

Ask Voters To Continue 3 Mills Operating Tax

(Editor's note: This is the second in a series of four articles regarding the Special School Election to be held November 13. Each of the three proposals are being examined, one each week, and a summary of the facts and figures behind the issues will appear in the November 10 Enterprise.)

Proposal II to appear on the ballot at the Special School Election November 13, asks voters to approve the continuation of three mills of operating tax for a 10 year period.

This millage expires in 1966. It was originally approved by the voters in 1961 and produces an annual income of \$390,000. School officials emphasize the importance of this millage in the total school budget. Approval of Proposal II will not increase the tax rate, they point out, but will merely extend the present millage until 1976.

Farmington Schools' total operating budget for the current year amounts to \$830,497. Most of this, \$481,744, is spent on instruction. This covers teachers' salaries and teaching supplies for 13,389 students.

The school system is providing a quality education for its youth, according to impartial, expert observers. "Farmington's graduates are welcomed on open arms at the University of Michigan," Evert Ardis, U-M Director of Placement, told Farmington's new teachers at their annual reception this fall. "We know they are well-prepared, earnest students," he said.

The Farmington Public School District is providing

this kind of education at a cost of \$470 a student this year. This is about \$40 a pupil higher than it was last year and is some \$65 a year higher than it was in 1963-64.

THE COUNTY average operational cost per student in 1963-64 (the most recent year in which figures are available for comparison from Oakland County authorities) was \$426.28. Farmington's per pupil cost was \$405.87, 85.7 per cent of this cost per pupil represents salaries and wages. School authorities suggest that taxpayers recognize that although Farmington is below the county average cost per pupil, the district must constantly assess its teaching salary ranges and its related per pupil cost if the school district is to continue to provide the best teaching talent and the best classroom experience for its students.

The operational budget jump in per pupil cost to \$470 this year represents the adoption of improved salary schedules in the district. "For teachers, the minimum is now comparable to other neighboring districts — and is about at the county median level," according to Supt. of Schools G. V. Harrison, "but the maximum range for experienced teachers falls short of other districts."

"To keep the good, experienced teachers now in the district, Farmington must raise its maximum salary range to match those of its neighbors," says Mr. Harrison. "This will be reflected in our operating budget over the next 10 years and will claim a portion of the three mills we are asking the

taxpayer to renew," he adds.

IN ADDITION to teacher salary ranges, the per pupil cost in Farmington represents a "tight belt" philosophy of other expenditures by the board of education, according to Mr. Harrison. "We are not a 'fat system,' he says. "Most of our professionals work directly with students in the classroom. Although we keep classroom loads at a reasonable level, our balance of professionals servicing students is good — above the 40 per 1,000 students acceptable at the national level."

Mr. Harrison points out that because Farmington Schools are growing rapidly, most of the teaching-personnel added each year to the staff is at the minimum salary level. "As we mature as a district and the teachers progress in the salary scale, from minimum to maximum range, our cost per pupil will rise, since we will have more teachers approaching the maximum salary," he says.

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The Farmington Enterprise

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Attitude Survey Form Appears in This Edition

You are being provided this week with an opportunity to express your opinions on what you think should be done in Farmington City and Township to make it a better community.

It will take but a few minutes of your time to fill out the Community Attitude Survey questionnaire appearing on Page 9B in this week's issue of The Enterprise. By doing so, and submitting your questionnaire as asked, you will be doing your part in helping determine what projects and programs which will contribute to better community development are most wanted by the people of Farmington. The survey is being taken



PRESENTING A CHECK TO Gerald V. Harrison, Superintendent of Schools for the Farmington Public Schools, is Bill Paterson, Treasurer of the Kendallwood Kiwanis Club of Farmington. Looking on as Superintendent Harrison receives the donation which will be used for the School District's music department are North Farmington High School Principal Harold Humble (left) and Robert Bergstrom, President of the Kendallwood Kiwanis Club.

Election Tues. On Annexation

This coming Tuesday, Nov. 2, voters from the entire City of Farmington and those Farmington Township voters who live in the approximately 804-acre area to the west of the city sought to be annexed to the city will go to the polls.

The single proposition to appear on the ballot will ask only whether the voters favor or disapprove this annexation and a simple "yes" or "no" vote is all that will be required. A majority "yes" vote by both city-at-large voters and those in the area the city seeks to annex will be required to carry the proposal. A majority in only one area will not be enough.

