

# Farmington Observer

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## Makinen, Wallace, 1.75 mills get the nod

By LYNN ORR

Farmington School District voters opted for the lesser of two millage propositions, approving a 1.75-mill increase for two years by an eight per cent margin.

The increase is expected to add nearly \$1 million to the district's coffers next year, according to school officials.

The request for a 2.5 mill increase for five years lost by a nine per cent margin in Monday's election as 5,753 district voters cast ballots.

Incumbent Emma Makinen and newcomer Richard Wallace were the highest vote-getters among five boards of education candidates and will assume four-year terms in July.

Although school officials were disappointed with the low voter turnout—about 14 per cent of the district's 40,000 registered voters—the millage victory elicited jubilation.

"I'm personally extremely pleased with the 1.75 proposition," said Board President Anne Struble. "It means keeping teachers, and I believe that's

what the community was focusing on."

The increased revenue provided by the 1.75-mill increase primarily will be used to improve the student-teacher ratio, increase the budget for supplies and textbooks and replace equipment. "We're thrilled," Supt. Lewis Schulman exclaimed. "I see this vote as real community support of the school system. Giving voters a choice gives them real input into the decision-making process."

"They were not threatened or given empty promises, and the burden of proof rests on our shoulders now. I also think the vote shows real faith in the way the board conducts its business this year. They've paid a good deal of attention to the community."

Mrs. Struble also extended appreciation to the millage committee for the hard work and long hours devoted to the millage campaign.

Fairview Elementary School Principal Don Cowan and Mary Ann Reilly, co-chairperson of the committee, were delighted with the election results.

"I'll take the 1.75 any time," Cowan said, and Mrs. Reilly echoed the sentiments.

All four voter precincts approved the 1.75 mill increase, while only Precinct 3 (Eagle School) supported the 2.75 mill increase. Proposition 1 (2.5 mills for five years) garnered 2,710 yes votes and 2,957 no votes. Proposition 2 (1.75 mills for two years) was approved by 3,061 voters, while 2,532 voters cast a no vote.

Voter turnout ran slightly ahead of the renewal millage vote in April and 185 votes ahead of the June, 1976 election.

INCUMBENT Mrs. Makinen swept all precincts with a 2,523 vote tally, receiving 216 more votes than Wallace, who will assume the seat vacated by retiring Trustee Gary Lichman.

Peter Sanders, a Wayne State University professor, came in third in the vote count with 1,778 votes. Eugene Lemberg, past president of the North Farmington Parent-Teacher Organization, got 1,243 votes, while James Peponis, a Southgate School District administrator, tallied 739 votes.

Receiving congratulations at board offices Monday night, Wallace expressed appreciation for his election but was happier about the millage vote.

"I like the second proposal carrying every precinct," he said.

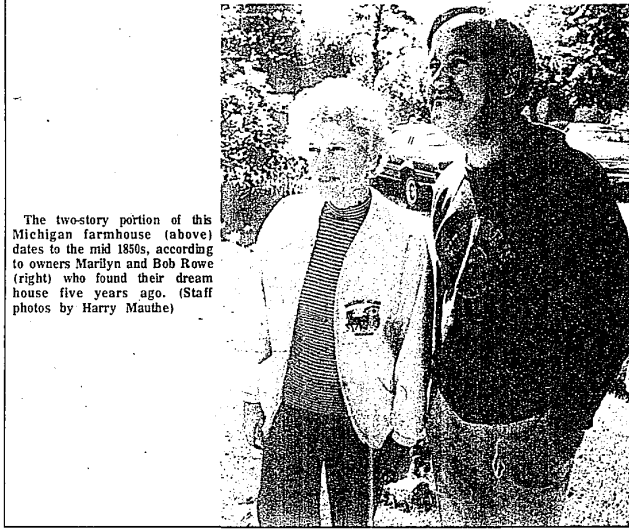
Mrs. Makinen was "ecstatic" with both the millage results and her sweep of all precincts.

"People recognized that I have worked hard and made some decisions that were not always what they wanted to hear but that I felt were in the best interests of the community," she said.

"I couldn't have done anything without the support of my husband, family and supporters," she said. "Housewives, students, teachers, neighbors and residents were all out there working for me," she said.

Candidate Eugene Lemberg was philosophical about his loss and pleased with the millage results.

"My wife will be happy," he quipped.



The two-story portion of this Michigan farmhouse (above) dates to the mid 1850s, according to owners Marilyn and Bob Rowe (right) who found their dream house five years ago. (Staff photos by Harry Mauthe)

## Hills fiddles; Marlowe burns

By LOUISE OKRUTSKY

Farmington Hills gave the Arts Commission a firm maybe in answer to Commissioner Marlowe Belanger's plea for the council to reinstate \$1,170 into her 1978 budget.

Originally, she expected \$3,170 from the city but councilmembers voted last week to cut that allocation to \$2,000.

Their action will cost the Farmington Arts Commission more than the \$1,170, according to Mrs. Belanger. Funds the Arts Commission would have received from the Michigan Arts Council will be cut if the city council delays giving a firm answer to the budget cuts until after July 1.

That's the deadline for the state arts council to decide the amount of funding it will give to the Farmington group. With Farmington Hills rejecting the original budget request, the area's arts commission stands to lose about \$4,500 in state and local funds, according to Mrs. Belanger.

"I'm confident that the money's gone," said Mrs. Belanger.

HER PESSIMISM stems from the fact that the city council refuses to reconsider their decision until all of its members return from their vacations and are present at the same meeting.

Council members will exhibit perfect attendance for meetings in the future, according to Mayor Pro-Tem Joan Dudley, who conducted the council

meeting in the absence of a vacationing Mayor Keith Deacon.

