

# Why School Millage Is Needed

By SANDRA ARMBRUSTER FARMINGTON

A tentative budget for the 1972-1973 school year, which Farmington Schools has just submitted to the Oakland County Tax Allocation Board, balances expenditures with revenue expected from the proposed 3.5 mill increase on Monday's ballot.

Outcome of the millage election is expected to affect more than \$1 million of Farmington's \$17 million budget. A tentative budget projecting revenues and expenditures had to be submitted to the county board by April 17.

The budget reflects nearly a \$2 million increase over the 1971-72 actual operating budget. The increase is needed, according to school officials, to fight the inflation of rising costs and resume cutbacks eliminated from this year's budget due to the failure of two millage proposals last summer.

**THE COST OF EDUCATION** has risen drastically in the last two years, but not all of it was due to inflation. Increased revenue from Farmington's rising tax base has not been enough to offset the decrease in state aid, which is made in proportion to the increasing tax base.

Furthermore, about \$265,000 in state aid was lost to the district in the last two years when the state failed to fund local districts with the amount which had been allocated.

Although the tentative budget projects an increase in the dollar amount of state aid the district will receive next year, it actually represents a decrease of about \$55,000 when the state aid per student figure is multiplied by the number of additional students increasing next year's enrollment.

**WILLIAM PRISK**, business manager for Farmington schools, projects the district's state-equated valuation (SEV) for next year at \$12 million.

"I estimated the district's SEV increase was less than the state's as a whole after talking with local assessors," he explains.

An additional \$360,000 in increased educational costs were reflected in the operating budget for textbooks and supplies, which the district must provide according to the Supreme Court decision.

If the millage is approved Monday, next year's budget will reflect the resumption of programs, teaching materials and supplies, building and equipment repairs and

## background

maintenance projects which were eliminated from this year's budget.

Approval of the millage would also be reflected in the student-teacher ratio (see separate story) and in the maintenances of sports and extra-curricular activities which were only continued this year because of a fund-raising campaign.

If the millage fails, "The board has said that all will be affected some to absorb the loss of so much money," adds Prisk.

Present costs of education can be broken down in percentages as follows: instruction, 75 per cent; operation and maintenance, 15 per cent; transportation, two

per cent; insurance and interest, five per cent; and administration, three per cent.

**NEXT YEAR'S** tentative budget reflects roughly the same percentage distribution, according to Prisk.

Instructional costs represent the greatest increase of more than \$1 million. The cost of teacher salaries adds up to 60 per cent of the budget, which is also the area of the greatest increase

among all instructional expenses.

The budget calls for an increase of about \$900,000 in teacher salaries. Prisk says this figure represents the hiring of five additional teachers to compensate for increased enrollment, as well as raises under the current teacher contract.

According to Farmington's contract with the district education association (Faculty Union), "Farmington has agreed to a wage schedule which places teachers in a position with all other 23 districts in Oakland County," explains Prisk.

"Next year teachers will remain in the same relative position to other teachers in the county that they are in this year. Thus teachers will get an automatic increase because I am anticipating increases in other districts in the county," he continued. "Of course, I am assuming that they will be limited to the wage guidelines."

The millage, if approved, would tax property at \$3.50 for each \$1,000 of assessed valuation, for an estimated total of \$1,164,000 in revenue budgeted for next year.

The tax would be made for one year only partly because the State Supreme Court is expected to rule whether local property tax as a method of supporting schools is constitutional.

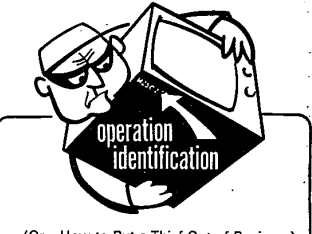
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**WOMAN OF THE YEAR** -- Mrs. Lillian Allen (right), named woman of the year, receives a gift from Mrs. Pamela Clapison at the annual dinner meeting of the Farmington Area Jaycee Auxiliary which annually presents the community service award. (Evert photo)

## Lillian Allen Is Woman Of Year

**FARMINGTON** Mrs. Lillian G. Allen has been chosen recipient of the community service award for Farmington Area Jaycee Auxiliary.

Mrs. Allen was honored recently during the auxiliary's annual April dinner meeting when she was announced as the outstanding woman of the year, an honor given each year to a woman in Farmington who has done outstanding work in the community.

**DURING** the past seven years, Mrs. Allen has been active in many areas of community service in Farmington but mainly in the field of educational activity. She has been active in the Alameda Elementary PTA of Farmington Schools and has served as president of both the Alameda PTA and the PTA Council for Farmington Schools.

It was through her leadership that the Junior Great Books program was started four years ago. She has also served as legislative chairman and historian for the PTA Council.

"Her work with the program involving parents and children in the Farmington school district has provided many with ideas and stimulation to further the relationship between home and schools," notes Mrs. Sandra Colyer, president of the Jaycee Auxiliary.

"Because of this tremendous service, we feel Mrs. Allen well deserves the honor bestowed upon her by our group."

**MRS. ALLEN'S** service goes above and beyond work with the PTA.

She has also been active with the district's Citizens Advisory Council (CAC), serving as vice chairman and a member of the finance subcommittee, and works with the board of education when needed.

She has long been a member of the Republican Women's Club of Farmington and is a Sunday school teacher at the First United Methodist Church of Farmington.

Mrs. Allen's application, submitted by PTA groups in the community, states in part: "The list of Lillian's service is

not lengthy, and understandably so, because when she undertakes a duty, it is with total commitment.

"She truly involves herself and gives unstintingly of her time and efforts to further the educational opportunities for Farmington Schools' children. Whatever she does, she does well. The council feels it is this quality of her participation that makes her so outstanding."

**MRS. ALLEN** and husband Robert live on Farmington Rd. in Farmington and are parents of two sons, ages 13 and 10. Mrs. Allen now joins previous community service award winners who are Mrs. Robert Witt, Mrs. Richard Tupper, Mrs. John Richardson and Mrs. LeRoy LeGros.

Judges for this year's award were: Mrs. Katherin Sterling, board of education secretary; the Rev. Hugh Stewart, pastor of St. Stephen United Presbyterian Church and executive board member of the CAC; and Gerald Potter, assistant principal of Farmington High School and president of the Farmington Area Advisory Council.

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**RECEIVES FREEDOM SHRINE** -- Dr. James Davidson (left), representing Central Michigan University, presents Farmington High School Principal James Geiger (center) with a certificate indicating presentation of the Freedom Shrine to the school. Supt. R.J. Smith joined the ceremony. The university is co-sponsor with the Farmington Exchange Club in the presentation which is a series of plaques representing the historic documents of our nation. (Evert photo)

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