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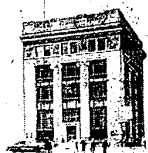
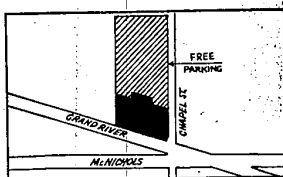
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Additional Funds Needed To Operate School System Efficiently; Only Slight Tax Rate Increase Asked

This is the fourth in a series of articles to provide residents of the Farmington public school district with a better understanding of the problems which lie ahead in providing adequate educational facilities for youngsters of the area. Statistics and informational material have been provided by the School Board and members of the school administration. The series is designed to give an insight into the school problems prior to the time electors will be asked to go to the polls on March 4 to vote on the proposed \$4 million school bond issue and special school operation tax levy question.

Sufficient funds with which to operate the rapidly growing Farmington Public School system are equally as important as funds with which to buy school sites, build new schools and improve on others to provide adequate facilities for all children, school officials emphasized.

Voters of the School District will therefore be asked to approve the continuance of assessing a special operation tax in a separate proposal to be put to a vote in conjunction with the \$4,000,000 bond issue proposal on March 4. Specifically, the proposal will ask permission to levy a special operation tax of 3 mills (\$3.00 per \$1,000 equalized valuation) over the operation tax rate set by the County Tax Allocation Board for a five year period.

EXPLANATION
This proposal should not be misunderstood to mean that permission is being asked to increase the school operation tax rate \$3.00 per \$1,000 equalized valuation over the rate charged last year or in previous years. Approval of the increase is rather being asked to replace a similar special school operation tax levy authorization expired this year. The expired proposition to levy a special operation tax was approved by voters in 1951, permitting a special operation tax levy increase of \$2.50 per \$1,000 equalized valuation for 1952 through 1956.

Approval of the proposal, therefore, will not result in a \$3.00 increase in the operation tax rate of \$12.82 assessed last year but rather only a 50 cent per \$1,000 increase in the base operation tax rate established by the County Tax Allocation Board remains the same as last year. Last year the school operation tax rate set by the Tax Allocation Board for the Farmington School District was \$10.32 per \$1,000 equalized valuation.

VOTE NEEDED
A vote of approval by the people to increase the school operation tax rate is necessary since the Michigan Constitution in previous legislation limited the amount of taxes which could be levied on property to 15 mills or \$15.00 per \$1,000 equalized valuation. Designed to protect property owners against heavy taxation, against which the tax limitation law states that not more than \$15 per \$1,000 equalized valuation can be assessed against a taxpayer without the consent of a majority of voters. This tax limitation law applies to all taxes except such taxes as city or village taxes.

Since Farmington Township assesses no taxes, and Farmington City taxes do not apply under the limitation law the tax rate allowed by the Tax Allocation Board for the school operation is that portion which remains of the \$15 per \$1,000 after the County Tax rate fixed is deducted. Last year the County Tax rate was \$4.58 per \$1,000 equalized valuation leaving the balance for a base school operation tax rate of \$10.32 which could be assessed under the limitation law. The base operation tax rate allowed by the Tax Allocation Board will vary from year to year depending on the County Tax rate and any taxes which the Township may decide to assess within its limitations. All present school debt service taxes which are being assessed have been approved in the past by voters of the Farmington School District.

FUNDS NEEDED
The proposed special school operation tax levy of \$3.00 per \$1,000 equalized valuation has been determined by school officials to be the minimum rate which will be necessary to raise additional funds for continued efficient operation of the school system. It is

estimated that the proposed special levy will yield \$185,000. If receipts are decreased by this amount it will be necessary to make radical adjustments in the operation of the school system, Superintendent O. E. Duncanson said. Some adjustments which may be necessary if the special operation tax levy proposal is not approved will include decreasing the estimated teaching staff needed for 1957-58 by 30 to 35 teachers, operating on deficit financing and on an unfavorable teacher salary schedule.

Compared with other School Districts in Oakland County, the special school operation tax rate which is being asked for in the Farmington School System is below the rate of the 31 districts in the County. 21 levied special operation taxes last year with rates ranging from \$2 per \$1,000 to \$10 per \$1,000 equalized valuation. Of those Districts requiring millages, the median levy was \$3.50 per \$1,000 equalized valuation.

LOCAL SHARE
It should be pointed out that over one-third of the total operation revenue for the School District are paid for by local assessment, Superintendent Duncanson pointed out. The Farmington Public Schools receive approximately 61.1 per cent of their operating revenue from State and Federal sources, 27.8 per cent from local taxes and 1.1 per cent from miscellaneous sources, he said.

