photos by Fran Event





Getaway

issue. It surveys what there is to do in leisure time with stories about everything from ear trip games for the kids to a listing of all the summer music and theater festival offerings in the Michigan area.

Waiting on millage

School repairs tabled by board

By DIANE HUBEL

FARMINGTON — Repair items which were listed on the Farmington schools districts priority repair list have been temporarily tabled until the July 30 millage election.

The board voted to table the items

until after the election to see whether or not the millage request will be passed.

In moving to table the motion trustee William Corliss said, "Our situ ation has changed as of June 10. an moving to table the motion, tristee William Corlissa and "Our situ-ation has changed as of June 10.

"I have no argument with the need the life, but he properly the property of the state of the sealors of th

until after the election and still have time to have them completed before school starts.". Corliss said the money for the re-

see a reasonable probability that these funds will be needed in other

areas."

The items tabled were sidewalk replacements for four schools, new sidewalks for five schools, and paving work at Fairview and Harrison High.

The Observer Eccentric index