

## Letters To The Editor

EDITOR:

I urge Farmington parents to consider class size when they vote on the school millage issue April 24.

As a parent of two elementary school children, I have noticed the rising number of students in their classes each year.

My first grader, who is learning to read, is in a class of 32. Her teacher is excellent; but when I have visited the class I have wondered how she manages to coach children at different learning levels in such a crucial learning process.

Larger classes necessitated by budget squeeze are

depriving Farmington's children of individual attention. Students need individual programming as well as general class teaching or they lose interest.

When interest drops, discipline problems grow. The atmosphere, instead of bursting with excitement and new ideas, becomes repressive. No teacher wants this to happen, and we as parents do not want this.

Let us as parents help our children to love learning by considering what our "yes" at the polls can do.

ESTHER HEDFIELD  
Farmington

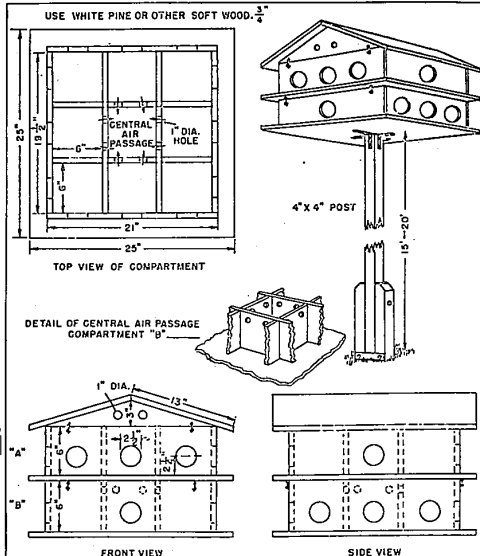
### School Food \$350 Per Day

Have you ever questioned what junior high students eat and how much they spend on food?

Marie Ritchey, cafeteria manager at O.E. Dunkel Junior High, reports that students spend approximately \$350 per day and consume 10

dozen bagels, 500 bags of potato chips, 350 glasses of pop, 170 ice cream bars, 650 half pints of milk and 100 milk shakes.

To this is added a selection of hamburgers, hot dogs, jellies, puddings, pies and turnovers.



THE FARMINGTON KIWANIS Club will sponsor its annual birdhouse building contest April 15 with judging being held at the Farmington Community Center beginning at 10 a.m. Youth must build shelters that are usable for birds and must build them without help from parents. Prizes will be given for different age levels and types of houses. Judges will be Mr. and Mrs. Joe Dodd of the Michigan Audubon Society. Martin houses should have a six - by - six - inch floor, room depth of six inches and each entrance 2 1/2 inches in diameter. Openings should be two inches above the floor to protect small birds. Martins love a wide porch for sunning (four to six inches) and their houses should be 15-20 feet from the ground.

## Letters To The Editor

EDITOR:

We moved to Farmington 10 years ago principally because there was such a fine school district. Up until a year ago, we had felt that was an excellent decision. Now, there is a group in our community that seems to feel that we do not need these fine schools.

There are many reasons that we will vote for the millage increase on April 24, but we would like to elaborate on just one of these.

If you take the time to examine our existing schools closely, you will see a steady degradation of facilities. When a new building is added to our system, it is outfitted as well as possible with laboratories, shops, home economics, art and other facilities.

With time, however, these facilities become outdated, worn out, inadequate or insufficient. As a result, if you track back through time, each older school shows greater deterioration of facilities.

When our houses need painting, when our appliances and plumbing or cars need maintenance, we repair or replace them promptly -- knowing that, if put off, these expenses will be much greater. This we must begin to do for our schools too or be prepared to sit back and watch the quality of education we offer go down.

The unfortunate aspect of all this is that the operating income of the schools is barely sufficient to meet our day-to-day expenses. As a consequence, when our principals request new equipment or facilities, they are turned down more times than not.

Had we, the voters, approved the millage last year, we could have helped this situation. At it is, the 1972 millage is so minimal as to only allow us to keep our heads above water.

If we want to arrest this degradation of our schools, we are going to have to unite behind some even greater millage issues and we must vote "yes" on this stay-even millage now.

DICK AND BARBARA JUSTICE  
Farmington

(Dick Justice is a member of the building subcommittee)

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of the Citizens Advisory Council (CAC) of Farmington Schools - Editor.)

EDITOR:

In regard to the Farmington schools' millage election April 24, the voters should be aware of the situation in the district concerning the loss of valuable leadership and programs for the children in various educational areas.

Following is some of the areas in leadership that have been cutback: physical education, 16 instructors in 1970-71 and nine in 1971-72; art, 4 in 1971-72; vocal music, eight in 1970-71 and four in 1971-72.

Library, 18 employees in 1970-71 and 13 in 1971-72; reading, 14 consultants in 1970-71 and 11 in 1971-72; elementary counselors, two in 1970-71 and none in 1971-72; and elementary principals, 19 in 1970-71 and 17 in 1971-72.

Beneficial programs for children have been eliminated such as field trips. Not only have field trips been eliminated for children in the past, but they also added an exciting and stimulating effect to their growth.

If the millage is passed, it will provide only about 72 percent of the services and programs that were eliminated as of September 1971.

Your vote of approval for the millage is needed to provide the school district with sufficient funds to conduct the kind of leadership and programs our children need.

MRS. LOUISE GADDIS  
Farmington

EDITOR:

I wonder if the people of Farmington realize that because of the two recent millage requests that were turned down, Farmington School District has been forced to cut back activities and have been working under

a \$15 million austerity budget this past year.

Our Farmington area, as a result of funds being held back to balance the state's budget, will lose \$100,000 in state aid this year. We had a similar situation last year when the state aid was reduced \$105,000.

The state also has failed to provide revenue to offset the added expenditures for textbooks and supplies have always been furnished.

If we, as residents, don't pass this millage coming up, our children will lose the benefits of sports and other extra curricular activities. What a shame this would be.

My four sons that have been recent graduates look back with great pride for their school. They also gained many benefits from the sport programs.

I, as a parent, watched my sons learn to give more of themselves, have great school spirit, that would be lost, even for the student who is a spectator, if sports are to be taken out of the program due to funds. So, neighbors, support your school on the upcoming election this month.

JERRY TOOHEY  
Farmington

### Top Swimmer

The top eight-year-old swimmer in Michigan is Kirk Knock of Farmington who attends Bond Elementary School. He recently took three firsts and a third place in an AAU meet at Walled Lake Western. He is coached by Michigan Stingray Swim Association coaches.

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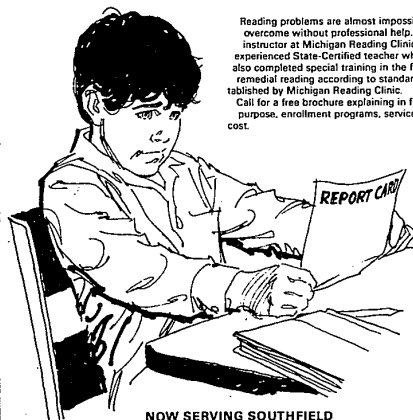
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