Seek $6.1 Million For Classroom Needs To 1970

(Editor's note: This is the first in a series of four articles regarding the Special School Election to be held November 15. Each of the three proposals will be examined, one each week, and a summary of the facts and figures behind the issues will appear in the November 10 Enterprise.)

Voters in the Special School Election November 15, will face three ballot proposals that represent an effort on the part of the Board of Education to expand the building facilities and meet increasing operational costs without increasing the tax rate. Board members say action is necessary to meet the growing enrollments — some 1,000 students a year; and to keep pace with rising operational costs that average three to five percent a year.

Proposal I, a bond proposal, asks the voters to authorize a bond issue of $8,100,000 for new school buildings and sites and additions to existing buildings and sites.

Proposal II requests the continuation of three mills of operating tax for a ten year period. This millage was originally approved in 1961 and expires in 1966. The revenue it produces annually amounts to $360,000. The total operating budget for 1965-66 is $6,305,497.

Proposal III requests four additional mills for operating funds. This can be accomplished without raising the total tax rate, according to Supt. Gerald V. Harrison. It requires approval of the voters to exchange four mills in the present debt levy to the operating levy. Farmington Public School taxpayers now are paying 11 mills for debt retirement. Approval of Proposal III will permit the debt levy to be lowered to seven mills and the operating levy to be increased by these four mills.

Proposal I reflects a need by the school district to keep pace with the growth of the community. As land is developed and new subdivisions and homes are built, more children are enrolled in the public schools. For every new home, the schools must provide facilities for 1.7 to 2 school-age children. Since 1960, when Farmington Schools enrolled 8,723 students, the school population has grown to today's 13,389 pupils. By 1970, the enrollment is expected to be 17,300 students.

The schools show a steady enrollment growth of about 1,000 students a year. By 1970, according to projections of school officials, Farmington will need 98 more classrooms.

TWO YEARS AGO the voters authorized a $5,000,000 bond issue that to date has financed the construction of 85 classrooms and a maintenance building. Another 14-room elementary school (Fairview) and a fourth junior high school will also be built from funds raised by this bond issue.

Now, for the first time in the history of the school district, the majority of the classrooms that are needed to keep up with growing enrollments must be in junior and senior high school buildings. These cost more to build, take longer to build, and occupy more land than elementary buildings. They must be planned well in advance to be ready to receive the extra numbers of elementary children who move on each year to junior high school, and to handle the growing number of junior high school youth who will be crowding into the two senior high schools.

By 1968, Farmington will already have its fourth junior high school built and paid for from the last bond issue. At that time, it is conservatively estimated by school officials that there will be 15,888 students to house. This means the district will need a third senior high school. By 1969 or 1970, with growth continuing at the rate of 1,000 students a year, the district will need a fifth junior high school.

If voters approve this bond issue, the Board of Education and school administration also plan to build a 20-room elementary school and make additions to two elementary buildings. An addition has also been planned for Farmington High School. Sites for the district's needs beyond 1970 will be acquired—six of them

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Water, Sewers For Annexation Area Topic Thurs.

The City Council and City Manager will meet this Thursday evening at 8 p.m. in the City Hall with the owners of property in Woodcroft Subdivision and the other area proposed to be annexed from Farmington Township to the city to discuss the city's ability to provide Detroit water and sanitary sewer facilities to the area.

The city manager reports that the city engineer has completed the design for extending water and sewer service to Woodcroft Subdivision and cost estimates on the project. The city, in fact, has agreed to confirm the assessment costs for individual properties in the subdivision and provide each homeowner with certified copies of their water and sewer installation costs which the city will agree to honor as a firm price, City Manager John Dinan stated.

MANAGER Dinan added further that the City would be in a position to give firm costs for water installation on Freedom Drive and Grand River from Gill to Drake Roads. He pointed out, however, that properties west of Drake Road would have to be serviced by the township's Taribusi Sewer Arm and supplied water by the Oakland County DPW but that service would be provided by the city if the annexation carries.

At a meeting with property owners from the proposed annexation area on October 12 the city's proposed plan for development of the area to retain a "country atmosphere with urban services" was gone over in detail. As the result of the meeting with the property owners of the area some minor revisions in the city's proposed development plan were requested and are now in the process of being made.

