

Farmington Observer

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Twenty-five cents

City joins foes of 'Choice' plan

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Farmington City Council has made its opposition to the Voter's Choice Amendment (Proposal C) on the Nov. 6 election ballot official.

In a unanimous vote Monday, the five-member council adopted a resolution opposing the proposed constitutional amendment and urged voters to follow suit.

In their resolution, council members ask voters "to carefully balance a desire for reasonable and responsible tax reform against the disastrous, costly and ill-considered provisions" of Proposal C.

The proposed amendment would require cities to roll back the current tax level to the rate levied in 1981. Future state and local tax increase requests would require a majority vote of the people.

The proposal would also require an 80 percent (four-fifths) majority for a city council or school board to increase fees such as licenses and permits.

The amendment has spawned various interpretations of its impact on local government.

WHILE DEBATE over the proposal and its interpretations heats up, both Farmington and Farmington Hills officials have pulled out their calculators to determine its potential impact.

Farmington Hills administrators estimated that the city stands to lose approximately \$970,000 in revenues if Voter's Choice passes. Council members are expected to discuss the proposal's impact next Monday.

If Proposal C passes, Farmington's tax rate would be rolled back to the 1981 level of 11.25 mills, according to City Manager Robert Deadman's figures. The city currently levies 11.74 mills.

Rolling back Farmington's tax rate to 1981 would result in a potential loss of approximately \$77,000 in tax revenues, Deadman said.

Added to the loss from a reduced tax rate would be another almost \$125,000 of estimated loss in the city's state equalized valuation, he said.

But there is also a chance that Farmington would be forced to reduce the local millage rate to the lower 1982 tax rate of 10.785 mills, he said. Consequently, revenue loss would be greater.

Both Farmington and Farmington Hills would lose money from the state that goes for road maintenance (Act 51 gas and weight taxes) and state shared revenues.

IF DATA on a computerized sheet issued by the state treasurer's department displaying potential revenue losses for Oakland County communities is close to the mark, Farmington's loss would be greater than Deadman first estimated.

According to the sheet, Farmington would lose in this fiscal year approximately \$97,200. That includes \$51,500 in gas and weight taxes from the state and \$45,700 in state shared revenues.

Because the proposed amendment would not require local government to reimburse property owners for taxes collected above the 1981 level, the potential revenue loss in property taxes and state equalized valuation would not affect the city until 1985-86.

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Richard Headlee: "... a conspiracy against the voters."

Trooper lobby gets blasted by Headlee

Using state police to lobby against Proposal C has been labeled as an attempt to "infiltrate and propagandize" Michigan voters, according to Farmington Hills insurance executive Richard Headlee.

"It's like George Orwell's predictions of government against the people," said Headlee, one of the leading spokesmen for the tax cutting amendment otherwise known as Voter's Choice.

Headlee's reaction came after Voter's Choice advocates obtained a Michigan State Police interoffice memo. It instructed state police personnel to meet with the public to inform them of the adverse impact on the state force if Choice is approved.

The memo was from State Police Director Col. Gerald Hough to bureau, division, district, post and team commanders.

"The Governor is concerned with the effort that all state agencies make toward informing the voting public of

the ramifications of this proposal," says the Hough memo.

ENCLOSED WAS a summary sheet which outlined what governmental, civic, professional or private groups the state police units have met.

"In order that our agency meet the expectations of the executive office, I am requesting field work site commanders to submit weekly a copy of the attached interoffice summary. . . . These summaries should be tabulated for the division or district and forwarded to . . . the executive division," instructs the memo.

Headlee takes issue with such practices.

"It is a fundamental misuse of police power in Michigan to direct a conspiracy against the voters," said Headlee.

Time taken to campaign against Proposal C, says Headlee, is time taken away from state trooper law enforcement duties.

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Liquor license languishes

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

After two weeks five businesses still are wondering when or if they ever will be serving alcoholic beverages to their customers.

Farmington Hills City Council has debated the fate of the city's last Class C liquor license which was awarded to one of the five restaurants last week and taken back this week.

In a 5-1 vote Monday, council rescinded approval of a liquor license for Caprano's, a proposed new restaurant, near Haggerty and Grand River.

