

editorial opinion

Reserve Tuesday night for millage pow-wow

Here's your chance to get the straight scoop. On Tuesday at 8 p.m. the Farmington School Board trustees are going to huddle over at North Farmington High School to discuss the "ifs" of a possible school millage increase failure.

The public, that's you and me, is invited. It's one of the most important meetings, voter-wise, that will be conducted by the board this year. You see, on June 14 a 24-mill increase request will be on the ballot.

To make your vote a sound decision, it would be an excellent idea if you showed up. After all, it's sort of dumb to go and vote if you don't know exactly why you're voting for or against something.

THE BOARD NEEDS the money in the worst way. It means about \$1.1 million dollars with which to carry on the educational program for your kids.

Actually, I'm not quite sure what you're going to find out at the meeting. The trustees, themselves, are split on what should be and shouldn't be released for public consumption.

But you can bet one thing for sure. Whatever you're going to find out isn't going to be pleasant. The board has cut about as far as they can. Trustees are just sort of rattling the skeleton to see if any meat will fall off the dried bones.

Regular readers of the Crackerbarrel Debate know how I feel about the board's general performance. I'm not overly impressed. But that's beside the point. We can always elect new board members if we don't like them.

But we always can't reconstruct a kid's education after it has been cut to pieces by stingy funding.

You might as well know, right off, that I'm a millage booster. Education is too important of a thing to be used as a tool of revenge for persons with an axe to grind.

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Sure, it hurts to have to fork over that extra money which could have been used for "essentials"—like that camper trailer, new car, new carpeting, or a glorious color television.

BUT LET'S FACE IT: folks, for the most part, residents in Farmington and Farmington Hills have it pretty good. It isn't millionaires' row, but economically most persons are doing all right.

Besides, what's more important than a sound educational system? Nothing. It's the future of our nation. I'm a product of the Detroit Board of Education system. You all remember Detroit don't you? It's down Grand River a ways.

I recall, as a student, how time after time residents turned proposals. Program after program was cut. It became a vicious circle. As residents became fed up with Detroit's educational system, they moved out. Soon the city lost its tax base and, bang, things were a mess.

Don't kid yourself. The same thing could happen in the Farmington School District. After all, many of you folks lived in Detroit at one time and remember what happened. Don't let it happen again.

At any rate, let's see a big turnout on Tuesday night and find out what's happening.

Besides, the trustees put on a neck of a better show than "Good Times" or "Police Woman."

BY CORINNE ADATT

Making single life viable

It is part of the American syndrome that everybody ought to be like everyone else. You can see it in the supermarket, people buy and eat the same kinds of foods. We buy one of several kinds of cars and wear clothes and styles as dictated by the world of fashion—whatever that might be.

We are given directions on how to decorate our homes, where to talk, when to walk, how to act, when to sleep, when to wake up.

It is this kind of pre-packaged life which our young people occasionally try to rebel against. I say "try" because few fight the current for long periods of time. They eventually drop back and assume the expected posture.

One of those notions most of us still carry around is that by a certain age, everyone would be better off married, and the solution for all of the troubles of the formerly married would be to remarry. Even those formerly married, who waded out of a rotten situation, tend to believe the next time will be different and the path they will walk hand-in-hand will be strewn with orange blossoms.

Well, it isn't so, and anyone who has even the faintest notion to the contrary is heading for disaster.

I must have said it a dozen times in the past year, but singleness does offer some very special opportunities, and, fortunately, there are many groups now geared to meet needs and aid in taking advantage of the opportunities.

For those in immediate of help coping with the loss of a partner, there was the "Growth Through Grief" seminar organized by Jean Feterl of St. Fabian Catholic Church. Jean had a fine response to her day-long seminar and will probably follow up with more programs for the widowed.

Another group that met recently in Farmington is the Bethany Northwest Group which is supported by the Catholic Church and aimed particularly at the problems of separated and divorced persons. More than social, this group recognizes the need for growth, friendship and re-education.