Absentee ballots are now available at both the City Hall and Township Hall for any who will be unable to get to the polls in person on Tuesday. They can be obtained up until 2 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 30.

ALL CITY precincts will be open for voters between the hours of 7 a.m. and 8 p.m. as will the only township precinct involved, Precinct 1, located at the Gill Elementary School. City officials look upon the area they are proposing to annex as a valuable addition to the city and are urging all

Decide Against Branch Library

The North Farmington High School library will not be a branch library by the Farmington District Library, it was disclosed at a Board of Education meeting on October 25.

A letter from the Library Board thanked the School District for its meeting and considering the branch library, and stated that the Board had decided against the move because they thought it "would not serve the best interests of the general public."

Twp. Agenda C'ville School Supt. Has Apts., L. Schmidt Resigning Trailer Pk.

The resignation of Louis Schmidt, Superintendent of the Clarencville School District, will come before the Board of Education tomorrow night at its regular meeting, October 28.

Schmidt, who has been Superintendent of Schools in Clarencville for the past 18 years, submitted his letter of resignation to the Clarencville Board of Education on October 16 after giving verbal notification of his intention to the school trustees at their October 14 meeting.

SCHMIDT DECLINED to give any reasons for his actions, but informed sources indicated certain trustees have been at

City Offers Low Sewer, Water Costs

The Farmington City Council staged an official public hearing on the proposed annexation of more than 500 acres of Farmington Township last Thursday evening, October 21, and took action on the costs for sewer and water installation in the area to be annexed.

Farmington City Engineer Francis Parke and City Manager John Dinan presented to about a third of the area's property owners present at the Thursday night meeting the figures showing comparison of City and Township water and sewer installation costs.

THE CITY MAINTAINS property owners in the proposed area for annexation would save a net total of \$1,261.45 on sewer and water installation costs if they vote November 2 to come into the City.

The City's confirmed price on sewer installation charges was broken down by City Manager Dinan to show lateral costs (based on a 100-foot lot) at \$550, tap-in charges of \$35 for a total sewer installation cost of \$585. Estimates given by a Township official, according to Dinan, show sewer lateral costs at \$1,250, sewer arm (Gill Road) costs at \$175, Tar-

Middlebelt Traffic Remains Problem

Middlebelt Road traffic between Ten and Eleven Mile Roads continues to create problems for the Farmington School Board. A letter, pointing out the hazardous crossing conditions, and signed by 21 parents of children living west of Middlebelt Road was read at the regular meeting of the board on October 25.

A quiet, orderly, sincere group of parents attended the meeting to give support to the letter requesting that the board do something to insure the safety of children crossing the road on their way to Middlebelt School.

It was pointed out by parents that there is a continuous flow of traffic between Ten and Eleven Mile Roads on Middlebelt and that children have to wait as long as 15 minutes to cross — even then, crossing under unsafe conditions.

Parents said that safety patrol boys at this crossing are ineffective because there is no break in traffic to allow safe crossing. (Safety patrol boys are not allowed to stop traffic.)

The parents said they were not asking for bus transportation, but only asking that the board take some action to provide

Give Facts On School Election

Farmington School Board members and school administrators are continuing to make presentations of the facts behind the issues in the forthcoming Special Election of November 13.

Speakers have been scheduled at the following schools: November 8, Dunkin Junior High; November 3, Shiawassee and Alameda; November 4, Ten Mile; November 6, Farmington High; November 9, Wooddale, Highmadow, and Bond; and November 10, Farmington Junior High, Larkshire, and Longacre.

Meeting time at all schools will be 8 p.m. except at Dunkin Junior High, which is scheduled for 7:30 p.m., and Larkshire, which will be at 7 p.m.

The public is invited to hear any of these presentations; and groups may request representatives to speak at meetings by calling Supt. G. V. Harrison at GR. 49450.

School Bldg. Reports Given

Reports on the school district's various building projects were given at the regular meeting of the Board of Education on October 25. Supt. Harrison reported that the proposed annexation made on the Middlebelt addition during the last two weeks than in any previous two weeks. The contractor involved, Precinct 1, located at the Gill Elementary School, would be completed in about a month. "This may be optimistic," Harrison said, "but might be possible."

