

# Assessment hikes haven't helped schools

Board members and school business manager William Prisk have been meeting with school administrators to determine what cuts and changes will be necessary if the millage should be defeated.

Citizens For The Millage, is currently conducting a campaign supportive of the millage.

The campaign is co-chaired by Aldo Vagnozzi and Mrs. Vivian Jurosek, president of the PTA Council.

Board members have said that the district needs three mills to maintain the existing level of education to meet current obligations.

They said they are asking for the additional mill to make what they consid-

er necessary improvements to programs and services offered to the students of the district.

Prisk said the school district has several new responsibilities and financial obligations as a result of recent legislation.

Supt. Marinus Van Amedey said, "We need \$1,720,000. Four mills will raise it. If we don't get it, good business dictates that programs will have to be reduced. These reductions could seriously impair the educational opportunity of the children in the district. It will be disastrous if we don't get it."

The funds raised through the mil-

lage will also benefit groups other than the public school children; Mrs. Jurosek said.

She said school buses and facilities are used by senior citizens, adult education classes, and the recreational program.

Parochial students also use the school buses and utilize some of the programs and facilities offered in the public schools through the "shared time" program.

PRIOR TO the June 10 election the school board lowered the variable millage by 1.4 and the debt retirement levy by one mill.

These reductions mean that although the board is asking for a four

mill increase the actual increase to voters in the Farmington, Farmington Hills area will be 1.6 mills.

Voters in West Bloomfield have been paying a lower variable millage so the actual increase there would be three mills.

Mrs. Jurosek said, "To the average taxpayer in Farmington this means about \$22 a year more on a home of an assessed evaluation of \$20,000."

To a taxpayer in West Bloomfield the increase would be approximately \$60 a year for a home of the same assessed valuation.

Although the assessed evaluation of property has gone up in the area the schools are not getting more money

as a result of the increased assessments.

To equalize the school systems throughout Michigan the state guarantees each district a given amount of money per student per mill for the first 25 mills.

The Farmington district raises about 30 mills.

If the state guarantees \$39 per student per mill to each district, and one mill raises \$29 per student in Farmington, the state will pay the district the additional \$10 per student on the first 25 mills.

However, if the assessed evaluation in Farmington goes up, and one mill raises \$31 per student, the state would

only pay the district the \$9 needed to meet the \$39 guarantee.

AS THE ASSESSED valuation of the district goes up the amount of dollars given to the district by the state goes down.

"Although the taxpayers are paying more, the Farmington school district is not getting any more money except for the five mills between 25 and 30," Vagnozzi said.

Many residents, particularly senior citizens, may be eligible to receive a rebate from the state for the money they pay in property taxes, according to Vagnozzi.

The relief would come to homeowners as a result of the homesteaded property tax amendment to the Michigan Income Tax Law.

According to the tax form, "The Michigan Income Tax Act has been amended by replacing the sliding scale property tax credit with property relief for senior citizens, veterans, and blind persons."

"All other homeowners and renters are entitled to property tax relief of 60 percent of the amount by which their property taxes exceed 3.5 percent of their household income."

Many senior citizens will have no tax increase if they have not had an increase in their household allowance, Prisk said.

THE ADDITIONAL money will not be used for bargaining contracts this year.

The teachers have a two year contract, and all other contracts are settled, except the bus drivers, who are currently negotiating.

The special election will be held July 30. Voting will take place at the regular precincts for school elections.

Residents who are going to be out of town can cast an absentee ballot, by going to the school administration building, 32500 Shiawassee, before 7 p.m. July 27.

## District court candidate

# Mrs. Schaeffer seeks judgeship

FARMINGTON—Margaret Schaeffer is running for the newly-created second judgeship in 47th District Court because she regards it as an opportunity to make a contribution to the community in which she lives.

Mrs. Schaeffer, who has lived in Farmington Hills for 22 years, is currently a member of the Hills City

Council. She is also a member of the beautification commission and the housing commission for Farmington Hills.

She said, "I am interested in this community. I feel that I have the background and the experience to be a good judge, and feel that I could make an effective contribution to the community by holding that position."

Mrs. Schaeffer said she has received experience in the decision-making process through her participation on the State Workmen's Compensation Appeal Board for the State of Michigan.

She was appointed to the board in 1973 by Governor William Milliken.

Prior to that appointment she practiced general law while working for the legal firm of Markle & Markle, in Detroit.

MRS. SCHAEFFER thinks that the proposed state takeover of district court financing would be a positive step.

"I think it is in order," she said. "It would certainly give more uniformity to the judicial system throughout the state."

She said she is a great believer in the jury system and does not think it should be eliminated even for minor offense trials.

"I suppose if it had to be eliminated it would be possible to do it at the district court level," she said. "But I don't think it should be."

"Judges hear the same type of case day after day. After a while it becomes difficult to look at each case individually."

"A jury is able to look at a case with a different point of view, hearing it for the first time."

SHE SAID she is in favor of granting personal bond unless there is reason to believe the defendant will not show up in court.

Mrs. Schaeffer formerly practiced general law with her father, and her sister, Mrs. Cornelia Kennedy, who is now the U.S. District Judge for the eastern district of Michigan.

She graduated with top honors from the University of Michigan Law School.



MARGARET SCHAEFFER

## Homeowners protected by new law

A bill providing new protections for homeowners and occupants recently received final approval by the Michigan Legislature.

The bill, sponsored by State Rep. William M. Brodhead (D-Detroit), makes several changes in the Builder's Licensing Act. Brodhead is a Democratic candidate for nomination to Congress in the 17th District.

The bill makes it clear for the first time that rehabilitation contractors must be licensed by the state. It also allows the attorney general to seek injunctions against builders who violate the law or engage in fraudulent practices.

Under the bill, applicants for a builder's license must furnish the names of all owners, officers and directors of the building company.

Brodhead said the law will make it easier for a person to file a complaint regarding faulty workmanship.

Under the old law, a person first had to obtain the approval of a local building official before filing a complaint with the state. Now the person will be able to file a complaint directly with the Department of Licensing and Regulation," he said.

Brodhead noted the bill plugs several loopholes in the present licensing act. "By requiring all builders to be licensed and by requiring them to renew their licenses yearly, the state for the first time will have the power to crack down on those builders who prey on the public."

## Bus tour planned

FARMINGTON—The League of Women Voters will sponsor a historic bus tour of Farmington and Farmington Hills in conjunction with the 10th Annual Farmington Founders Festival, which will be held this year from July 18-28.

The tour is scheduled for Saturday, July 27, with buses leaving the Farmington Hills City Hall, 11 Mile and Orchard Lake Roads, at 1 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. Advanced ticket sales for the tour will be at the League's booth in the Downtown Plaza.

Tickets may also be obtained from any League member for a \$1.50 donation per person. Proceeds go to further the League of Women Voters work in the area.

Highlights of the tour will include Governor Warner's mansion and several centennial homes, the Community Center and the Philbrick Tavern, which is believed to have been part of the underground railway. Tour guides will also talk on the history of the Farmington City Park and other historical spots.

Each tour will last approximately one-and-one-half hours.

Hills police plan display

Farmington Founders Day Festival activities will include a firearms demonstration at the Farmington Police pistol range on Friday and Saturday, July 26 and 27 at 9 a.m., 1 p.m. and 4 p.m.

The range is located off Grand River behind the Star Cutter Plant (White Motors) just southeast of 10 Mile Rd.

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