

Sparse turnout gives nod to 4 mill renewal

By LYNN ORR

A four-to-one millage renewal victory delighted Farmington School District officials Tuesday.

About 77 per cent of the 2,726 voters approved the renewal of four mills for 10 years. The four mills will generate slightly more than \$2 million in operating revenues.

"We're delighted with the support the community has shown us, but we were disappointed with the voter turnout," said Supt. Lewis Schulman.

The 2,726 "yes" voters represented about six per cent of those registered. The total turnout was about nine per cent of the active registered voters, according to Scott Bacon, financial assistant.

The turnout compared poorly with recent elections. The April 1977 four-mill renewal election attracted 5,335 voters, 69 per cent of whom approved the renewal.

Last June, the election of two school board members and the approval of 1.75 mills was decided by 5,881 of the approximately 49,000 registered voters in the district.

"We had hoped for a more substantial voter reaction, but we're pleased with the support from those who voted," Schulman said after Tuesday results were known.

"I HAVE to read this election as at least a commitment to education, if not contentment," he continued.

A total of 2,108 voters approved the four mill renewal, while 618 were opposed.

Precinct tallies were:

- *Precinct No. 1 (Farmington Junior High): 463 yes, 165 no.
 - *Precinct No. 2 (Dunckel Junior High): 796 yes, 178 no.
 - *Precinct No. 3 (Warner Junior High): 264 yes, 76 no.
 - *Precinct No. 4 (East Junior High): 534 yes, 108 no.
 - *Absentee ballots: 51 yes, 14 no.
- The punch card voting system, which was new to City of Farmington and West Bloomfield voters in the district, apparently caused few problems, according to Schulman.

"There was a little more paper work, but everything ran smoothly," he said.

Farmington Hills voters used the punch card system in the November election.

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Today's Barbie doll is tomorrow's treasure

Barbie dolls brought home to please little girls in the late '50s are delighting grown-up collectors.

In moving from the toy box in the attic to the collector's display shelf, Barbie and her contemporaries are joining the ranks of delicately made bisque and china dolls which children enjoyed more than 100 years ago.

Part of Barbie's new status can be attributed to high cost of the older bisque creations, according to Lucy Vance, of Lucy's Oldies but Goodies. Young collectors are turning to newer dolls. As they grow older and become more established, the collectors begin to switch to the higher priced doll.

Collecting dolls can be addicting. "Women who didn't have any dolls when they were children sometimes start collecting because they always liked dolls," Mrs. Vance said.

"THEY USUALLY buy an inexpensive doll, first. It's usually really pretty and might be wearing a pretty outfit," she said.

From a pretty little doll, the collector can advance into larger, rare dolls that double as investments.

"When she becomes an advanced collector, the dolls become bigger and harder to find. It's like money in the bank. You put money into something so that in so many years, they're worth more," she said.

There are a few drawbacks to the system, she concedes.

"Nice dolls are getting harder to find. A lot of women are collecting them. And they get a little hard to sell. You get a bit attached to them," she said.

Dolls fashioned after famous celebrities figure in collections.

Shirley Temple, the perennial favorite of doll manufacturers, is a easy mark for collectors. Doing mamma's who bought Shirley Temple's look-a-like in 1937, now have an up-and-coming antique in their attic. The vinyl and plastic doll draws about \$25 on the market.

Her older sister, manufactured in 1934, was made of composition

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-Lucy Vance

material and came with eyes that either stared out at their owner or had a fishy side glance.

TODAY A FLIRTY-EYED Shirley Temple, marked with the stamp of Ideal, her manufacturer, on her head and neck, can command about \$70.

Kewpie dolls given away as prizes 50 years ago, are selling for \$35. At that price, collectors demand that the doll has the Rose O'Neill trademark heart and signature on its chest.

Details such as flirty eyes and trademark hearts are important to collectors. Eyes, hands, mouth, hair and clothing are scrutinized when a doll is on the market, according to Mrs. Vance.

"If you have an old doll, you try to save the original clothing. If you can wash the dress and preserve it, the doll will be worth more than if you bought a new dress for it. If the original eyes are in the doll, the doll is worth more," she said.

New wigs detract from a doll's worth, also. So do chipped fingers and hands, according to Mrs. Vance.

With the higher priced antique baby dolls, an open mouth can mean a more valuable toy.

The condition of antique dolls are rated in a similar way to collectibles.

Baby dolls manufactured at the turn of the century by the German firm of Armand-Marselles can bring \$150 to its owner if it has the original eyes which opened and closed.

WHILE COLLECTORS of newer dolls deal with creators of vinyl and plastic, the antique toys are made with

bisque faces. Some faces are made from bisque or china with wax poured over the original layer.

Usually, the body was stuffed or made from papier mache. Arms, legs and hands occasionally made from the same material as the head.

While the younger collectible dolls led a rugged life on the playground, bisque headed toys were treated as display pieces.

