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Fifteen Cents

Area banks accept Hills tax payments

By JUDY OWEN

FARMINGTON—It's been said that paying taxes is a privilege, but no matter how you view it, it still can hurt the pocketbook.

The city can't do anything about the pocketbook, but it has instituted a new plan which officials say will make paying taxes more convenient and at the same time, perhaps, produce a little extra revenue for the city.

The city has made arrangements with four major banks to allow property owners to pay taxes at any branch in the metropolitan area. A fifth bank has agreed to accept payments at its Farmington Hills branches.

Rick Reingold, the city's director of finance, sees this move as an added convenience to taxpayers, some of whom have found it difficult to match schedules with the city hall 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. office hours.

More importantly, he said that it may mean more revenue to the city.

FUNDS COLLECTED can be invested on a short-term basis.

"We have separate accounts at each bank and can invest the money and get it moving faster," he said. "This is a benefit to all taxpayers."

It's gray that the city can't ordinarily count on.

This is especially true in the winter when the funds are collected for the Farmington, Clarenceville and Walled Lake school districts, the intermediate school district, the county and Schoolcraft College.

There is a time when Reingold refers to as "float time" during which the funds remain idle. This is the time after they are collected and before they are disbursed.

It may be just for three days or it may be for as long as 10 days.

FOR EXAMPLE, Reingold said that on a Friday the city took in \$1 million which was earmarked for the county.

It took advantage of the time lag before it was to be turned over to the county, made an investment and retained the interest.

Reingold views this as the city's fee for handling the collection.

"A lot of money flows through collection accounts," he said.

Repurchase agreements are the vehicles by which the city earns interest on extremely short term basis.

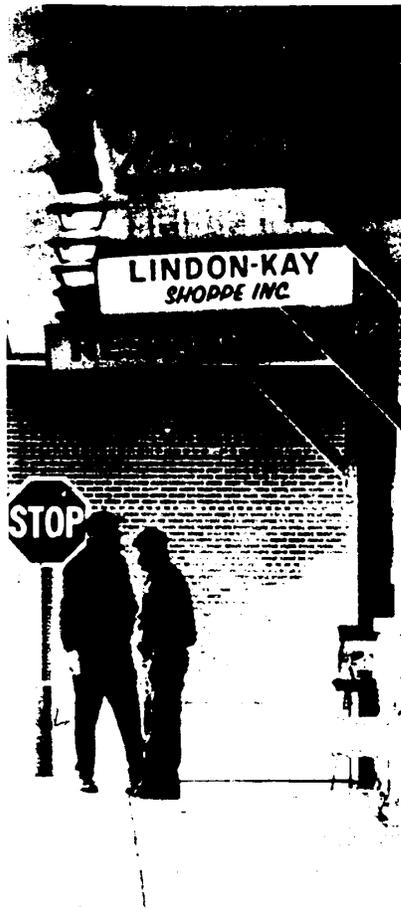
Treasury bills provide the added revenue for longer term investments, he said.

RIGHT NOW the city is only about 50-per cent developed.

When development reaches 80-90 per cent, the city can turn to brokerage houses, he said. Currently, investments are made through banking institutions.

For the fiscal year ending in June 1974, the city received \$880,000 in interest income for its investment efforts. The general fund alone received \$186,000.

"This supports the general fund without going to the taxpayer," Reingold said.



Light of day

One store in the downtown Farmington Center isn't taking energy saving suggestions to heart. It had its lights under the awning operating during the day. (Photographed by Craig Newman)

Where to pay taxes

FARMINGTON HILLS — In an effort to make paying taxes more convenient, the city has made contractual arrangements with five area banking institutions that will accept payments.

Accepting property tax payments at all branches are Detroit Bank and Trust, Manufacturers National Bank of Detroit, Metropolitan National Bank of Farmington and National Bank of Detroit Michigan National Bank of Detroit will accept the payments at its branches located at 31215

Fourteen Mile Road and 38200 Ten Mile Road.

Taxpayers may also make payments in the treasurer's office at the city hall, 3155 Eleven Mile near Orchard Lake.

Taxes are payable through Feb. 14 without penalty. A four per cent penalty is added to unpaid taxes on Feb. 15 along with an additional 0.5 one-half per cent interest per month on unpaid balance.

Property owners in the Farmington School District are assessed 42.6 mills in the current tax collection which

raises funds for the local school district, the county, the intermediate school district and Schoolcraft College.

Taxpayers in the Clarenceville School District are assessed 49.465 mills and those owning property in the Walled Lake School District are assessed 40.6 mills.

