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Fifteen Cents

4-mill proposal OK'd with record turnout

By SUSAN AVERILL

FARMINGTON— Voters Tuesday mandated a proposal to increase the district's school millage by four mills in the largest recorded voter turnout in Farmington and Farmington Hills' history.

The proposition, which needed a majority vote to pass, received a favorable 80 per cent of the 12,794 votes cast on that issue.

Of the 12,210 ballots cast on a proposed two-mill increase, 70 per cent favored its passage.

Nearly 36 per cent of the district's registered voters visited the polls in each of the four precincts, a turnout so unexpected that school officials had to break out extra voting machines to accommodate the long lines.

A regular school board meeting was held while ballots were counted, and board members were fed information as the results solidified.

When the final results were tallied, the meeting was suspended by request of school board president Gary Lichtman, who decided that optimal attention to agenda items was impossible under the circumstances.

BOARD MEMBERS showed elation and incredulity at the success of the four mill proposition, which some had given only slight chance of passing. "God bless you all, it's been a long time coming," Lichtman said, and looked as though he were wiping tears from his eyes.

"I want to applaud the efforts of those people who cared enough about their kids and showed it at the polls," successful millage campaign doesn't mean the end of hard work for board members, though, because there is still the matter of appropriately handling the additional revenue in accordance with the wishes of the electorate, Lichtman said.

He pointed to a small, panned placard in front of his nameplate and

said, "This sign means what it says. The buck stops here."

A MEMBER of the audience emphasized the boards continuing responsibility to the community.

"Just let us know where the bucks are going."

School board trustee Ann Rowewig said she felt enthusiasm for the first time since she has voted in a school district election.

Board secretary Emma Makinen said it was a "tremendous tribute to the (Yes, Kids Count) committee to get the voter turnout they did."

"It's a tribute to the people of our community to respond in this way," she said.

Supt. Marinus Van Ameyde praised

the board and the community for the success.

"I HOPE that with the momentum now generated—which is a clear turnaround for this board of education—that we can now furnish the education we are capable of."

"We should be able to provide a complete, well-rounded set of experiences for our children, if we are going to provide a good education," he said.

The first official totals received were from precinct three, Eagle Elementary School, in the northeast portion of the district. Proposal 1, for four mills, passed with 59 per cent of the vote while the second proposal re-

ceived 58 per cent approval.

PRECINCT FOUR, Middlebelt Elementary School tallied approval of the second proposition by 78 per cent, while the first proposal received only 62 per cent.

Farmington Junior High School, precinct one, reported third, with 70 per cent of the voters voting for two mills, and 65 per cent for four mills.

Precinct two, Dunched Junior High School, reported that all of those who voted for four mills also voted for two mills, with each proposition approved by 58 per cent of the vote.

Absentee ballots showed an overwhelming approval of the two-mill proposal with 78 per cent of the vote, while four mills received a clear majority at 68 per cent.



Even students campaigned for millage.

Wheel chair-bound seeking volunteers

By CORINNE ABATT

FARMINGTON—There are 15 wheel chair residents of Oak Hill Nursing Home who would love to meet some new friends who just happen to have cars and driver's licenses.

John Lawler, 36, is chairman of the 15-member Living Opportunities group. He said he and his fellow wheel chair persons like to be able to get out and do things at least three times a month—more, if possible.

The problem is the same few volunteers help over and over. Helping means furnishing transportation, helping transfer the handicapped into the cars, loading the wheel chairs and repeating the process several times during the outing.

The trips offer a special incentive to all who might consider being a helper.

Lawler said that although he doesn't have a strong background in art, the trip to the Detroit Art Institute to see the French Impressionist exhibit was very rewarding.

"I liked the exhibit very much, and we had dinner afterwards at Carl's Chop House."

LAWLER AND friends have been to the Ice Capades, the Fisher Theater and recently went bowling.

He moved to the nursing home from Jackson last December. On his first outing, he bowled a 163. Having scored three strikes in his first try,

he's anxious to get back to the lanes.

He said the people in his group, ages 18 to 42, enjoy eating out. He would like to see a Tiger ball game and a Lions football game next season.

Whether it's a movie, a sight-seeing tour, or a visit to some special event, transportation and willing drivers are always the big problem.

Lawler suggests that groups who volunteer to help Living Opportunities visit the Oak Hill Nursing home.

"I'D LIKE them to come out and visit and see what the situation is. We don't want people to volunteer and then go cold turkey on us."