A major portion of the local school operating dollar, 72.9 per cent, goes for instruction. A total of 12.1 per cent goes for administration, 4.6 per cent for maintenance, 2.2 per cent for auxiliary services. These percentages compare very closely with recent averages compiled for all School Districts in the State with enrollment totals of under 10,000.

Estimated figures for the 1957-58 school year show that an increased amount of funds will be needed to satisfy instructional needs in the local school system. It has been determined that there will be a need for 15 more teachers for the secondary grades and 22 more teachers for the elementary grades. It has also been estimated that three more school principals will be needed as well as more clerks and that a larger sum will be needed for operational purposes to care for the new junior high and elementary schools to be opened.

TOTAL TAX
If both the bond issue and special operation tax levy propositions are approved on March 4 it has been estimated that the total school tax rate to be levied for all purposes in 1957 will be \$25.32. This is based on a conservatively estimated 1957 total School District equalized valuation of \$55,000,000 and on the assumption that the base operation tax rate established by the Tax Allocation Board in 1952 will remain at \$10.32 per \$1,000 equalized valuation in 1957. Of the total rate \$13.32 would be earmarked for school operation and \$12.00 for bond indebtedness payments.

The total school tax rate in 1956 was \$22.50 per \$1,000 equalized valuation or \$2.82 per \$1,000 less than what the estimated total rate will be for 1957 if both the bond issue and special operation tax levy propositions are approved.

It should be pointed out, however, that last year's total school tax rate was the lowest rate to be levied since 1952. The total school tax rate in 1955 was \$25.24 per \$1,000 equalized valuation. The total tax rate in 1954 was \$28.11 and in 1953 it was \$26.50. Therefore, approval of both propositions will result in an estimated increase of only 28 cents per \$1,000 equalized valuation over the 1956 school tax rate and a rate lower than those levied in 1953 and 1954.

NOTICE Board of Review Meeting

Notice is hereby given to all persons liable to assessment rolls of the City of Farmington, prepared by the City Assessor, that said rolls will be subject to inspection at the office of the City Clerk in the Municipal Building at 33312 Grand River Avenue on

TUESDAY and MONDAY, March 5 and 11

From 9:00 a.m. to 12 a.m. and 1 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

and
TUESDAY, MARCH 12
From 1 p.m. to 9 p.m.

The Board of Review will be in session, and upon the request of any person who is assessed on said roll or his agent, and upon sufficient cause being shown, correct the assessment on such property in such manner as will in their judgment make the value relatively just and equal.

Such assessment rolls reviewed by said Board of Review shall be the assessment roll of the City of Farmington for the year 1957.

KATHRYN COTTER,
City Clerk

Named To Dean's List At Bowdoin

Nicholas G. Spicer was listed last week among 173 Bowdoin College undergraduates named to the Dean's List for the spring semester, Acting Dean Nathan Dane, 11 announced.

Included are fifty-seven members of the senior class, forty-four juniors, twenty-nine sophomores, and forty-one freshmen. There are also two Bowdoin Plan students.

Dean's List honors are awarded to students who during their last semester at Bowdoin have attained at least a "B-" average with not more than one grade below "B" and no grade lower than "C-," in their regular courses. Sophomores may take five cuts, except those with straight "A's" may take unlimited cuts. All juniors and seniors on the list are also permitted unlimited cuts.

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Area Goodwill Pickup Scheduled March 4

The next visit of Goodwill Industries pickup trucks to the Farmington area is scheduled for Monday, March 4. Goodwill trucks will collect household discards of clothing, shoes, hats, toys, most types of furniture and other household discards.

To arrange for a Goodwill Industries truck pick-up, call the local Goodwill representative, Nora Ault at GR 4-4294.

John Clappison sells Insurance
Phone GR. 4-3511

FLORIDA VACATION

Recent visitors at the Manatee County Public Beach and Anna Maria Island in Florida were Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence E. McClung of 35592 Castlemeadow Drive, Farmington.

The beach and island is managed by the Anna Maria Island Kiwanis Club.

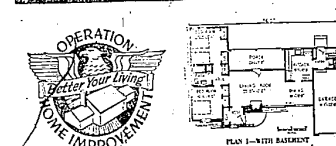
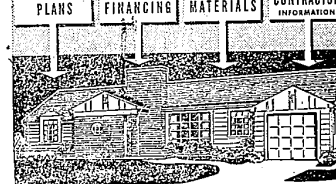
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