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Fifteen Cents

Farmington wants tax hike

By SUSAN AVERILL

FARMINGTON—After three years of holding the line, the city council agreed Thursday at a budget hearing to raise the tax rate by a half mill to meet projected expenditures.

The increase would bring Farmington's tax levy to 9.75 mills, one of the lowest in Oakland County.

"We can justify any one of the lowest rates not only in Oakland County, but one of the 25 lowest in Michigan," said city manager Robert Deadman.

Councilmen said they hesitated before recommending the increase, but finally decided it would be the appropriate thing to do.

The city tax levy for Lathrup Village, a Detroit daily newspaper as one of the county's lowest, is listed at 14 mills.

Birmingham assesses its residents 17 mills.

COUNCILMEN ALSO said they had heard no sincere objection from any community member when the possible increase was announced.

Earlier, Deadman said an increase in city property taxes was necessary because other sources of income didn't increase sufficiently.

"The current inflation, coupled with the recessionary trend, has affected local government costs and income as severely as it has affected most businesses and industries," said Deadman in a memo to council members.

"After three years of being able to offset the rising costs of providing city services within the same tax rate, we find that this year's anticipated revenues will not cover projected expenditures."

State and federal revenue sharing were reduced and the lack of construction has "reduced revenues normally

received through building permit fees," he said.

REVENUES FROM state gas and weight taxes are not expected to offset the rising cost of local and major road maintenance.

Though he asked for and received the additional local revenue, Deadman expects to keep a tight rein on city expenditures.

"Budget expenditures have been kept to a minimum with the continuation of only those programs and services which are presently being offered," he said.

There are no new employee positions anticipated within this budget. The federal CETA (Comprehensive Education and Training Act) program employees who were hired within this employee program are scheduled to be phased out as the program funds are exhausted.

Salary increases for city staff will be less than the present cost of living.

THE SEVEN per cent increase stipulated by contract with the Public Services Employees' Union will be extended to public safety officers.

The police officers' contract, negotiated during the wage and price freeze, called for only a 4.8 per cent increase.

"Recent inflation and the fact that neighboring communities have adjusted the wages of their police and firemen to a much greater extent than the current terms provided within our contract, makes the present provisions inequitable," Deadman's memo read.

The city plans to reduce their capital expenditure from last year. After completing the addition to city hall, the city plans to buy office equipment and furniture for the new offices.

Preliminary plans for Shiawassee

Park improvements include the resurfacing of the tennis courts; construction of handball courts; and the replacement of the walk stairs from Power Road to the handball diamond.

A MINI-PARK may be developed on Violet Street near Grand River, and will be used as a playground for youngsters. It will be furnished with swings, slides, a sandbox, a picnic table and an outdoor grill. The community development grant will provide funds for the park.

Additional parking is scheduled for the Civic Center area on the west side of Liberty Street directly across from city hall. It will be used by employees of the city and community library.

A portion of the money is budgeted for down payment on a fire pumper truck. The truck will be financed by a five-year title retaining contract with the National Bank of Detroit. It is scheduled to arrive in November.

Twenty-year-old radio equipment will be replaced in the public safety department.

The public safety department will add 18 men to its reserve program. All will be trained in both police and fire operations, bringing the department supplement to 25 men.

SUCH ADDITIONS will allow the city to master 47 firemen and three pumper trucks for fires, increasing the city's fire fighting manpower by nearly 50 per cent.

A new V-type snowplow will be bought for use on the roads west of Gill Road.

Water rate increases were not scheduled for this year, although a possible increase by Detroit's water department may cause such an adjustment.

More water meter replacement is scheduled for this year. Deadman estimated that the switch saved more than 600 hours in meter reading time.



The Viking ship carved by Ed Moffitt of Farmington Hills captures the attention of Jennifer Lewis, 3, daughter of Gordon Lewis and his wife. Lewis is Farmington library director

and Jennifer stopped to see the display in the library after morning story hour. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe).

Innocent students fired by Patterson

FARMINGTON—After complaining about their treatment by investigators for Oakland County Prosecutor L. Brooks Patterson, two Farmington students suddenly found themselves with-out jobs.

Gary Chappel and William McGregor, students at Farmington High School, had been working as student volunteers in Patterson's consumer protection division to gain experience and high school credit.

Attempting to track down the thief who has taken nearly \$75 from the offices, investigators blasted money dusted with a special powder in a desk without telling the students, and then surprised them with an ultraviolet light test.

Chappel and McGregor, along with four students from Bloomfield Hills and River High School, were cleared of the thefts. But all were dismissed Thursday after publicly complaining about their treatment.

"THEY DIDN'T tell us that there was money stolen, but they told us it was a routine investigation and everybody went through it. We found out later through the grapevine that it wasn't everybody, only the six student volunteers," Chappel said.

Neither Patterson, his assistant Richard Thompson or the students' supervisor Janelle Hill, could be reached for comment Friday.

But it wasn't only that which made him angry. Other reports state the stu-

dents were informed of the search, something which he denies.

"I know for a fact—that's a lie," he said.

"They didn't tell us at all. I really didn't know what it was," McGregor said. "I asked this guy, Lee Williams (one of the investigators) if somebody had stolen some money, but he said, 'No, nobody's under suspicion.'"

