

# Farmington Observer & Eccentric

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Fifteen Cents

## VanAmyede says don't cut sports

By SUSAN AVERILL

FARMINGTON—Should athletics and extracurricular activities be sacrificed in favor of more academic courses if the millage fails? The superintendent of schools doesn't think so.

"We're thinking about all our kids, not just some of them," Superintendent Marinus VanAmyede said. "We want the best possible education for them."

Schools filled with nothing but academic subjects would create a sterile environment which might cause loss of interest in some students, he said.

"It would be difficult to maintain the efforts of the youngster who may not be as capable of academic work as another." Those students who found their niche within the educational structure as athletes, or in another extracurricular role, would be ignored by the system.

WE HAVE NOT had an unbalanced program or an overemphasis on either academic courses or sports," he said. "Cutting the B-1 schedule would direct the program to a selected population group."

He questioned voters to be wary of the rationale that a cut in the B-1 schedule would automatically cause an improvement in the general economy.

Cutting the B-1 schedule might do more damage to the district's North Central accreditation than cutting the school day, he said.

"North Central is a voluntary association of schools which must contain minimums of criteria. Accreditation by North Central says, in effect, 'This school has the necessary potential to have an excellent program.'"

"This is an opinion that carries some weight in those areas who don't love Farmington," VanAmyede said. Judgment is placed on the over-all excellence of the school.

As an alternative to the loss of the class period, some have suggested keeping the six-hour day by shortening the other hours to have the sixth class.

THIS WOULD NOT save any money, he said.

*'We're thinking about all of our kids, not just some of them'*

**Marinus VanAmyede**  
School Superintendent

"Because of contractual agreements, it wouldn't save us any more (money). Our agreements with the teachers would call for a seven hour and 15 minute day."

Only reduction of teachers would cut spending in that area. Shortening periods he said, would affect mostly those students who have special interests and abilities and use the class period to pursue these.

It would also affect students planning to attend college and hope to strengthen their knowledge in a major or minor, or wishing to develop and explore an alternate route.

VanAmyede speculated that such students would be few, as most college-bound seniors are not sure of their vocational interests.

"Students interested in music or art as a hobby or vocation will be hurt. But for the most part, we will continue with adequate programs," he said.

Some board members are worried that the shortened school day would impair the schools' accreditation. VanAmyede said this is not likely.

"TO CONCLUDE we will be joined off North Central is not fair. Many schools have been operating on the shortened day without being taken off North Central."

Detroit, Pontiac and Livonia have had less than the recommended six-hour day, without apparent trouble from the accreditation associations.

"It is possible that Farmington won't even be warned," he said. Non-compliance with North Central regulations would cause a one-year warning, after which accreditation theoretically would be denied.

Other board members, including

president Gary Lichtman, have suggested elimination of the Cycle IX program. They claim the \$90,000 allocated the project would be put to better use elsewhere.

Cycle IX is a cooperative program with Oakland University which provides 13 interns at three schools. The federal government pays 90 per cent of the cost, \$146,000.

EVEN BY dropping the program, the school district would save only \$8,000, VanAmyede said.

The four teachers in the program cost \$11,600. According to seniority rules and contractual arrangements, the teachers would have to be replaced with others who would be "bumped" from above...at a salary of \$74,000.

The loss of federal aid and the switch in staff would give the district a net gain of \$5,000 and cause it to lose 13 interns who have improved instruction in the schools, VanAmyede said.

The district has been criticized for being top-heavy with administrators. But these administrators would replace teachers with less seniority if the administrative positions were abolished.

"You have to look to the end of the road. They wouldn't be fired, just laid off in accordance with the school code."

"If we pink-slipped six administrators and the Cycle IX administrators, they would have to step into the next slot."

"Because of the bumping that would occur all the way down the line, it means we'd really be laying off teachers."



Reminders of summer

The Farmington Founder's Festival is a lot of warm weather away, so perhaps it's too early to be thinking of racing pigeons. But a pair were sitting on the green wooden bench at Oakwood Cemetery Thursday in the bright weather. It may

be a little presumptuous to assume that they have started training, but the two birds were resting in front of the cemetery at Grand River near Shiawassee Road. (Photo by Craig Newman)

## While state completes study

# Northwestern extension foes can renew pleas

By JUDY OWEN

FARMINGTON HILLS—Residents who are concerned about the effects of the proposed extension of Northwestern Highway have won a second chance to object.

The Department of State Highways and Transportation will enlarge last year's environmental impact study. The construction, involves building a depressed six-lane freeway through the northern sections of the city and extending the highway diagonally

through West Bloomfield Township from its present terminus at Orchard Lake Road to connect with M-275 freeway.

Aldo Vagozzi, a Farmington Hills opponent of the extension, asked the

Hills City Council to jump on the bandwagon Monday night and change its stand.

THE COUNCIL, concerned about

drainage in the northeastern area of the city, approved the extension when it discovered storm sewers installed with the project could ease the drainage problems.

Vagozzi asked the council to change to a neutral stance pending the outcome of the new hearings.

Township Robert McCoski said the county and state road departments must make the decision. Vagozzi is concerned about the development that he said may result from the extension and widening.

