

Oakland School Districts To Cooperate On Elections

Spring and fall election dates have been selected for Oakland County school districts, who choose to cooperate on presenting financial issues to their voters.

The spring date on which voters will be asked to con-

der millage for school operation or construction will be the first Tuesday in May. To allow for a 30-day interval following August primary elections, the fall date will alternate between the fourth Tuesday in September in even-numbered years

and the second Tuesday in odd-numbered years.

Financial propositions may also be considered at the annual school election on the second Tuesday in June. In 1970, the election dates will fall on May 5, June 9 and Sept. 28.

DR. RODERICK J. SMITH, Farmington superintendent of schools, says the plan has merit.

"The biggest thing which can come from it would be a wide acceptance from several areas in an attempt to avoid

conflict on election dates," Smith said.

Smith said he could see that the plan would also benefit community newspapers whose coverage overlaps school districts. "A concerned effort could be made to involve the

whole area rather than talking about Plymouth school problems one month, Farmington's another, and Livonia's a third month," he said.

Smith added that in general the plan could assist school districts in obtaining favorable

votes on millage proposals and bond issues.

THE DATES WERE chosen by a committee of the Oakland County Superintendents' Association at the direction of their boards of education. The Oakland County Schools Board Association endorsed a proposal for unified election dates in October.

Dr. George Garver, superintendent of Walled Lake Consolidated School District, headed the committee which included Dr. Wilfred Webb of Hazel Park and John Dickey, superintendent of Avondale Schools.

The opportunity to coordinate efforts to register and inform voters of the issues is considered the major advantage in reducing the number of election dates.

DR. GARVER cited other advantages:

- 1) Elimination of the possibility of a negative chain reaction caused by millage failures in neighboring districts.
- 2) A common effort of several districts will have greater news value and could be given more exposure in the press, on radio and television than many elections on scattered dates.
- 3) Unified voting would make it apparent to school patrons that districts other than their own also need money.
- 4) The resources and leadership of Oakland Schools, the intermediate district of Oakland County, could be used.

STATE AND COUNTY election officials were consulted about the unified election plan. The dates chosen were within periods recommended by legal counsel.

"Unified elections were tried in Kalamazoo County in 1969. After a cooperative campaign voters in nine districts endorsed all eleven of the propositions submitted.

"No district is obligated to hold elections on the dates selected," Dr. Garver said. "If a board of education feels the needs of the district require another election date, that board is free to pick its own date. However, the majority of the board members of this county seem to feel that the benefits and the voters will benefit from this kind of cooperation."

35-Year History

Explain Road Assessments

Despite the fact that the "special assessment" program has been in use for more than 35 years, it remains a source of confusing confusion for a great many people.

By answering some of the most common questions about the program and providing a step-by-step chart of the process, the special assessment program might be better understood.

The special assessment method of paying for improvements on local roads (i.e., subdivision streets) has been around since 1931 when the State Legislature passed Act 246. This act enabled property owners to petition the road commission to make certain improvements on local roads. The property owners would then pay for these improvements according to their respective frontages.

Over the years a number of amendments have been added to the original bill, but in essence the special assessment process remains the same. The people to benefit from the improvement must want it and must be willing to pay for it.

The most recent amendment to Act 246 came last year and enabled townships to initiate the special assessment process by a resolution of the township board. Of course the landowners still have the final voice in whether or not the improvement will be made.

WHY SHOULD the individual have to pay?

The Oakland County Road Commission currently requires that all new subdivisions have paved roads with curbs and gutters. These must be provided by the developer at his own expense.

The end result is that the developer must defray this additional expense by charging more for the lots in his subdivision. Hence it would be unfair to the man who has already paid for such a lot to take general funds from the road commission to pay for someone else's problem.

There is also the fact that a newly paved road with adequate drainage will increase the property value of the houses along

it. Virtually all of the benefit from a paving project in a subdivision will be realized by the residents of that subdivision and it is fair and proper that the local residents assume the financial responsibility as well as the dividends from such a project.