THE ANNEXATION election will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 2. All City of Farmington voters will be permitted to ballot on the proposed annexation but only those from the area proposed to be annexed in the township will be permitted to vote as stipulated by state law. Approval by both the city-at-large voters and those voting in the proposed area to be annexed is necessary to permit the annexation.

Twp. Lawyer Gets St. Post

Bernard S. Kahn who resides at 29345 Sugar Spring, Farmington Township, has been appointed as a Special Assistant Attorney General by Frank J. Kelley.

Mr. Kahn will represent the State of Michigan in civil actions to be assigned by the office of Frank J. Kelley, Michigan Attorney General.

MR. KAHN, who is a trial lawyer, maintains his offices at 1665 Guardian Building, Detroit, and is a member of the American Trial Lawyers Association. He is also a member of the Michigan Bar Association, Detroit Bar Association and Oakland County Bar Association.

He is a former instructor at Wayne State University and is presently serving a four year term on the Wayne State University Law School Alumni Board of Governors.

Bus Request Is Granted

A number of parents of school children living in Flamingo Trailer Park and the vicinity of Middlebelt and Nine Mile Roads were present at the special Board of Education meeting on October 13, to hear their request for bus transportation approved.

The delegation had made a request for transportation of their children at the October 11 meeting of the board. They had stated that Middlebelt Road was unsafe for children to cross. Action was deferred until a safety committee could study the traffic conditions.

The committee, composed of Mrs. Barbara Brown, Vernon Fisher, and Byron Oliver, observed a traffic count averaging 12 cars a minute on Middlebelt Road between 8:10 and 8:30 a.m. The Board of Education approved granting bus transportation to all children attending Larkshire School who live east of Middlebelt Road. The decision will be reviewed for the next school year.

Auto Fatality On 10 Mile Rd.

James F. Stark, 26, of 25345 Brookview in Farmington was fatally injured in a two-car accident on Ten Mile Road at Creekside October 18 in Farmington Township.

Stark's wife, Mary Ellen, a passenger in his car, was taken to Botsford General Hospital with serious injuries along with the driver of the other car, Donald M. DeWar, 39, of 29554 Hemlock in Farmington.

Both cars were eastbound on Ten Mile at the time of the accident, 2:16 a.m. on Monday. Stark was attempting a left hand turn onto Creekside when DeWar's car apparently attempted to pass him.

Contracts for Grade School Let Oct. 13

Bids for construction of the new Fairview Elementary School were opened at a special meeting of the Farmington Board of Education on Wednesday evening, October 13.

On the recommendation of the architect, Linn Smith Assoc., contracts were awarded to the lowest bidders. They were Carl W. Luoma Co., general construction, $345,000; Jack A. King Co., mechanical work, $125,770; and Lowry and Hickman, electrical work, $46,540. These were base bids only. The alternate bids will not be ready until October 25.

This was the second time bids had been taken for the school. Original bids taken early in September were some $70,000 over the established budget of $460,000.

BY READVERTISING for bids after changing specifications slightly, the Board of Education was able to pare down combined bids from $550,381 to $517,310. In the revised specifications, the function and capacity of the building remained unchanged and there was no sacrifice of quality in the building, according to Supt. G. V. Harrison.

Successful low bidding general and mechanical contractors were the same who bid lowest in the original bidding.

In other business the Board of Education reviewed preliminary plans for the district's fourth junior high school. No action was taken on site location, but plans were made for the architect to meet with the educational specifications committee composed of members of the teaching staff.

River Glen Apts. Easements OK'ed

The City Council took official action at its meeting Monday night accepting dedication of the road right-of-way and sewer and water easements in the River Glen Apartment Development.

The formal action allows the city the official right to go into the development to perform necessary services. That portion of main roadway through the development will be added to the city's road mileage total for which it can receive reimbursement from the state for maintenance.

Mrs. Winona Woods BPW Woman of Year

Winona Woods, general manager of The Farmington Enterprise, has been selected by the Farmington Business and Professional Woman's Club as Farmington's "Woman of the Year."

The selection was made and honors bestowed on Mrs. Woods for her accomplishments and service to the community by the BPW members at a lovely dinner meeting held Monday evening, Oct. 18, at Kostere's Restaurant on Eight Mile Road in Southfield.

Mrs. Woods was presented with an orchid corsage and an award certificate by the club for her accomplishments.