"Land will become so valuable that there will be pressures for the commercial types of development that are in Southfield," Vagozzi said. "I'm also concerned that apparently somebody is going to make a real killing on it."

"DON'T BUY the council's argument that they're doing it just for the sewers," he said. "They're prejudicing it, really."

Two West Bloomfield groups are probably lead opposition to the extension.

Citizen's Council for Land Use Research and Education (CLURE) a regional group based in the township, requested in mid-1973 that an impact study be initiated.

CLURE took the case to federal officials last year and asked that the study include social and economic factors.

Concerned Citizens of West Bloomfield also has taken up the fight.

Besides broadening its scope, the new study will consider the so-called "no build" or "do nothing" aspect.

YED GIBSON is another resident opposed to the extension.

Gibson lives on Queensboro in Franklin Knolls subdivision west of Middle Belt and south of Fourteen Mile Road.

"It has a prime impact on the subdivision I live in with the configuration of the entranceways to Middle Belt," Gibson said. The entranceways may eliminate two or three houses in the subdivision.

Gibson has been a behind-the-scenes worker compiling studies of his own according to a spokesman for the township's concerned citizens group.

He was a part of the movement to have an impact study undertaken. The impact study was based on the proposition that the highway was needed to connect Detroit with Flint, Gibson said.

"The highway was needed to connect Detroit with Flint, whereas the facts of the situation are that there is adequate connection to Flint via U.S. 24, and when 24 is completed, it will be even better."

THE EXTENSION would be a by-product in a triangle — "just a shortcut," he said. It is being built just to obtain federal funds.

"The new study means that the no build proposal will have to be considered. They did not do that in the first draft."

"They will have to look at what the highway will mean to the community it is going through," he said. "If you take the same amount of traffic and put it on a six-lane highway with the same connecting routes, there's no logic about helping traffic."

"I'm afraid the highway would create more development instead of meeting needs. It would be the Troy where the highway went out, then all the developments came plugging in and the developers made a killing."

"I've lived in the area all of my life," he said. "The thing that really disturbs me is development without growth."

"IT'S BUILDING, blight and then more on," he said. "It comes to a point where you have to stop."

The new study, which is expected to take another nine months, gives opponents another chance to win their case.

Unlike the first draft study, it will be conducted by a private consultant.

## Under 'austerity' budget

# Elementary school may be closed

By SUSAN AVERILL

FARMINGTON—It was elementary schools which took the brunt of the last millage failure, and if this one fails, it seems like secondary schools will be most hurt, said Lawrence Freedman.

Superintendent of elementary schools, Freedman said that the board's new budget would go from last year's austerity budget to one even more austere.

On the elementary level, the new budget would eliminate one of the district's 17 elementary schools and a principal's position, thereby increasing pupil-teacher ratios in the remaining schools.

Staff will be kept to a minimum and instrumental music staff will be cut by two teachers, leaving six teachers to cover the remaining 18 schools. Music and art programs will remain halved, with students receiving only one semester's instruction in each.

The school lunch program, elimi-

nated last year, will not return and replacement text purchases will be kept to a minimum. Freedman expects a shortage of books in the 1975-76 school year.

Supplies and materials will dwindle, and audio-visual equipment will not be replaced as it wears out.

Field trips, outdoor education and testing programs will also remain things of the past. Films will not be replaced after age and use have made them unusable.

TWO MORE MILLS would restore noon lunch aides, a school and its principal to the district. Classroom aide would remain near to present 25-27 pupils and the instrumental music teachers would remain.

More textbooks could be replaced and more allowance could be made for audio-visual equipment repairs and film replacement.

FOUR MILLS WOULD bring back the full music and art programs, field trips and outdoor education in these

buildings that use it. Testing programs would once again be used, and improvements in science and language programs would be made.

Buildings would be available for community use and everyday cleaning would be restored. It would also give the elementary more funds for books and supplies.

The special millage election will be held April 28, and registration will be extended to accommodate voters.

Elements on the ballot include three yes-no propositions: a request for two mills to keep the district at present operating level; a request for four mills to bring the district up to its 1973-74 level; and a request for one mill for repair and maintenance expenses.

Propositions one and two, the requests for two and four mills, are tagged with 10-year time limits, and proposition three's one mill request is for two years.

THE ONE MILL request, as separate and distinct from the others, will not be used to fund books, supplies,

teachers or other academic needs.

"We haven't been able to keep up with the repairs the district needs. We have broken windows with boards over them because we can't get them replaced," Freedman said.

Farmington residents 18-years and older may register to vote from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday at the city offices. Hours are extended from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday March 22.

Farmington Hills residents may register during regular city hall hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. March 22 or from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. March 31.

In addition, representatives from both cities clerk's office will be at Farmington High School on March 20 to register students.

The Farmington Hills clerk's office will have representatives at Farmington High School on March 17 and at North Farmington High School on March 18. Final day for voter registration is March 21.

**Observer & Eccentric**

index

News	Section A
Columns	10
Editorials	10
Sports	16
Suburban life	11
Classified	Section B