DOESN'T THE Road Commission pay anything?

It is the policy of the Oakland County Road Commission to pay for 10 per cent of the total cost of any special assessment paving project.

This policy does not apply to extensive paving or repair projects. In addition the township in which the subdivision is located is encouraged to subsidize a portion of the total cost, but such participation is strictly voluntary.

WHAT IF I don't want the improvement?

The road commission is unable to initiate any special assessment project. No matter whether such a project is started by the residents or the township, each person to be affected can offer his opinion at the hearing on necessity.

Between the hearing on necessity and the time that the final order of determination takes effect there is a 45-day waiting period during which time a petition for discontinuance can be filed with the road commission. This naturally only applies to projects initiated by townships.

If the owners of 51 per cent of the fronting property sign such a petition the project must be discontinued.

DOES THE whole subdivision have to agree?

Under some circumstances one street or a small portion of a subdivision can be excluded from a special assessment project. This only applies to dead and residential streets, not subdivision access roads. Such a provision can only be made at the expressed (by petition) request of the property owners involved.

ARE ASSESSMENTS based on frontage?

In a subdivision, where it was the intent of the developer to

subdivide the land into lots having similar areas, the frontage benefit for all lots is deemed equal.

However, an individual's assessment is not all based on frontage benefit. Those people who normally use the improved street benefit by having better access to their property. Therefore the distance that the individual must travel on the subdivision roads to be paved is also used in determining his assessment.

HOW MUCH of the assessment is based on user-access benefit?

When the frontage benefit is

equal to one unit, the user-access benefit ranges from 0.01 to 0.03 units. A lot that is approximately one half mile from the entrance to the subdivision would have a user-access benefit of 0.14 units.

HOW DO I pay for this improvement?

An individual's portion of the total expense involved in the street improvement can be paid in one or more annual payments up to a total of 10 payments. There is no interest on the first payment. However, there is a six per cent interest charge on the balance that remains after the first payment.

Steve Sandobbe is home for the holidays from Fort Knox. There will be some skiing on his list of activities.

Kendallwood Comments

By EMILY ORR, GR 4-7459

TWAS SIX DAYS before the Christmas holiday and the Lee McCullums of Thorndyke Court held an open house and the guest list was more than 20 couples. All present participated and feasted at the delicious buffet table, then there was singing and dancing.

Mrs. Kathleen Wero had a party in her home on Green Willow for the gals of her circle from church.

The Neely Bailey household is one of gaiety and much celebrating. Their son, Rick, came home from Vietnam. Rick is in the Marines and was in active duty in the medical corps.

Steve Sandobbe is home for the holidays from Fort Knox. There will be some skiing on his list of activities.

The Joe Armstrong family of Rolling Oaks really had a Merry Christmas. Their son, Tom, came home from the Army. He will be going to Germany after this furlough.

THEY WENT A CAROLING. Yes, some of the teaching staff of Wooddale went out Monday night Dec. 15 and the folks on Green Willow and Quail Hollow were given a special treat.

Then on Friday, Dec. 19, a group of youngsters organized by Mrs. Koltz did some caroling in the Kendallwood sub. Later in the evening a party was held at Mrs. Koltz's home on Bayberry.

Again, HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Residents Earn WSU Degrees

FARMINGTON

Thirty-two Farmington residents were among almost 3,000 Wayne State University students who received degrees Dec. 16.

Among those receiving degrees were:

Master of arts -- Robert C. Trenz of 25272 Longacre; Daniel B. Kennedy of 24352 Lincoln Ct.; Patricia C. LaPat of 28212 Danvers Dr.; Robert W. Cahill of 24445 Farmington Rd. and John R. Bacon of 25506 Westmoreland.

Master of education -- Orval A. Pelton of 36211 Highland; Ronald Davis of 22544 Longacre; Linda A. DePoorter of 23718 Longacre; Raymond E. Boyle of 28469 Hawberry; Mildred M. Salten of 26070 Still Valley and Carol J. Smith of 26070 Ridgebrook.