Mayor Charles Williams, who requested that council reconsider the issue, was absent Monday. Councilwoman Joan Dudley opposed the rescission.

"My opinion is the only reason anyone should vote in favor of this motion is if Caprano's is the wrong choice," Dudley said, about a motion to take back approval of the license.

"You've done it. You did it last week. You gave the prize," Dudley continued, admonishing the council not to renege on its earlier decision.

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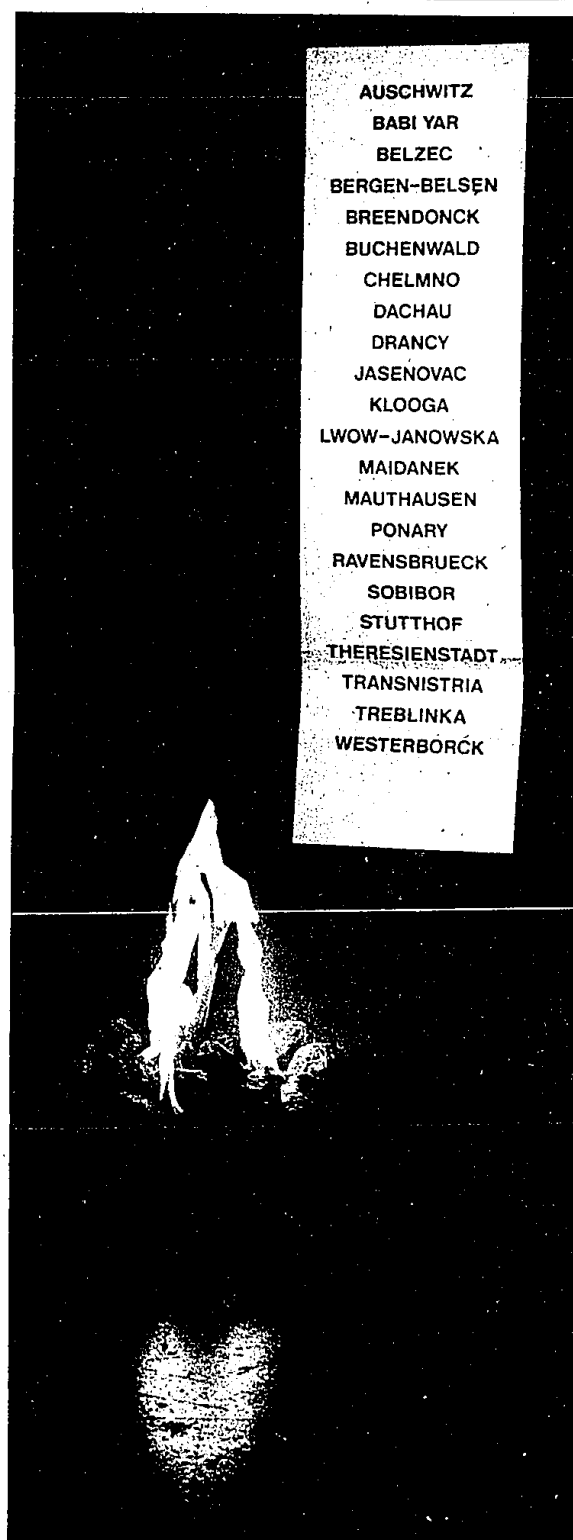
The celebration got out of hand last Sunday night after the Detroit Tigers whipped the San Diego Padres, 8-4, at Tiger Stadium to win the World Series. There was a fatal shooting, three reported rapes, many fights and widespread vandalism, including the ripping of turf from the stadium field and the burning of three police cars.

The next morning, many newspapers and broadcasters reported that a riot had followed the game and focused on the after-game problems rather than the game itself.

Today's Oral Quarrel question is:

Was the national news media fair to Detroit and Tiger fans?

To answer this question, call 477-5495 anytime before 1 p.m. Friday, Oct. 19. To see how your neighbors feel about this issue, please look in Monday's Farmington Observer.



GARY CASKEY/staff photographer

Holocaust horror

A fire slowly burns under the names of the 22 concentration camps where millions of Jews were burned alive or put to death in gas chambers. The display is

one of several at the new \$3 million Holocaust Memorial center in West Bloomfield. For the story and more pictures, please turn to page 3A.