After March 1, delinquent taxes, plus penalty and interest charges, can be paid only at the Oakland County Treasurer's Office in the County Service Center, 1200 N. Telegraph, Pontiac.



The rodeo is only one of the Farmington Jaycee charity fund-raising activities.

Farmington Jaycees hunting

FARMINGTON—Jaycees as they spend most of the year boosting the community and area business. But from now until Saturday they plan to boost their own organization.

The Farmington Area Jaycees which includes nearly 100 members aged 18 to 35, is celebrating Jaycee Week. The week is a part of the national organization's pride in America membership month set for January.

Two activities will highlight the week.

A PRAYER breakfast has been scheduled for 7:30 a.m. Wednesday at the Botaford Inn. State Rep. F. Robert Edwards (R-42) of Flint will be the featured speaker at the event, which honors community leaders.

At 8 p.m., an event to attract new members, is scheduled for 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 28, at the American Legion Hall on Grand River, west of Farmington Road.

Jaycee efforts throughout the year to promote the group's motto, "Leadership training through community development," are varied.

Events include fundraisers with the money earmarked for community projects.

IN THE PAST year, the group netted \$7,000 at its annual rodeo held in July. Funds were disbursed to help purchase a show mobile for the Farmington Community Band, replace a fence at the ball diamond and provide steps in the park.

Walk for Farmington, another Jaycee project, raised \$6,000 which was shared between the Farmington Area Advisory Council, the Farmington Community Center, YMCA camp program and senior citizens activities. About 800 youths participated in the 30-mile walk.

The haunted house at Halloween netted another \$4,000. A Jaycee spokesman credits much of the work in readying the haunted house on Orchard Lake Road to the Jaycee Auxiliary, the women's group.

Funds from that event were donated to the National Institute of Burn Medicine.

OTHER ACTIVITIES included a bike rodeo, junior tennis, Easter egg hunt and Christmas tree sale.

The members donate time to Living Opportunities, a home for handicapped young adults; Boys Republic and Goodwill.

But all of the activities are not fund raisers and community projects. Social events are scheduled each month for members.

Persons interested in attending the prayer breakfast should contact Pat Godfrey, 35134 Oakland.

Those interested in participating in M Night should make reservations by calling 478-0861. There is no charge.

Student's rights limited by state laws — attorney

By SUSAN L. AVERILL

FARMINGTON—If you are a high school student thinking about going out to lunch and having a few drinks to celebrate your 18th birthday, you'd better think again.

You could get suspended.

Because a school has the right to act "in loco parentis" or in place of the parent, it has the right to do what is best not only for the individual's interest, but every other student's interest, Ed Sosnick said.

Sosnick, senior trial lawyer for the consumer protection division of Oakland County Prosecutor's office, spoke on student rights Thursday before the Student Round Table.

"TRADITIONALLY, the student in the school setting has been regarded as 'the child.' That's called 'in loco parentis.'"

It means that in place of a parent, a school can take whatever actions would be appropriate for a parent in that situation," he said.

If a student is suspected of having drugs in his pocket or locker, he is subject to search at any time, he said. "A parent is justified to act for your own best interest, and so is a school administrator," Sosnick said.

He also is authorized to act in behalf of all the other students in the school. This is what gives him the authority to suspend an 18 year old for drinking, which would otherwise be entirely legal, he said.

"It's when the police come in that you have a whole different ballgame."



ED SOSNICK

If they're going to arrest, they're going to have to have a warrant," he said.

It is this posture which gives school officials the right to open lockers and make spot checks without warning, and to censor the school paper.

Occasionally may have its legitimate place in such a publication, he said.

"IF YOU'RE QUOTING from a book which is on the shelves in the library, and not with the intent to shock, and the quote has some legitimately literary value, then yes, I think you could get away with it," he said.

Speaking on the advancements

made in student rights, he said that at one time courts wouldn't bother to rule on school conflicts.

"They felt it was a school problem and wouldn't pay any attention to it," he said.

The genesis of the problem was in the federalistic system adopted by the United States, wherein the courts operated on two different standards of law: the state and the federal.

Because schools were considered a part of the state government, the federal amendments to the Constitution weren't applicable. It wasn't ruled until later that students were ruled citizens within the meaning of the Constitution, he said.

THIS RULING also assured students the right of "due process."

In deciding what due process

(See SOSNICK, next page)

The Observer & Eccentric index

News	Section A
Columns	8
Community calendar	10
Good Life	6-7
Sports	11-12
Suburban Life	9-10
Classifieds	Section B