

\$92 million school budget OK'd

Farmington school board members approved a \$92 million annual budget on June 5 and set tax rates for the new year.

A tax rate of 32.05 mills, down from the 32.39 mills levied this year, was approved. It is the rate required by the Headlee Tax Limitation Amendment.

Not included in the \$92 million budget figure is a 19 percent surplus, or fund equity, which the district keeps on hand for emergencies. The budget is an increase of \$6.5 million over the budget for the current year.

Despite the tax decrease, the budget will mean higher taxes for most residents.

A Farmington Hills taxpayer whose house has a market value of \$100,000 and an assessed value of \$50,000 paid \$1,619.50 in school taxes during this fiscal year.

With the 32.05 mills levied for the year starting July 1, that taxpayer — whose home increased 7.8 percent in value to \$53,900 — would pay \$1,727.50, a \$108 increase.

In the city of Farmington, with an average assessment increase of 5.1 percent, a resident with the same house would pay \$1,664.23 in the coming year, compared with \$1,619.50 last year, a \$44.73 increase.

The budget includes new programs, such as:

- A media specialist to be shared by Alameda and Fairview early childhood centers and Farmington High School.
- Two elementary-level guidance counselors.
- A principal intern to aid in the opening of the new Hillside Elementary.
- The addition of a police liaison officer for the three high schools.
- An increase of 22.5 teachers, with 15.5 of these being hired at the elementary level.
- Start-up and operating costs for Hillside.

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Hills woman undergoes lung transplant

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Minnesota, he said. The Stuarts have lived in Farmington Hills for five years. They previously lived in St. Joseph, Mich.

GENE STUART said his employer, Whirlpool Financial Corp., sends him to the Mayo Clinic annually for a check-up, and his wife had been examined there several times.

The Stuarts were contacted in February, when the hospital introduced its lung transplant unit. She was selected as a possible candidate for a transplant and placed on a

waiting list in March.

After keeping a bag packed nearby and carrying a pager, the Stuarts received the lifesaving call three months later.

The surgeon who performed the transplant, Dr. Christopher McGregor, 41, is head of Mayo's transplant program. He has worked there since 1988. The England native has performed both heart and single lung transplant surgeries before at Freeman Hospital, Newcastle-on-Tyne in England.

Primary lung transplants are not new, although a spokeswoman for

the United Network for Organ Sharing in Virginia said the procedure has recently caught on in this country. The first single lung transplant was done in 1963 at the University of Mississippi Medical Center by Dr. James Hardy, said spokeswoman Kelly Straw.

More recently, surgeons have performed combined heart/lung transplants and some double lung transplants as well. In 1988, there were 74 heart/lung transplants done in the U.S. and 32 lung transplants done. In 1989, she said, the heart/lung transplant rate dropped to 70, while the

lung transplant rate rose to 89.

No statistics were available on the success rates of lung transplants, but various reports have quoted a 60 percent rate in the first year.

Anyone interested in donating their organs can contact the United Network for Organ Sharing, which matches donor organs to recipients, at (804) 320-8500.

Straw said it has taken a while to perfect the lung surgery, because the lung is so fragile. "I think the day is going to come when it will be routine, like heart/lung transplants," she said.

Kevorkian asked local churches for help

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KEVORKIAN ALSO contacted the Emerson Unitarian-Universalist Church in Troy in March but was refused space because Minister Nancy Doughty said the church needed more information and board approval.

Kevorkian said he needed electricity to operate his device and consent of the land-owner of the place where

he would set it up, even his own residence.

"I rent an apartment and the lease doesn't allow such activity," he said. He said a public park with an electrical outlet was the only possible option.

More than 20 Oakland County residents have called the Michigan chapter of the Hemlock Society this month either to join, congratulate Kevorkian or seek his service, soci-

ety president Janet Good said. But none would publicly support Kevorkian.

"They're fearful of losing their chance to end their life in a dignified

way," Good said, adding that 10 are in "extreme agony."

The society advocates legalizing medically assisted suicides for the terminally ill.

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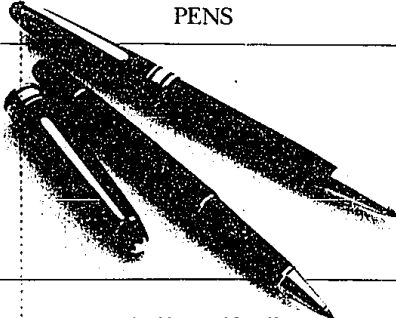
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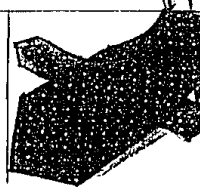
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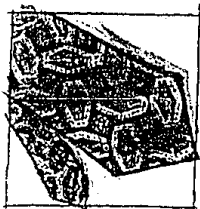
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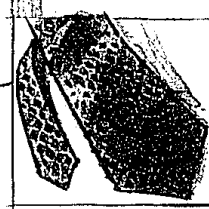
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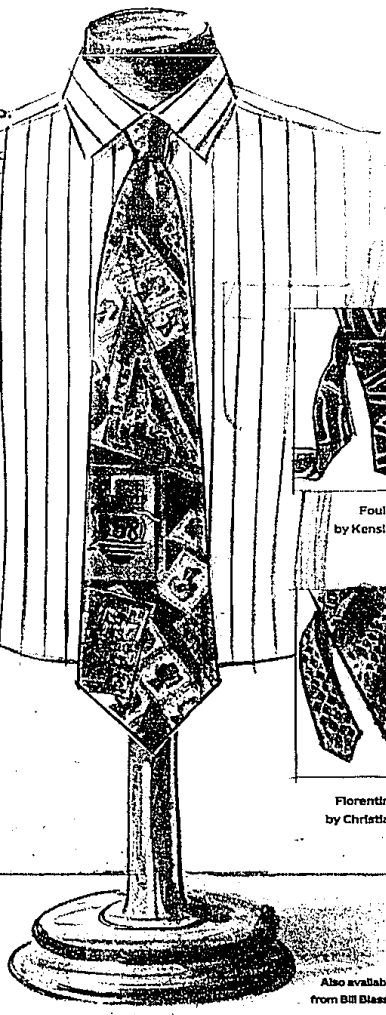


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