Tom Regan (638-0968 after 6 p.m.) is the person to call about this one.

Joe Naporski, whom we have mentioned here before for his helpful "Money Mistique" classes, asked that a word be said about The Catholic Alumni Club of Detroit.

This group, it says in the monthly newsletter, "is composed of single, practicing Catholics who are college graduates and free to marry within the church. Joe says that while most of the 170 members are in their 30s and 40s, many in their 20s are coming.

There are all kinds of social activities from dances and theater parties to baseball and canoe trips on this club's monthly activity sheet. Call Joe at his office, 688-8600, for information.

These groups are not handing out happiness pills, but they are testimony to the fact that life does have something to offer single persons—especially those who are willing to give it a try.

Students to run county today

Students of Oakland County high schools are preparing a take-over of county government offices on May 18.

The take-over is being sponsored by Oakland County Executive Daniel T. Murphy, who has invited representatives from area high schools to participate in operation of county government on that day.

County commissioners Betty Fortino of Waterford and Hubert Price of Pontiac will act as consultants in the Democratic side of the aisle and Lillian Moffitt, Bloomfield Hills and Patrick Sowak, Commerce Township, will perform the same function for the Republican student commissioners.

Murphy has declared May 18 "County Government Day" as part of this year's Michigan Week celebration May 15-21.

Your ecology calendar

Ecology-minded persons who wish to save cans, bottles or newspapers for recycling may use these facilities.

To prepare glass, thoroughly wash the containers, remove all metal caps and rings from the glass and separate the glass by color.

To prepare cans, clean only. Paper need not be removed.

Newspapers should be tied in bundles with heavy string or rope or secured in heavy paper bags.

•PONTIAC—Oakland County Recycling Center, 500 S. Telegraph, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. every Saturday. Groups bringing in more than 500 lbs. of glass will receive \$10 per ton for glass.

•BIRMINGHAM—Daily newspaper pickup with regular trash. Newspapers must be banded separately.

•FARMINGTON—A glass recycling center operates on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon at the west end of the Farmington Hills city hall parking lot. The city hall is at 11 Mile and Orchard Lake.

•LATHRUP VILLAGE—At the Public Services Building, 19101 Twelve Mile Road, adjacent to the high school. Newspapers are collected 10 a.m.-3 p.m. by volunteers the first Saturday of each month.

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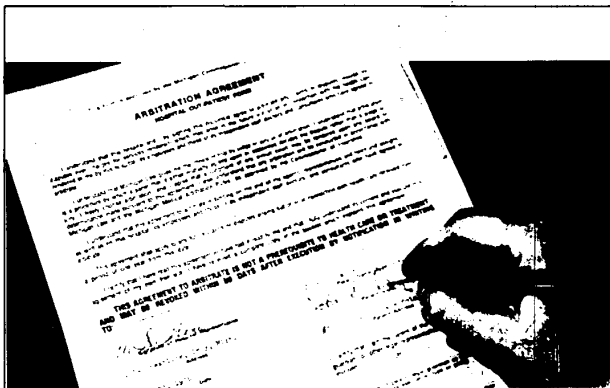
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Your signature can help control health-care costs.

Malpractice suits are a major reason for soaring health care costs. As a result, next time you visit your doctor—or if you are admitted to a hospital as a patient—you may be offered an Arbitration Agreement Form that you can sign if you choose. This form is the result of a new Michigan law and the Michigan Medical Arbitration Rules, as approved by the Commissioner of Insurance. Your signature on the form means that you agree to settle disputes about your health care—except disputes about fees—through arbitration, instead of going to court.

Through arbitration, these problems can be settled faster than with a jury trial and at less cost. Widespread acceptance can contribute to controlling rising insurance rates.

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Michigan urges all of our members to lend a hand in helping to hold down health care costs. Your signature on an Arbitration Agreement Form can be a big help.

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan

Let's all save for health's sake.