"Some of them were gifts. Not everyone could afford to pay for the dolls, then. They weren't expensive by our standards but they were expensive, then," said Mrs. Vance.

"Children didn't get their dolls then until they were older," said Mrs. Vance.

Most of the dolls seen in the display cases of collectible and antique dealers are girls. Boy dolls are rare.

There's a chubby little boy doll that still smiles in Mrs. Vance's memory. Manufactured by Armand-Marselles the doll represented a three-year-old boy dressed in red velvet short pants and a satin shirt. For a time, the blonde figurine dominated Mrs. Vance's outside window.

"PEOPLE WOULD walk in and say, 'I'm going to buy that doll.' Finally, one day a woman did come in and bought it," she remembers.

Then her customers noticed that the doll was missing from the window, began to come in and ask "Did you sell that doll."

"He was so cute. He had those chubby legs that little children have at that age," Mrs. Vance remembers.



Lucy Vance poses with some antique dolls that are available at her store. She's holding a reproduction of a newborn infant. (Staff photo by Harry Mauther)

Officials oppose payment for county jail prisoners

By LYNN ORR

There's a \$13.75 price tag for every day a city prisoner spends in the Oakland County jail.

That's an expense local police departments want to shift to the county and they're backing state legislation (House Bill 5718) which would allow such a move.

Since last July, Farmington Public Safety Department has spent about \$1,600 to house county jail prisoners who have violated city ordinances; Farmington Hills has spent about \$1,500.

Both Farmington City Mgr. Robert

Deadman and Hills City Mgr. George Majoros wouldn't mind seeing the county take over that expense. Deadman, however, believes there's more motivation than expense.

"What happens is that the judge can sentence in regard to what the city can afford," Deadman said. "That's a poor criminal justice system."

A 90 day sentence for conviction of a city ordinance, such as drunk driving or assault and battery, can cost a city close to \$1,300.

"It gets pretty weighty for some departments," says Farmington Public Safety Director Dan Byrnes, noting

that expenses can vary up to \$5,000 for one year.

Both cities have "holding" or "lock-up" facilities rather than jails, which require shower, kitchen and exercise facilities. Since a prisoner cannot be held more than 24 hours in a holding facility, he must serve his time in the county jail, unless other arrangements can be made.

While the problem doesn't drastically affect the Farmington city budgets, other areas, such as West Bloomfield, which doesn't have a hold-

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Farmington's own "Music Man" Bill Conroy has been responsible for the musical flavor of this community for 35 years. (Staff photo)

Music man makes Farmington sing

When the "All Sports and Variety Show" strikes its first chord tomorrow night at Harrison High School, Bill Conroy will quietly stand in the wings while others take the applause.

That's the way Farmington's "Music Man" likes it.

The quiet, hard working insurance executive has been the main impetus behind musical efforts in the Farmington area for 35 years. Being President of the Farmington Community Band is just another tenuous hat Conroy has worn throughout the years.

Friday evening's sports and musical event is a fundraiser to get the band through a few more years. The performance begins at 7:30 p.m. Cost is \$3 for adults and \$2 for senior citizens and students in high school or younger.

Although Conroy has been instrumental in Farmington's music world, he prefers to remain in the background.

Since 1943, when he formed Farmington's first professional dance orchestra, Conroy has been almost continuously involved in the formation, funding and promotion of music and musical shows and events in this area.

Typically modest, he is quick to play down his importance by diverting attention away from himself with lavish praise for those around him. To those who know him best, he is tireless

and unselfish in his efforts in promoting music for the entire community.

Even though he studied music since the age of six, he discards his own musical talents and praises the talents of those around him.

"I'm not a good pianist, a good trumpet player or a good singer. But I've always been blessed with being surrounded by good talent willing to work with me," he says.

Conroy says he gets "great satisfaction" in providing opportunities to others who have talent.

From 1949 through 1951, he directed the Farmington Jaycees Fine and Dandy Minstrel Show. Taking a three year break to serve in the Army, he resumed his musical avocation in 1954 when he became business manager, producer and director of the Fine and Dandy musical shows until 1964.

During that time, he also organized a popular father and son band called the "Pops and Punks," made up of some sons as young as 14-years-old.

Under Conroy's tutelage, the band took first place honors in the 1966 Farmington Founders Day parade.

For the past decade, he has been executive director and president of the Farmington Community Band. The musical group first formed to play a concert for the Founders Day

celebration. But the group had scant hope of surviving the festival because of a lack of money.

Conroy, having heard the band, got together with the conductor and founder, Paul Barber, and kept the group together.

Now the band is more than 50 pieces strong and heralded as one of the top community bands in the state. It provides hours of free music and local musicians a chance to perfect and demonstrate their talents.

After Friday's gala affair, Conroy will be concentrating on promoting the senior citizen concert scheduled for March.

Recalling his more than a quarter of a century community involvement in music programs, Conroy hastily adds, "Don't write an obituary to my music promotion career yet, because there's still a lot to do and I intend to be involved in the community for many more years."

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