With the original amount from the city, the Farmington Arts Commission had a \$52,000 budget for 1978. Part of that budget included \$1,300 from organizations that participated in commission sponsored events. Both city governments were slated to kick in a combined total of \$5,950. That would give the commission a cash total of \$10,250 from sources in the area.

In addition, local groups and artists were pledged to give \$30,220 in services. This would include such offerings as a free room rental or discounts on the cost of conducting an arts conference at Oakland Community College.

Michigan Arts Council, which gave the Farmington group its top rating before the budget cut, was expected to offer a grant that equalled 20 per cent of the cash budget of the group.

ORIGINALLY, the grant was to have totalled \$11,550. Cuts in the area groups budget has resulted in the state organization changing its rating of the commission and therefore the amount of the grant it will receive.

If Farmington Hills refuses to allocate the original amount of its share to the commission, the group will be forced to ask for less money from local supporters. Funds from the Michigan Arts Commission are given out

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## Rowes cuddle up to historical home

By LYNN ORR

To live in an old house, you have to love hanging by a ladder about 20 feet in the air.

That's the opinion of Bob Rowe, at any rate, who finds himself in that lofty position several times a year, attempting to keep ahead of peeling paint.

But it's a price the Farmington Hills resident is willing to pay to live in a "Michigan" farmhouse, circa 1855-57. Last winter he used his paint-

ing hiatus to research the house's history, which earned the dwelling a plaque from the Farmington Historical Society this month.

"You hear stories about the house, and it whets your appetite," says Marilyn Rowe. "You want to know more about it."

Farmington residents since 1949, the Rowes had been searching for a "Michigan" farmhouse for some time when they discovered the house at 24770 Power north of Ten Mile in 1972, shortly before their eldest daughter's

wedding. The house had an external basement entrance, typical of farmhouses of the era.

"We went out to look at it the day after the wedding and bought it," Rowe explains, adding that they knew they were not simply buying a house. "When a house is this old, you take it on as a hobby," he quips.

TO VALIDATE the structure's age, Rowe began seriously researching the property and was lucky enough to get his hands on the abstract.

"Eight out of 10 times, you can't find the abstract, but you can go to the Oakland County Courthouse and look up the legal description of the property," he says.

Frederick Slamen, whose family owned the house for a considerable period of time in the 1930's and '40's, supplied Rowe with an abstract, along with whatever he knew about the house's history.

Rowe then found a "gem" in the

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## Junior high students face vandalism charges

By LOUISE OKRUTSKY and LYNN ORR

Seven juveniles were taken to Oak-

land County Juvenile Court yesterday in connection with a vandalistic spree at Power Junior High School.

Jars of paint were spattered on win-

dows and brick walls, and 39 windows were broken last weekend at the school, according to Power Principal Robert Brown. Damage was confined

to the exterior of the building located at 34740 Rhinewood in the district's southwest corner, with the exception of the principal's office.

Paint was thrown into a broken window of the office, Brown said.

Farmington Hills police officers are investigating the vandalism at the school that began June 9 when three windows were reported damaged. School officials discovered extensive damage Monday morning, extending to 59 the number of windows in need of replacement. Some plastic-based windows will require replacement since the paint cannot be removed, Brown explained.

THE AMOUNT of damage is expected to exceed \$1,000, according to Brown. Replacing windows along with the services of a brick cleaner will have to be considered in the final cost, he added.

The number of students involved in the vandalism may run higher as the investigation continues, officials say. The students thus far involved in the case are all Farmington School District students, Brown said.

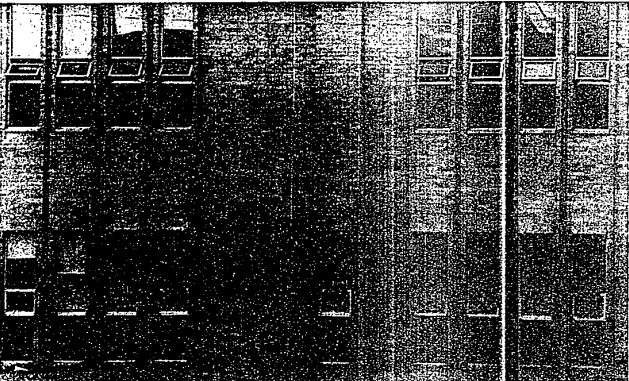
Although what action the district will take is undecided at this point, Brown is determined to shift responsibility from the taxpayers' shoulders.

"The community is paying through the nose for this stuff," he said. "We're going to get to the bottom of this, and it's not going to be passed over." The parents of the students are responsible for up to \$1,500," he added.

Although the vandalism is not the

first in the school's 10-year history, it is the most extensive, Supt. Lewis Schulman noted.

"That's not one of our schools where we get a lot of action," he said, "but it's an intolerable situation." Vandalism this year has been running lower, than other years, he added.



Boards replaced glass at Power Junior High School after last weekend's vandalism took its toll. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

inside

HANDS OFF

NEVER ILL  
CALL  
A COP

Bridge 5C  
 Classifieds 11C  
 Community Calendar 2B  
 Editorial Opinion 18A  
 News Section A  
 Sports Section C  
 Suburban Life Section B

On Monday, June 20, your hometown newspaper will publish a special page devoted to protecting your children from potential abductors. There will be a list of practical techniques to teach your children to protect themselves and to be on the look out for danger as well as a "HANDS OFF" t-shirt iron on. We'll also include the rules for a CB radio slogan contest to promote further awareness of the situation. Be sure to read Monday's paper.