

Did 6,000 Do What's Best?

By EMORY DANIELS
FARMINGTON

analysis

The millage which might have passed didn't, and reading the minds of more than 6,000 residents voting against the Farmington Schools millage request is no easy task.

Victory was foreseen when an all-out campaign was conducted without any large-scale opposition. The only group opposition came from MOTOREDE, the ad hoc John Birch committee led by Bruce Duke, who distributed scare literature the weekend before the election.

It is hard to believe, however, that Duke's literature was the factor which caused the millage question to go down. The average reader should have been able to spot the flaws in his presentation without difficulty.

If it was a factor, then school support will never be a reality in Farmington because voters are dependent upon to fight any millage proposal.

Another factor, of course, has to be that property assessments have been increasing with tax bills rising. The message, which apparently did not seep through was that as local assessments are increased, the state reduces aid payments to each year, tending to stay almost equal.

All the homeowner knows that his tax bill is going up each year, and there is little relief in knowing that the school district is not growing richer because of the way the state aid formula works.

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The price this year will be a reduction of \$400,000 in addition to the cuts made the past two years. The board is considering not only eliminating all extra-curricular activities but even more drastic cuts which will have harmful effects on education, including the possible necessity to close down completely one or two school buildings.

time township residents are supposed to have confidence. The 50 per cent turnout was high enough, though, to accept the vote as a mandate of the people. The residents have spoken and said they want \$400,000 trimmed from the budget and now it is up to the board to do so.

Reasons why it must be done revolve around taxpayers' protest, fear of bussing, the wage freeze, jealousy that teachers get the summer off, retirees caught by inflation, the recession, and some persons who frankly don't care about public education.



TOP BUCKET BRIGADER — Mrs. Florence Sharp, Bucket Brigade coordinator locally and Farmington School District employe, has been honored by the Farmington chapter of the Michigan Association for Children with Learning Disabilities. She organized the volunteer Bucket Brigade program in Farmington which led to establishment of similar programs in 100 schools in 28 districts in Michigan and in eight other states, Canada and Australia. The MACLD presented her with a brooch with the letter "S" and musical sharp symbol connected to a bucket charm. Mrs. Sharp (left) receives the award from Mrs. Norma Ringquist of MACLD. (Evert photo)

local news

By MARIE LONG GR 4-3114

FARMINGTON
Paul Schreiber of Oakland returned home recently from a very busy trip to Pittsburgh where he visited his son Richard and Judy Schreiber

and the four grandchildren. Then on to Parkersburg, W. Va., to visit historic Blennerhassett Island on the Ohio River and to Kentucky, Knoxville, Tenn., through Georgia to Florida where he visited cousins Mr. and Mrs. Charles Sligh in Sarasota for a week. He spent a day at the Everglades and visited the Bok Tower (known as the singing tower) at Lake Wales.

Returning home through the Carolinas and Williamsburg, Va., he stopped off to visit relatives in Washington, D.C. and to visit the Arlington Cemetery. He returned to Richard's home in time for Easter Sunday in Pittsburgh.

BARBARA AND JOHN Kamstra and family, formerly of New Jersey, have purchased a lovely new home on Wilmarth that was recently completed. We welcome this young couple to Farmington. The Chatham Hills Garden Club will hold its annual Arbor Day tree planting in their

subdivision park at 2 p.m. April 23.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles P. Mangin of Chatham Hills enjoyed a two-week vacation in Baton Rouge, La., with son Michael who lives there. While visiting the French Quarter in New Orleans on Easter Sunday, they met Dick Press of the Detroit National Bank who was also vacationing in New Orleans.

Mr. and Mrs. James V. Morrone Sr. of Rosehill, Farmington, celebrated three anniversaries on one Friday, April 14. Gloria's birthday was April 11, Jim's birthday was April 14, and their 30th wedding anniversary was April 25.

The party was held in the apartment of their son James Jr. and wife Charlene with their only grandson Joey, April 25 will also mark the wedding anniversary of James Jr. and Charlene. The Morrone Sr.'s also have married twin sons, Terrance and Gerald, who entertained them with an evening out with dinner and to see "Fiddler on the Roof."

EFFECTING the outcome were the fear of bussing and the homeowners' frustration over rising assessments.

Many voters apparently failed to comprehend or agree that the 3.5 mills for one year would not be spent for cross-district bussing, which is quite unlikely to be implemented during this year.

One of the areas voted against the millage, Precinct One, includes the City of Farmington and Farmington Senior High. In relation to the bussing issue, it must be noted that Farmington High students in a mock presidential ballot gave more votes to George Wallace than the other two schools.