Master of science -- Beverly J. Blencoe of 32000 Grand River.

Master of science in Library Science -- Dolores G. Aronson of 27571 Echo Valley W. and Joan D. Ober of 34628 Nine Mile.

Master of science in nursing

-- Mary J. Milner of 31625 Shiawassee.

Bachelor of arts -- Alice M. Toth of 28661 Village Lane; Henry M. Cohen of 21357 Old Franklin Dr.; Lintar F. Banwell of 31129 Stunbridge and Jacob L. Pitcher of 22423 Cora.

Bachelor of fine arts -- Susan K. Newman of 22340 Power.

Bachelor of philosophy -- Richard C. Kupferschmidt of 22723 Maple.

Bachelor of science -- James R. Siefer of 28144 Harwich Dr.; Daniel J. McLaughlin of 29028 Birchwood; Marie K. Little of 28338 Arnel; Alene M. Lofman of 29136 Rambleswood Dr.; Judith E. Guertin of 21515 Waldron; Frances S. Hines of 28933 Rambleswood Dr. and Laverne Ruth Garchow of 22210 Lilac.

Bachelor of science in business administration -- Paul J. Mathys of 21538 Rockwell and Charles W. Shoemaker of 32444 Nottingham Dr.

Bachelor of science in nursing -- Naomi R. Doenges of 21123 Roosevelt and Noreen M. Poole of 28290 Briar Hill.

75% Of New Homes Include Carpeting

Carpeting, which now appears in many model homes and apartments, is a rapidly growing part of the multi-billion-dollar floor covering market.

The Bureau of Building Marketing Research says builders now include some carpeting in more than 75% of their models. What's more, seven out of 10 homes and apartments sold from these models include some carpeting.

CARPETING is now used in living rooms, dining rooms, bedrooms, kitchens, baths, family-rooms and outdoor patios of model homes.

Building Supply News, trade journal of the building supply industry, says large building supply retail chains are promoting carpeting as a mass market product that almost anyone can afford.

Currently, 22% of U.S. households buy carpets or rugs during a year. General promoting by the carpeting industry promises a substantial increase in the consumer's desire.

THE BUILDER market for carpeting expanded when the FHA ruled that carpeting could be included under FHA financing.

Old Adage Still True

An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. This old saying is never applied to better advantage than in the case of your plumbing.

A booklet that tells you how to practice good maintenance, how to make simple repairs and what jobs should be left to experienced plumbing contractors is available for 25 cents and a six cent stamp from the Plumbing - Heating - Cooling Information Bureau, 95 E. Wacker Dr., Chicago, Ill.

Among other things, the booklet tells you how to repair leaky faucets, the causes and cures of noisy plumbing, how to unplug a drain or stoppied-up water closet and how to shut off the water if your pipe develops a leak.

CLIP AND SAVE FARMINGTON LUNCH MENUS



JANUARY 5 - 9

MONDAY, JAN. 5
Country Fried Steak, Tater Tots, Bread and Butter, Corn Relish, Chocolate Pudding, Milk.

TUESDAY, JAN. 6
Hot Dog on a Bun, Baked Beans, Cookie with Fruit, Milk.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 7
Hamburger Gravy with Mashed Potatoes, Whip and Chili, Muffin, Milk.

THURSDAY, JAN. 8
Italian Lunch, Hot Sliced Carrots, Italian Bread and Butter, Banana Cake, Milk.

FRIDAY, JAN. 9
Fish Sticks with Green Beans, Bishop's Bread, Golden Peach Half, Chocolate Chip Cookie, Milk.

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MICHAEL PATTISON, son of Mr. and Mrs. Allen R. Pattison of 29939 Old Bedford, Farmington, weaves a wall hanging on a handmade loom during a day in design in materials at Eastern Michigan University. Pattison is a junior majoring in art education.

SANDY LYNN'S HAIR FASHIONS

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