The Larkshire Elementary School is almost completed and Harrison said that it is expected that pupils can be moved into the rest of the classrooms within the next week.

The additions at North Farmington High and East Junior High are complete except for minor items, it was reported.

The Bond Elementary School may be ready for occupancy in a week or ten days, depending upon getting the sewer connection made and the heating plant in operation.

Equipment has been moved onto the Fairview Elementary site and some preliminary site work has been done. But the members selected the brick for the new school. It is to be a "sandstone" type brick in brown and tan with shades of rose similar in color to Tennessee ledgerrock.

Urge Saturday Observance of Hallowe'en

The Farmington City Department of Public Safety this week joined with the Farmington Township Police Department in recommending that parents take children out begging between the hours of 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday, October 30, instead of the Sunday date on which Hallowe'en falls this year.

Chief Maurice D. Foltz of the City and Chief Irving H. Yakes of the Township made the recommendation after a meeting from school officials and other groups planning Hallowe'en parties for youngsters Saturday evening at 7 p.m. was generally selected for the start of most of these parties.

Extra police patrols will be out on Saturday evening.

OK Lighting At Orchard Lake, I-696

Improved lighting on Orchard Lake Road at the I-696 Expressway will soon be provided as the result of action taken by the Township Board at its regular meeting Monday night.

Trustee Earl Oppertbauer who has been working on improved safety conditions at this location for some time now finally convinced other Board members Monday night that the cost would not be large enough to warrant waiting any longer to get the county, state or federal government to take action on this matter.

Overhead lighting on both sides of the expressway on Orchard Lake where left turns are made is expected to be installed by the county.

Oppertbauer reported at Monday night's meeting that he had been advised that a study would be forthcoming on the desirability of a cloverleaf turn-around at this location also to curtail traffic jams and safety problems, but that it would probably not be made for a year or more. He said that he had been advised by the county road commission that the state highway department had agreed to make the study.

Tw's Position On Annexation

In a strong "last-minute" counter attack, township officials have taken sharp issue with the city on its claims that there should be many advantages to homeowners in Woodcroft Subdivision and the area further west in becoming a part of the City of Farmington.

The township's position on three major subjects brought up in connection with the proposed annexation—sewers and water, taxes and planning and zoning—are spelled out in a lengthy release sent out this week to two homeowners of the area the city proposes to annex. A meeting with the homeowners has also been scheduled for Thursday evening, Oct. 28.

Excerpts from the township release follow:

SEWER AND WATER — Knowing that the residents of Woodcroft Subdivision make up the majority of township voters in the affected area, the city has hammered hard on the theme that it can provide water and sewer cheaper than the township.

However, the City cannot legally deliver on this promise. The City's proposal was based upon the extension of the City system into Woodcroft. This cannot be done, whether or not the annexation passes.

The Township is bound by contract (binding upon its successors) to furnish water to the area within the city limits of the Farmington Water Supply System. The Township is also bound by contract, as will be the City as its successor, to deliver all sewage from the area only to the Farmington Interceptor System. The contract prohibits the construction of any sewer in the area which does not connect to the Interceptor and the Tarabusi Arm. These contracts cannot be changed as long as there are outstanding bonds and bonds will be outstanding for the next twenty to thirty years. Aside from the cost of laterals in the subdivision, you will be required to pay the same connection charges, debt service charge, etc. whether in the City or in the Township."

TAXES — Basic rates for taxes for county, school and community collections are the same for the City and Township. Only in local taxes is

for the School District Athletic Fund and Christmas decorations for the community. Helping to publicize the benefit game above are (L to R) Mike Wilson and Mike Perry, co-captains of Farmington, Falcon coach Dick Tyler, Mr. Harrison, Mr. Clifford, coach Ron Holland of North Farmington and Raider co-captains Craig Wyrnsky and Don Robble. The football players are holding up posters which are now on display at business places throughout the community bearing the big game.



THE ANNUAL OLDE YULE LOG game between Farmington and North Farmington High School this year will pit two fine football teams against one another in a contest that always provides plenty of thrills and surprises. Gerald V. Harrison, Superintendent of Schools, and Leland Clifford, President of the Board of Education, are both taking an active interest in this year's game not only because they are followers of the local prep teams but also because the game Saturday, November 13, will provide funds