Chappel said it began when he and McGregor were about to leave for the day.

"They told us to wait because they wanted to talk to us. Then Ralph Guerin (division lawyer) and Lee Williams took us to a room and asked one of us to go inside."

McGregor hesitated, so Chappel stepped in.

"I went in and the next thing I knew, the lights were off and the door shut. They turned this black light on and asked if they could see my hands," Chappel said.

They found nothing on either him or McGregor, and sent them back to the office where they were left alone momentarily.

"**THEY NEVER** told us a thing, and we discussed what we thought they were doing. When they came back in, they asked us how much money we had. Bill had none, but I said I had three dollar bills."

After looking at the money, the investigators asked if they could search the rest of the wallet. Chappel said yes.

The students were asked to remove their shoes, which were searched, and Chappel said Williams searched him about the waist.

"They planted \$10 in a desk which about 40 or 50 people use each day. They asked Bill to put the money in his hand and then lock him into the room to see if it (the special dust) showed up in the black light," he said.

Chappel said Williams told him it was routine investigation.

"I figured if it's routine, there wasn't much I would say about it."

When he discovered the students had been singled out as suspects, he became angry at the deception.

"I had a lot of respect for the man (Brooks Patterson) until yesterday, that's for sure," he said. "Myself, I'm quite burned at them now."

McGregor said he plans to make an appointment with Patterson to talk about the incident.

"I think this whole thing is out of proportion. We should have gone to them first to talk, instead of going to the newspapers."

McGregor said Janelle Hill assured them their dismissal would not be "a black mark on our record" and that they could use the department as a recommendation source.

Whittler carves hobby into nautical exhibition

By CORUNNE ARATT

FARMINGTON HILLS—Whenever Ed Moffitt has had a free moment in the last five years, he would whittle. During his lunch hours as a Ford Motor Co. designer or when he visited with family and friends at home, he would take out a piece of wood and a pen knife and begin.

The culmination of these efforts is on display through May 29 at the Twelve Mile Road Farmington library. Because he has a love for the sea, Moffitt chose ships for his subjects.

From a Mississippi River steamer to a full-rigged schooner, Moffitt, a former Navy man, researched them all before carving the models.

During World War II he was on a submarine in the south Pacific. He was graduated from the Meininger School of Art in Detroit and studied design at Chrysler Institute.

"**FIRST I READ** about the ship I want to carve. I find out everything I can. Then I do it to scale as authentically as I can from photographs."

"I try to use ingenuity and imagination. For the Viking ship, for instance, I found the information I needed in the National Geographic."

The Mississippi steamer, Annabelle, is named after his wife. The steamer is an example of the Moffitt brand of imagination. The water paddles and

walker beam on top of the scale model really work. So does the ship's light.

When the drawer at the bottom is opened, music plays.

The faces of the tiny figures on the schooner are in scale with the ship. They are so small that the carver did the faces using a magnifying glass and an Exacto knife. It took the best part of a year, Moffitt said, to complete this detailed project.

THE DISPLAY includes a series of paintings of the scaling way of life. These, too, were done by Moffitt, who has been studying watercolors for several years.

(See WHITTLES, page 2A)

Farmington YMCA looking for campers

FARMINGTON—This year, youngsters will be able to canoe to Canada, backpack at Camp Nisakone or canoe in Minnesota. All three are programs offered by the Farmington YMCA.

Children may gain other experiences by participating in their Kidde Kamp or day camp.

A special presentation on the YMCA programs is offered 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 28, at the Farmington Hills Public Library on Twelve Mile Road.

It is free and open to the public. Dave Mackenzie will lead junior high expeditions to Royal National Park in the Upper Peninsula and canoeing in Minnesota.

Ages 12 to 16 are eligible for the trip to Ranger Lake, Canada, and scheduled for youths aged 14-17.

The YMCA has scheduled programs at Camp Nisakone for children 8-14. The camp is near Lake Van Buren near Oscoda and offers sailing, water-skiing, canoeing, swimming, fishing and riflery. Tennis, backpacking and

horseback riding are offered. Twelve-day programs at Nisakone will begin June 10.

KIDDE KAMP for boys four-six is designed to provide fun from home camp experiences for children in activities such as crafts, games, singing, chess, outdoor play and creative expression.

The camp will operate at Farmington Park 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. in eight-hour periods from June 10-13. Children need 7 to 12 years of experience in camping with the YMCA's

day camp in Holly. Activities are scheduled during the day, and an overnight session is planned for the second Wednesday of each session.

Buses will leave the YMCA at 9 a.m. and return at 4 p.m. Three two-week periods are scheduled: the first beginning June 10.

Camp activities will include horseback riding, swimming, boating, canoeing, riflery, arts and crafts, games and hiking.

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Holiday Deadlines

The issue following the Memorial Day weekend of the Observer & Eccentric will be published Tuesday, May 27.

Advertising and news deadlines will be one day earlier. All news copy for the May 27 edition is due Wednesday, May 21. Classified deadlines will not be affected.

For the Thursday, May 29, issue, Monday deadlines will change to Friday, May 23; the remaining deadlines will be unchanged.