It is not surprising that an area which includes Wallace supporters also includes anti-millage votes. Wallace has done little to boost support for public education and his rhetoric can produce "no"

votes on local millage questions.

The precinct results were: Precinct One, 1,471 "yes" and 1,599 "no"; Precinct Two, 1,834 "yes" and 1,905 "no"; Precinct Three, 910 "yes" and 791 "no"; and Precinct Four, 1,497 "yes" and 1,714 "no". The absentee ballot board voted 168 "yes" and 176 "no".

An additional factor could be that all day Monday, Radio Station WJR ran spot "news" announcements suggesting that Pontiac voters would have the chance to protest bussing by voting against the millage question that same day.

This type of shallow broadcasting was heard by many Farmington residents driving home from Detroit before going to the polls and may have had an impact.

ANOTHER factor, of course, has to be that property assessments have been increasing with tax bills rising. The message, which apparently did not seep through was that as local assessments are increased, the state reduces aid payments to each year, tending to stay almost equal.

It is tempting to have that house payment increase each year, trying to strike back. There is a taxpayers' protest in this country and school millage is the only tax which can be voted down.

have paid \$70 more for one year if the millage passed.

It is hard to believe that the person with an income sufficient to own a \$30,000 home for \$20,000 (for that matter) cannot "afford" an additional \$70 for one year.

Certainly, for senior citizens and lower-income residents, the money question might be a valid issue. But it must be remembered that the lower a house's value, the lower its taxes. Thus, a retiree living in a two-bedroom house valued at \$15,000 would be taxed an additional \$5 for one year or less than \$3 a month.

Granting that money was a real issue for some, it still stands true that money was not the problem for the vast majority of the 6,000 "no" votes.

CONSIDER the residents who voted but do not have children attending Farmington Schools.

Parents of school children always have the voter without school children would be more civic-minded and finance education for others just as they were educated, but this is not always true.

There is increasing "sentiment" for abolishing the property tax for education and supporting schools with an income tax. This is only "sentiment", however, when the person arguing for tax reform is unaware there is no chance it can receive voter approval on the necessary constitutional amendment and be implemented during the next school year.

Those who really "support" tax reform know it had no bearing on last Monday's income tax. This is only relief was around the corner in two or three years.

The two areas which voted against the millage contain the greatest number of low-income homes and retired citizens. But it also contains a

high percentage of the total enrollment of Farmington schools.

THERE HAS been an expression that voting against the millage will force the state to move on tax reform. If this is a major reason it is only hoped the "forcers" know what price will be paid.

The price this year will be a reduction of \$400,000 in addition to the cuts made the past two years. The board is considering not only eliminating all extra-curricular activities but even more drastic cuts which will have harmful effects on education, including the possible necessity to close down completely one or two school buildings.

Many voters didn't feel the cuts made last year because the school board was unwise in trimming the budget.

First, the board accepted private money to fund extra-curricular activities, so the hoops could continue for the high schools, and it managed to allow most programs to continue at the secondary level. The cuts were made at the elementary level with the youngest children hurt the most.

The programs visible to the public, such as football games and band concerts, continued, and many voters didn't feel the hurt of last year's two millage deferrals. Parents of elementary children felt the hurt but they were outnumbered.

SOME ANALYSTS, such as Township Attorney Joseph T. Brennan speaking as a citizen, believe the millage failed because the community doesn't have the same confidence in the present school board and administration that it had in Gerald Harrison and his school board.

There are two problems with this suggestion. First, there has been a tremendous population turnover since the last superintendent held the reins. Second, the people themselves elected this board, and this board is composed of a majority of conservative Republicans in whom the old-

CLIP & SAVE

Farmington Elementary Schools LUNCH MENU

MON., MAY 1
Stippy Pie or Bun, Buttered Corn, Sliced Peaches, Cookies, Caramel Sauce, Sick Milk

TUES., MAY 2
Chicken in Gravy on Mash'd Potatoes, Buttered Carrots, Fruit Muffin, Applesauce, Milk

WED., MAY 3
Pizza with Meat and Cheese, Jello, Pineapple Tidbits, Nut Spice Cake, Milk

THURS., MAY 4
Hamburger on Bun, Tater Tots, Pea Half, Sugar Cookie, Milk

FRI., MAY 5
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JCs Seek Leaders

The Farmington Area Jaycees are searching for an outstanding young educator and an outstanding citizen to receive the distinguished service award.

Both awards are presented each year to young men and women between the ages of 21 and 35.