EXTREMELY interested in the Farmington community ever since moving here some years ago, Mrs. Woods began work for The Farmington Enterprise as a bookkeeper in the spring of 1961. Within a short period of time she demonstrated abilities and interest in a variety of other types of work in the organization.

When Enterprise Publisher Russell S. Strickland purchased the Plymouth Mail in July of 1964 and promoted previous Enterprise general manager Mike Kiley to the position of assistant to the publisher overseeing both newspapers' operations, Mrs. Woods' demonstrated management abilities immediately earned her advance-

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Citizens Want Action on Outside Industrial Burning

Renewed complaints, both written and verbal, about the nuisances being caused some homeowners of Farmington Meadows Subdivision as the result of alleged careless outside burning by industrial firms to the south of that subdivision were registered with the City Council at its regular meeting Monday night.

A lengthy letter was submitted by the president of the subdivision association indicating that the problem of noxious fumes, dust, smoke, fly ash and flying burning embers was getting progressively worse despite an earlier promise made by the city administration and Council that corrective action would be taken. Residents from three homes in the subdivision were also present at the meeting to comment personally on the problems they have had and the unpleasant experiences being encountered.

A DRAMATIC show of the alleged seriousness of the problem was made by Mrs. Charles Pell of 32631 Meadowlark. Stepping to the middle of the Council Chamber, she dumped onto a piece of plastic spread on the floor a box full of contents she reportedly obtained from one of the industrial plant's burning sites. In addition to the normal ashes, the contents included wire, metal strapping material, a variety of different types of tin cans, scraps of metal and some scraps of garbage as well.

"THIS IS FAR from being just scrap office paper being burned outside by the plants," Mrs. Pell lamented bitterly.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Truitt of 33053 Meadowlark stated that the problem of noxious fumes had become so serious because of the types of materials being burned outside by the industrial firms that medical attention for Mrs. Truitt was required.

James Piatt of 21039 Meadowlark and a member of the City Planning commission also made detailed comments regarding the situation. He stated that he had been asked by some in the subdivision to speak in their behalf and had agreed to do so after making a personal investigation.

PIATT stated that he had found upon investigating that a number of plants were burning outside without proper shielding to protect against fly-ash and burning pieces of material blowing unto nearby residential properties.

Piatt suggested that stiff fines might be necessary to correct the problem.

All homeowners agreed that burning outside by some plants was being done over an extended period of time and that damage had been done to clothing, home exteriors, cars and grass, trees and shrubs as a result of the uncontrolled burning practices of some plants.

COUNCILMEN were sufficiently convinced by the dramatic display made by Mrs. Pell as well as the comments

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PLANNING THE SURVEY for the Farmington Junior Chamber of Commerce on "Community Attitudes" are (L to R) Jaycees Pat Foran, President Pat Nowak, Community Development Chairman Dr. John Richardson, Dick Tupper, John Hay and Al Stutson. The Jaycees are seeking some citizen direction into just what areas their service club can serve the community best in the future.

17-Year-old Charged With Widow's Slaying

A 17-year-old Farmington Township boys was arraigned Tuesday morning, October 19, on first degree murder charges in the knife slaying of an 80-year-old neighbor woman, Mrs. Ethel M. Van Wicklin of 20809 Pearl Street in Farmington Township.

Michigan State Police working with Township Detective Russ Conway arrested William Sleeper, 17, of 20819 Pearl Street on Monday night, October 18. Sleeper, a ninth grade school dropout, was arraigned before Township Justice of the Peace Byron Walter and examination was set for October 28 at 9 a.m.

POLICE RECOVERED a letter opener used in the slaying in the back yard of Mrs. Van Wicklin's home. The woman was stabbed to death with the letter opener in the early morning hours of October 16 at her home.

Informed sources said Tuesday that Mrs. Van Wicklin, who lived alone in the house next to Sleeper, had lectured the boy on his behavior and conduct on the night of the slaying. He reportedly had been drinking and stabbed her in a fit of rage.

Assistant Oakland County Prosecutor John Bain stated on Tuesday that $65 was missing from Mrs. Van Wicklin's home. Bain said he would prosecute Sleeper on a felony murder charge.

UN Ceremony This Saturday

A gala parade and official tree planting ceremony in the city park will highlight the annual observance of United Nations' Day in the City of Farmington this Saturday, Oct. 23.