Hills council tells developer to build promised parklands

FARMINGTON HILLS—The city council has given a developer seven months to complete a number of park areas in three subdivisions.

The council handed Marvin Rollins, a Southfield developer, the ultimatum Monday night when he requested a routine one-year extension of approval of preliminary plans for Heritage Hills and Kings Pointe subdivisions. Rollins said that it will take at least

three years to complete the building in the developments.

Rollins received the setback after the council heard complaints from residents of Rolling Oaks Subdivision, another Rollins development, and Heritage Hills.

Thomas Grant, a Heritage Hills Homeowners Association director, asked that the extension not be granted until Rollins completed his obligations.

An 11-acre park area has not yet been fully developed, he said. Promised several years ago, the park development was postponed due to weather one year and to a wait completion of adjacent homes another year.

"THE RESIDENTS of this area are extremely upset because there have been a lot of promises and not much fulfillment," Grant said.

Dr. Mervyn Ross, a Rolling Oaks resident, expressed concern that Roll-

ins had plans to reserve a portion of the subdivision for multiple family housing.

Ross said that it appeared that building was being made around a 33-acre area.

"I'm concerned that the subdivision as originally planned remains single-family residential dwellings," he said.

ROLLINS SAID the park development can be undertaken only in a five-week period beginning in late August.

He said that he has been unsuccessful in "putting it together."

City councilman Robert McConnell said the city's beautification commission was able to draw up landscape plans and take bids in just four weeks for the planting of trees along the boulevard portion of Grand River.

He asked Rollins why he could not do the same.

"When I was on the planning commission I objected to the piecemeal park development," McConnell said. Mayor Fred Lichtman told Rollins "Time has run out."

"I don't think that your argument that the city has the escrow fund away me in any way," Lichtman said. Rollins had to get aside funds to insure the development of the parks.

"FROM THE point of view of the developer, you've gotten your part out of it. The homes have been built and the sales have been made. But from the city's point of view we haven't gotten it—not as on the plan," Lichtman said.

Lichtman said that he was concerned that in November Rollins would "push his hand off it and let the city."

"The things that are important to you as a businessman were accomplished," Lichtman said. "The things that are important to the residents and the community were not accomplished."

The council extended approval to permit Rollins to continue developing until November when he must seek another extension.

Crime in Hills shows sharp increase in 1974

FARMINGTON HILLS—Crime in the city increased 34 per cent last year, according to the annual statistical report recently completed by the department of public safety.

Greatest increase was recorded in the area of minor crimes which increased 42.4 per cent. Major crimes were up 23.6 per cent. Accounting for a major portion of

the increase was burglaries which were up 22.9 per cent, according to the report. Burglaries of residences increased 34.4 per cent and burglaries at businesses increased 14 per cent.

The jump prompted the department to develop a Special Patrol Operations Unit (SPOU) which made 31 arrests in its first month. The arrests cleared 301 burglaries and other major crimes. Despite the increase in burglaries, the report indicates that there was a decrease in loss of property through burglaries. Loss was down 18.6 per cent in 1974.

OVERALL LOSS, however, was up 49 per cent with the largest loss coming in larceny, which jumped 132 per cent.

Statistics from the traffic bureau indicate that accidents decreased 7.3 per cent.

One reason for the decrease was the 34 per cent decrease in the number of hazardous traffic violations, but total enforcement was up only 2.6 per cent.

There were five fatal traffic accidents in 1974 compared with 11 in 1973.

THERE WERE four rapes reported in 1974. One rape was reported in 1973.



Youths searched for litter. (Photo by Craig Newman)

Youths clean in both cities

A group of Scouts and members of DeMolay teamed up Saturday to clear away litter along some of the roadsides in Farmington and Farmington Hills.

Armed with plastic bags donated by the city of Farmington, the youths picked up discarded aluminum cans, papers and items as large as mattresses and piled them in waiting trucks supplied by Farmington Hills.

On April 19, Scouts from Clarencville troop 242 cleared vines and litter from Chesley, provided Farmington Road and Eight Mile roads. The

youths also cleared discarded cardboard from some of the industrial property in that area.

On April 28, the PTA and a group of Scouts at Gill School cleared the litter from the school yard and from the roadside between Eight and Nine Mile roads.

DeMolay youths pitched in to clear Freedom Road and some of the side streets.

Farmington provided one truck for the pickup, while Farmington Hills sent two to aid the clean-up.

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Vegetable gardens and home projects are in full swing at present time. Here are some of the projects that have been started by people in the home. Look for it in the Observer & Eccentric special Home & Garden Section, in this issue.