

# Livonia, C'ville candidates oppose school merger

Two Livonia and three Clarenceville school district candidates running for seats in the June 12 board of education elections are split 4-1 in opposing a merger or reorganization of the two districts.

They made their comments at a candidates' meeting co-sponsored Wednesday night by The Observer Newspapers and the League of Women Voters of Livonia and in a questionnaire sent to the five by the same organizations.

At the public candidates session, held in the Livonia Senior Citizens' Center, Clarenceville candidates

Lorene Erickson and Michael Zahn plus Livonia candidate James Merrier said they were opposed to any suggested merger.

Clarenceville board incumbent Daniel Morrison, who didn't make the candidates' session, made his position in writing as part of the Observer-LWV questionnaire.

Only Thomas Davis, Livonia board member seeking a second four-year term, was in favor of a consolidation of the district.

It was Davis who proposed the consolidation more than a year ago and he admitted Wednesday that it was met

"with something less than enthusiasm" by his colleagues on the Livonia board and his counterparts on the Clarenceville board.

Livonia's district covers most of the city of Livonia and the six square miles along the northern portion of Westland.

Clarenceville includes the northeast corner of Westland, a section of Farmington and Farmington Hills along the Grand River-Eight Mile area, and a small part of the northwest corner of Redford Township, in the Eight Mile-Inkster Road area.

Davis, in supporting the consoli-

dated, said it would be a "neat and quick way to save money and offer improved programs."

But his opponent, Merrier, said that he wouldn't agree to any consolidation unless all involved school boards agreed to have a study.

On a short range basis, there would be nothing to gain, Merrier said, while on a long range basis, there may be some administrative savings.

Mrs. Erickson, seeking one of two four-year terms, said that the Clarenceville board has cut its administrative staff to four persons, has maintained a balanced budget and "is still

a healthy thriving district." She added that if there is any split of the district, it may be in three directions—to Livonia, Farmington and Redford Union.

Zahn agreed, saying that Clarenceville currently uses the Oakland County services and is part of the regional vocational technical located in Walled Lake.

A merger "would hurt our students and the value put in our buildings."

In his written statement, Morrison was also opposed to a consolidation. Clarenceville has three elementary schools, two in Livonia and one in

Farmington Hills, with the junior and senior high in Livonia. Like its neighboring districts, it has been losing student enrollments in recent years. It was forced to close one elementary several years ago and it was leased to New Horizons for use by handicapped persons.

## Hills meetings planned

The following meetings are set for June in Farmington Hills at city hall, 31555 Eleven Mile.

Preliminary hearing for the planning commission will be at 8 p.m. June 8 in the council chambers.

The city council will conduct a public hearing at 7:30 p.m. June 12 in the council chambers.

The recreation department's district umpire meeting will be at 7 p.m. June 13 in council chambers.

The rock climbers will use the chambers at 7 p.m. June 14. The historical commission will meet at 7:30 p.m. June 14 in the conference room.

The planning commission will conduct a public hearing at 8 p.m. June 15 in the council chambers.

The board of appeals site tour will meet at 9 p.m. June 18.

The city council will meet at 7:30 p.m. June 19 in the chambers. The board of appeals will meet at 8 p.m. June 20 in the council chambers.

The board of appeals will meet at 8 p.m. June 20 in the council chambers.

THE INDUSTRIAL and economic development commission will meet at 8 p.m. June 20 in the conference room. The rock climbers will meet at 7

p.m. June 21 in the council chambers. The beautification commission will meet at 8 p.m. June 21 in the conference room.

The board of appeals site tour will meet at 9 a.m. June 25. The city council will meet at 7:30 p.m. June 26 in the council chambers.

The board of appeals will meet at 8 p.m. June 27 in council chambers.

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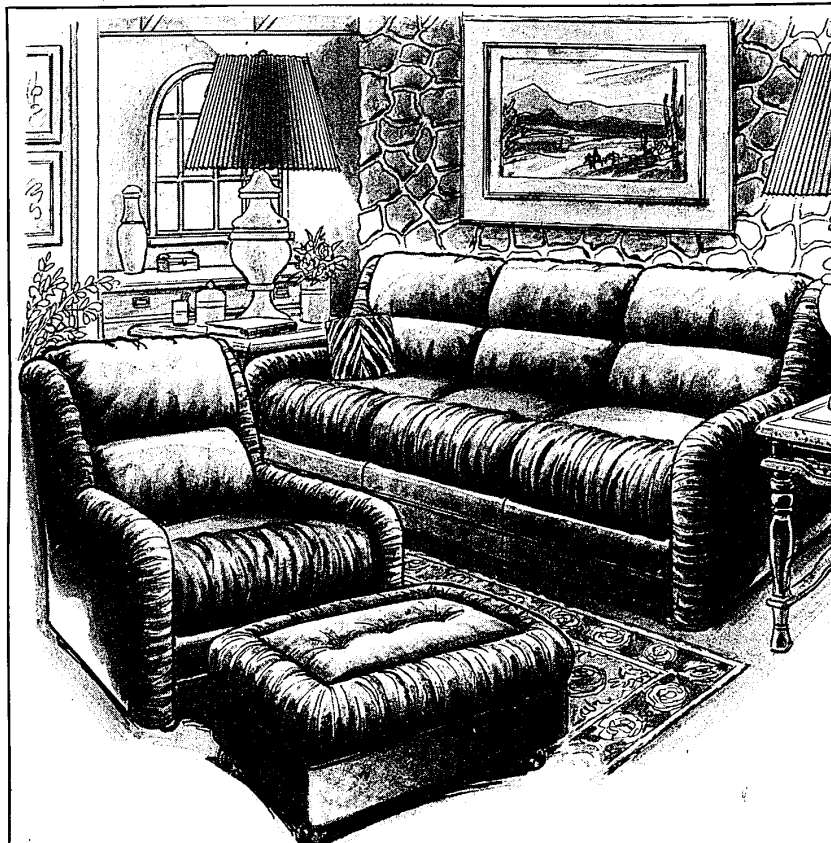
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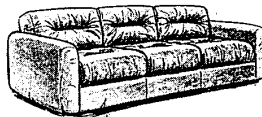


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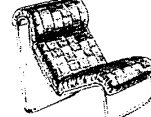
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