

# Farmington Observer & Eccentric

Volume 87 Number 54 Monday, April 26, 1976 Farmington, Michigan 24 Pages Twenty Five Cents



Building good customer relations is one of John Mintline's responsibilities in his job with K Mart of Farmington. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

## Tax hike predicted to keep city solvent

By RON GARBESKO

Farmington City Manager Robert Deadman has recommended to the city council a 1.2-mill tax increase for 1976-77 to offset the uncertainty of federal and state revenue sharing funds.

"The budget as I have recommended to the council will require the city to raise taxes from its present rate of 9.75 to 10.95 mills next year," Deadman said.

With this 1.2-mill increase, the city's recommended operating budget for the coming fiscal year would total \$1,791,600. This is up approximately \$360,000 from 1975-76 when it was \$1,431,600.

"This increase basically is brought about by the failure of outside sources of revenue to meet the growing threats of inflation," Deadman explained.

"FEDERAL REVENUE sharing is up in the air at this time and it could well be that the city might not receive any money from these funds after they run out at the end of January 1977.

"We don't expect much growth from outside funding for Farmington. There isn't much growth projected in the state's gas and weight tax returns to local communities for at least several more years," he continued.

This year, Farmington received approximately \$500,000 in federal revenue sharing funds. City officials aren't certain what part revenue sharing will play in next year's budget because the state and federal government haven't passed new laws yet to deal with this problem.

"I think there will be some form of revenue sharing coming out my way next year, but at this time I don't know what form it will be," Deadman said.

"We can't project revenue sharing in our budget if we are uncertain what and how much it will be."

In balancing its budget for next year, the city must also deal with the possibility that the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act positions and funds will be eliminated in the future.

about 15 per cent next year because of the wage hikes and the purchase of new equipment for the department," the city manager explained.

The city plans to purchase five new police cars for next year.

"There are many other things that have caused the budget to increase. The city's fringe benefits are one of the largest areas," he said.

Blue Cross will raise 34.6 per cent next year and that is the most expensive city fringe benefit we have to pay out.

"Our liability insurance has increased 200 per cent from \$5,000 to about \$15,000 because of the same problems being experienced by doctors, hospitals, businesses and other policyholders.

And the cost of our insurance reflects the problem of rising rates in our cost of liability will increase eight per cent," he continued.

Under the proposed budget, new programs aren't planned and no new employees are scheduled to be hired.

"I HAVEN'T provided for the continuation of this program in next year's budget because it may be discontinued. If that happens we will be forced to lay-off seven or eight employees and that means cutting back services somewhat," Deadman said.

If the CETA program were eliminated next year, about \$60,000 would be taken out of the city's budget.

"Local costs haven't gone up that much. If you take the \$90,000 federally funded CETA program out of the budget, that means costs have risen only about \$70,000," the city manager explained.

After passage of the state's new Single Business Tax, local property assessments declined by 1.79 per cent to \$67,800,000 from year ago levels of \$69,600,000.

The state, through the single Business Tax, discontinued taxation on personal property. The state now is reimbursing us for that loss, but at 1975 assessment figures. So they don't provide us for growth this year," Deadman said.

"Next year we project that of every dollar area taxpayers give the state in taxes, the city will get back 63 cents," he said.

THERE WILL be little capital improvement around the city, but we will purchase some small equipment for the DPW," the city manager pointed out.

The only cutback recommended by Deadman is \$1,500 for the historical district's sign program.

I recommended elimination of that because I didn't feel it was a priority program," he said.

The city's operating revenues come from eight major areas. Local taxes provide the city with 52 per cent of its operating revenues with federal revenues sharing 18 per cent and fund transfer payments 12 per cent.

State shared funds total 18 per cent and sales, charges, fees, licenses and all other forms provide the city with eight per cent of its revenues.

The major development planned under the 1976-77 budget is Phase I of the city's sewer separation system in the older sections of Farmington.

Under next year's budget, Deadman says the city will complete all preliminary plans on the project up to the point of beginning construction.

The city hasn't any funds to do any other big projects and it's an awful time to raise taxes," Deadman said. "And it is hard to cut services when you only provide basic services."

The city doesn't provide any major social programs that we could cut to make up lost revenues, so it's almost all we can do is raise taxes," Deadman concluded.

## Long struggle underscores smile greeting area shoppers

That pleasant greeting—"hi," "hello," or "how are you?"—Farmington Kmart shoppers hear as they walk through the door often comes from new employee John Mintline.