The parade will start at 10 a.m. at the Farmington Junior High on Thomas Street and the paraders will proceed down Warner Street and thence on Shiawassee to the U.N. Grove near the tennis courts in the city park. Participating will be the local American Legion and V.F.W. color guard as well as boy and girl scouts, the junior high band and other local groups.

At the park another tree will be added to the City's U.N. Grove and dedicated to Denmark. Foreign exchange students in Farmington this year, Largs Jensen of Denmark and Erwin Furlan of Guatemala, will participate in the ceremonies.

Officiating over the activities will be Mayor Sandy Brotherton. Rev. Richard Markham will give the invocation and a minister or priest from another church in the city the benediction.

A special speaker, yet to be named, is being engaged by the Groves-Walker American Legion Post, according to City Manager John Dinan.

Survey Form To Appear Next Week

A reminder was issued by the Farmington Junior Chamber of Commerce of the forthcoming Community Attitude Survey to be taken by their organization.

All community citizens are urged to be sure to get and keep next week's issue of The Farmington Enterprise (the Oct. 27 issue) in which the survey questionnaire will appear and take the little time and effort necessary to answer the questions asked and return the form.

IN ORDER to obtain sufficient replies to make the survey meaningful, forms are hoped to be returned from a wide cross-section of people in both the City and Township of Farmington. Community minded citizens are being urged to encourage their friends, neighbors and business associates to fill out the survey form and return it to the FARMINGTON JAYCEES, BOX 33, FARMINGTON.

FARMINGTON'S 1965 TORCH DRIVE Campaign got under way October 12 when nearly 700 solicitors began calling on residents of the community. Pictured above are (L to R) Mrs. W. Donald Davidson (Division Co-Chairman), Mrs. Edgar Mosshamer (Business Chairman), Mrs. Bayard Dew Tupper (Division Chairman) and Mrs. Donald Schlack (Regional Chairman) and Mrs. Lynn Federspill (Division Co-Chairman) tabulating U-F contributions. Mrs. Tupper announced Tuesday that $10,487 had been collected so far in the residential drive which has a goal of $15,031. Mrs. Mosshamer reports $800 has been collected so far from community businesses which have a goal of $1,709. The Torch Drive Campaign is expected to be climaxed this week.

Still Time to Signup For City Recreation

The newly formed City of Farmington Recreation Department opened its adult Fall recreation program on Monday of this week. While good initial response from city adults was reported emphasis was placed on the fact that it is still not too late to get enrolled and join in the fun.

Registration forms for any and all activities may be obtained at the Municipal Building on Liberty Street any weekday during regular office hours.

Activities for young boys and girls will begin this Saturday, Oct. 23, with a variety of supervised gymnasium activities to be offered each Saturday this fall at the Cloverdale School on Freedom Drive between the hours of 9 a.m. and 12 noon for children 8 through 12 years of age.

The supplimental recreation program being offered in the city only was set up on an initial ten week fall program basis in order to determine the interest of residents in the city. The department intends to extend both the adult and children's programs through the winter and spring months if attendance figures show such a move is warranted.

It was emphasized that enrollment for the separate ladies', men's and children's gymnasium programs could be made at any time throughout the duration of the program by Evans Bageris, program director. Attendance at each and gymnasium program is not necessary and there is no registration fee.

Those interested in learning the fine art of playing bridge or established players who seek master points are provided an opportunity to do so each Monday evening from 7:30-10:00. The fee for bridge players is $1.00 per evening.

Residents who enjoy the intracies of swinging their partners to country music will not now have to travel far and wide. This entertainment is offered under the city program at Farmington Junior High each Monday night from 8 until 10 p.m. Registration for square dancers will be closed at the third session of the group. The fee is ten dollars for ten weeks per couple on Monday nights.

The men's gym program is on Tuesday nights and the women's on Thursday. Starting time for each is 8 p.m. and lasts until 10 p.m.

Hand Named City Judge

Michael J. Hand, associate municipal judge, was appointed by the City Council Monday night to fill the office of Sylvester Phenoy, deceased, as municipal judge.

The interim appointment extends until April 10, 1967. The position will be filled by a vote of the people at the regular city election in 1967.

Since Hand has a law practice in Detroit, the present court schedule in the city will be altered to permit him to continue this practice. Daytime court hours will be reduced and at least one night court date weekly set up, it has been indicated.

No official city court hour schedule has as yet been announced.

Action was not taken by the Council in naming an associate judge to replace Hand.