Nominations may be made by individuals, organizations, associations or institutions. The awards will be presented during Michigan Week at a luncheon held by the Farmington Chamber of Commerce on May 24.

Deadline for all nominations is May 10. A panel of judges will evaluate each nominee and determine whom will receive the distinguished service award and the outstanding young educator award.

Persons wishing nomination forms may contact J. Michael Howard of 38908 Leamington Dr., Farmington.

Visit a House of God

Judson Baptist Church
28301 Middlebelt Rd., Farmington (Between 12 and 13 Mile Roads)
Rev. Fred G. Ferris, Pastor
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m. Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Bible Study 6:30 a.m. Midweek Bible Study and Prayer Wednesday 7:30 a.m. Prayers for the World at the End of the Week for the least of us

The Rev. Frank D. Gemile, Minister
Northwest Unitarian Universalist Church
Unitarian Service and Church School 10 a.m. "Men: A Being of Universal Consciousness" Guest Speaker Virginia Thompson
Northwestern Hwy. at Maple Ridge 354-4488

Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church
26275 Northwestern Hwy 110 to Mile and Lahser Southfield
ALL SERVICES IN ENGLISH
Pastor: Archbishop Nicholas Fedotz
845 a.m. Divine Liturgy 8:45 a.m. Church School
For Further Information Call 557-2588

SALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Oakland at Ed. River Farmington
SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:00 A.M.
ADULT BIBLE STUDY (Women) 9:15 A.M.
WORSHIP SERVICE (Women) 10:15 A.M.
Parsonage GR 6-0487
Church Office GR 4-8580
Carl H. Schultz, Minister

CLARENCEVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
20300 Middlebelt Rd. Livonia, Michigan
9:00 a.m. Worship Service
10:15 a.m. Church School
11:15 a.m. Worship Service
6:30 a.m. Youth Groups
7:30 p.m. The Evening Service
Wednesday 7:30 p.m. Prayer Service
GR 4-3563 ELSIE A. JOHNS, Minister GR 4-6902

The Episcopal Church Welcomes You
CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER
Southfield Road between 8 and 9 Mile
The Rev. John Osgood Hart, Rector
8:00 a.m. Holy Communion
10:30 a.m. Morning Prayer and Sermon
Church School and Nursery
Holy Communion 10:30 a.m. on First Sunday

Emmanuel LUTHERAN CHURCH
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Rev. Donald W. Muehndorf, Pastor
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9:30 and 11 a.m.
Ministry: Rev. Hugh C. White Rev. Howard F. Snell
Parsonage GR 4-7568
Office GR 4-6573

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
21200 SOUTHWFIELD ROAD AT EIGHT MILE ROAD SOUTHWFIELD, MICHIGAN
SUNDAY: 11 a.m. Morning Worship 6 p.m. Baptist Youth Fellowship
WEDNESDAY: 7:30 p.m. OASIS HOUR
R. Merrill Jensen - Pastor Ed. M. Vesper - Fellowship

Evangelical Covenant Church
24331 W. 8 Mile - Telegraph
Church: RE 5-0225
Denney Edw. T. Gemire Pastor KE 3-9363
Sunday Services: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Morning Worship 7:00 p.m. Evening Service

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MIDWINTER ME THE MAPLE Presbyterian
Services: 9 to 11 a.m. 8:30 to 10:30 p.m.
Ralph Sothe, Pastor

First Presbyterian Church
Farmington
26165 Farmington Rd (at 11 Mile)
Spring Schedule
9:30 & 11:05 a.m. Church School
9:30 & 11:05 a.m. George W. Ramsey Minister E. New 474-6170

Nardin Park UNITED METHODIST
29887 W. 11 Mile Road Farmington 476-8860
William Mercer, Senior Minister
Meredith Moshauer, Associate Minister of Music
Ina Silver Still and George T. Snel
Worship Services: 9:15 and 11:00 a.m. "The Valley of Decision" CHURCH SCHOOL 9:15 a.m.

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Wonders Why Tax Defeated
EDITOR:
I can hardly believe that 6,000 Farmington citizens would hurt their schools like this. Forty years ago, persons were struggling through a depression and still held education in sufficient esteem that they were willing to pay the tab.

Either the voters did not fully understand what damage they are doing to our schools or they have put other considerations ahead of their regard for schools, because logical people won't act this way.

As far as the campaign goes, we used all the tools at our disposal and very hard trying to "Tell it like it is." But, evidently, it is an almost insurmountable task to penetrate worldly knowledgeable persons with knowledge about Farmington.

RICHARD CRUDELE
Co-Chairman
Citizens For Better Schools Farmington

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