He is 27 years old and it is his first steady job. But, instead of dwelling on what the job means to him—and it means a lot—he would rather describe his responsibilities.

On the day he was born doctors told his parents that he would never be able to walk or care for himself. His right side was paralyzed as the result of cerebral palsy.

Mintline, in a neat shirt and tie sits at his desk at the front of the store, calls a greeting to three teenagers and they acknowledge his pleasantness with a smile and a wave.

He tags their packages with a colored slip, explains what the tag means, answers a question on where to find some merchandise and then looks up.

He picks up a stack of pink slips on his desk. "These are employee purchase slips. I'm putting them in order and then I'll match them with the numbers in my book."

He notices the supply of shopping carts nearby is low and goes over to round up more to be ready for shoppers and come back to his desk to answer some questions.

He points to the time cards, saying there are also his responsibility and agrees that pretty much of what happens in the entrance area of the store is his domain.

"Yes," he says. "I'm beginning to recognize many of the regular customers and they seem to know me now too."

He has been at the job since September and has made hundreds of friends.

Later, he spent more than 10 years working in the New Horizons sheltered workshop. He was assigned to inspection, sorting and other jobs carried out by New Horizons under contracts with business and industry.

His assignments were tailored to fit his particular skills. They allowed for his limited use of his right "helping hand." His good mathematical ability and excellent memory were utilized.

His mother, whose avocation is weaving, says he can memorize weaving patterns and execute them on a loom better than a can.

formed on local TV and at Meadow Brook Hall. Mintline eventually left New Horizons to become a teacher at the F.A.R. Conservatory in Birmingham. But he can't drive and there was no one to transport him daily from his home at a Community Living Center in Farmington Hills. As a result, he had to give up the job after a few weeks.

That was when New Horizons placement coordinator Sandy Galanti found him the job at Kmart. Duties include giving information to customers, checking packages, handing out paychecks to employees and checking employees in and out for lunch breaks.

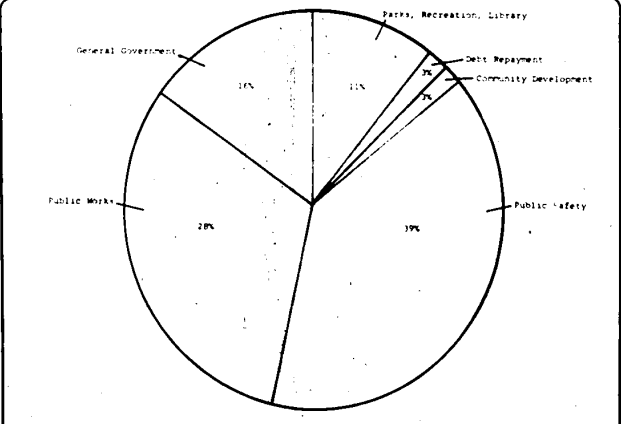
His happy, sociable attitude has made many friends for him at Kmart, including the store personnel director Nancy Keyes.

She says "He does such a good job. I think more employees would be inspired to help handicapped individuals if they knew what a reliable and conscientious worker John Mintline is."

Not long ago his employers received a letter from a customer citing Mintline's courteous and friendly manner and congratulating them for their wisdom in employing him.

As a result, Mintline recently received a letter from the board of directors of the S.S. Kresge Co. commending him for a job well done.

A TALENTED organist who has per-



This graph shows the percentage allocation of the City of Farmington's 1976-77 budget of \$1,791,600 as recommended by City Manager Robert Deadman.

THE LARGEST increase in Deadman's proposed budget would be for the public safety departments.

The public safety officers' contract expires June 30 and Deadman says the officers will probably receive a seven per cent increase in pay after current contract negotiations are settled.

"Public safety services will increase

## Trustees ponder millage increase

By STEVE BARNARD  
Farmington editor

The task of a school millage increase is in the air.

Farmington school board trustees will consider tax recommendations from its members at its May 4 meeting.

A preliminary discussion of millage increase was at last week's meeting when Trustee Ervyn Makinen proposed a one-half mill increase proposal for repair and maintenance of school facilities be put on a future ballot.

If the board were to consider such a proposal, Prisk recommended that replacement be included in the funding.

"Much of our equipment simply is wearing out. There just isn't enough money for replacement such things as typewriters in the high schools."

"Having this type of millage would free other portions of the budget for other programs," Prisk maintained as he requested Trustee Gary Lickman object to earmarking millage funds, questioning whether or not the district could stick to an agreement with the voters for receiving the funds for such use.

He pointed to a previously earmarked millage for swimming pools and multi-norms which, he said, eventually was used for other purposes.

ALTHOUGH FARMINGTON district voters approved a four-mill increase at a special election April 8, the district still is in need of \$1.3 million to budget next year's projected expenses, according to business manager Bill Prisk.

Mrs. Makinen's proposal went unopposed, but other board members agreed to discuss millage increases at the next meeting.

"I think we should take a good, hard look at our buildings," said Mrs. Makinen. "If we don't have any more money, our buildings will go another year without being maintained the way they should be."

"Every year it is a struggle to keep the buildings in shape. We had additional money, we wouldn't see budgets in the buildings."

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS estimate it would take a millage increase of from 2.5 to 3 mills to keep the district in the black.

School Supt. Marvinus Van Arredye warned the board against earmarking millage funds.

"I seriously suggest that any increased millage approved by the voters be without general operations," he said.

"I'm not saying that it [earmarking funds] doesn't have any merit. But you can provide for that in the budget through line items."

## Officials shrug off housing ruling

Local officials say last week's U.S. Supreme Court decision requiring the extension of low-income housing into Chicago suburbs will have little effect on Farmington and Farmington Hills.

In the case of Farmington, City Mgr. Robert Deadman said the city doesn't have the space for new housing developments.

"There's not much room left for the city to start building low-income housing. We have little or no room left for growth the way it is now in the area, so I don't think the decision will have much of an impact on Farmington," Deadman said.

But I don't know the total picture at this time and, until I do, I can't say for certain where the city stands. We are full now and can't really provide for any new form of low-income housing."

WHILE THE decision goes back to a Chicago lower court for guidelines to be set, Hills City Mgr. George Majora says he will have to acquiesce himself further with the decision before he could comment on its ramifications in the Hills.

"I haven't read the entire decision yet, but as I can see it now, there shouldn't be any problem in Farmington Hills," Majora said.

"If the government wants to build housing in our community, that's fine as long as the housing meets all our building and zoning ordinances. If that happens, then I don't see any reason why people can't move in."

The Hills provides a good price range of housing and several undeveloped areas are zoned for multiple family housing, he said.

"But we just don't go and plug apartments in these areas," he said. "We must follow the city's master plan and zoning codes whenever the city decides to build something."

"Any form of multiple-family dwelling must conform to the master plan before it is issued a permit."

"Farmington Hills has lots of places zoned for multiple-family housing. After they are built, and if they conform with our codes, we can't place any controls on the income of people moving into those dwellings," Majora said.

"We can't make any distinction against the income levels of the residents."

NETHER FARMINGTON Hills see Farmington presently has any form of federally subsidized housing within city limits.

The Hills has been approached previously about constructing federally financed senior housing, but plans concerning such a complex aren't being considered.

Both city managers said that the respective councils must decide what action to take if required to provide low-income housing within city limits.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development will not be forced to build low-income housing in communities which do not seek federal aid for housing, a Washington HUD spokesman said.

Suburbs which don't apply for federal money to build low-income housing apparently have nothing to fear from the Supreme Court's decision in Chicago.

"The option of accepting federal housing assistance is left specifically to the

communities," Donald Hall, the HUD spokesman said.

"The court underscored the role of local governments. They still have the power to turn down federal housing assistance programs. They have got to have a housing assistance plan to qualify for HUD's block grant, but that doesn't have anything to do with this decision," Hall said.

JOSEPH GUGGENHEIM, executive director of the Michigan Committee on Law and Housing, said he believes HUD will be forced to expand low-income housing throughout the metropolitan Detroit area as a result of the decision.

Although uncertain of the decision's overall effect on local communities, Guggenheim said, "They have an obligation in any case to move along these lines, especially if they're getting federal funds—particularly community block grant funds."

"If any community tried to block such housing, they would probably be guilty of discrimination, which would be illegal," Guggenheim said.

### inside

News	Section A	
Editorial	Section B	
Community Calendar	Section C	
Classifieds	Section D	

NORTH PARK Methodist Church is conducting a seminar for new members. It's delightful and different from other activities for seniors. We think you'll enjoy it. To see what it's about, turn to page 4A.