

Propose More For Operating, Less For Debt

(Editor's note: This is the third in a series of four articles regarding the Special School Election to be held November 15. A summary of the facts and figures behind the issues will appear in the November 10 Enterprise.)

The third proposal on the ballot in the Special School Election November 15, asks voters to approve four additional mills for school operation, with the understanding that the debt service levy will be reduced as the operations levy is increased.

After months of study, and conferences with experts in banking and school finance, the Farmington Board of Education announced that they had arrived at this means of raising the operational levy without raising the total tax rate. Board members in the presentation of the election facts like it to taking money from one budget envelope and putting it into another. They point out, this must be approved over a longer period of years. School finance experts say this is good practice because the people who will be using the buildings in future years will be helping to pay for them.

EVEN WITH the lower debt rate of \$7.00, Farmington residents will be making a greater effort to pay off the building debt than the average school district in Michigan, according to Supt. G. V. Harrison. The average state rate for debt retirement is slightly over \$5.00 per \$1,000, he said. The need for additional operating mills is clear, say school administrators. Operating costs in the schools, like all businesses, have been rising from three to five percent annually. In addition to rising costs in the economy, this reflects the student-teacher cost ratio in operating the schools, says Supt. Harrison.

"As school enrollment climbs, we must plan for an average of 61 additional teachers each year," Mr. Harrison points out. "But as we add more teachers, and those presently in the system move to higher salary levels, the estimated median teacher's salary level changes. This, in turn, causes our cost of operation per pupil to rise."

Farmington's per pupil cost of operating in 1965 was \$470. By 1970, it is expected to be \$545. The Oakland County average in 1963-64, the most recent available figure, was \$426.28. At that time Farmington's average was \$408.97.

"WE CONSISTENTLY spend slightly less than the county average in operating costs per pupil," says Mr. Harrison. More than 85 per cent of the school's total operating budget goes for salaries and wages. This figure will rise as the median salary level rises," Harrison stated. "So the need for additional operating millage is built into the district's pattern of rapid growth," he added.

The entire picture of school debt retirement has changed since the State Bond Loan Fund was established in 1955. At that time, public schools in Michigan were short some 11,000 classrooms as a result of construction curtailments during the depression and war years. The loan fund of \$100,000,000 made possible for school districts that qualified to borrow money from the state to meet interest and principal payments on bonds issued for building construction and site purchases.

Until recently only three districts in Michigan had been able to use the fund because qualifications were stiff—a district had to levy 13 mills for debt retirement. Few districts qualified, including Farmington.

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The Farmington Enterprise

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Twp. Planners OK Apts., Trailer Expansion

At the October 28 meeting of the Township Planning Commission a request for rezoning for Chatham Hills Manor, an apartment development, was unanimously approved. No one appeared at the public hearing to voice an opinion on the proposed apartments to be built on approximately 12 acres along the south side of Grand River about a quarter of a mile east of Halstead Road. The apartments will be constructed in conjunction with Chatham Hills, a subdivision already approved by the Township Board.

A REQUEST by B. F. and Mary F. Dodd, owners of the Wayne Wheel Trailer Park, 3030 W. Eight Mile Road, for rezoning of an adjacent lot to allow expansion of the park was tabled for further study.

JOBOROTHY N. E. L. E., 30305 Eldred, on whose property the trailer park is located, spoke to the Commission on trailer parks as a whole. She said, "Mobile homes have a place in our society and should be here." She stated that she has no objection to the trailer court and that the new owners are making improvements; but she suggested that before any more variances or expansions

are granted for trailer parks, a thorough study should be made on all trailer parks in the Township.

She continued that the Township should have some authority over the parks regarding crowded conditions, trailers parked on corners, play areas for children, and general maintenance.

Start Re-signing of All City Roads

An extensive program to improve traffic control signing on all roads throughout the City of Farmington, as developed by the public safety department over the past several months, was outlined to councilmen at the regular council meeting Monday night, Nov. 1.

Program is designed to bring all signs in the city up to standards as recommended by the Michigan Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices. The improvement program will be carried out over a two year period to allow for proper financing.

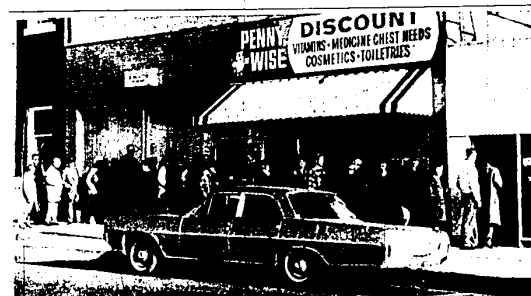
A PRIORITY schedule has been developed whereby signs will be improved, relocated and changed to provide the best possible traffic control on the main thoroughfares first.

Official Count Shows 13,417 In Schools

The October 1, 1965 membership count for the Farmington Public Schools totaled 13,417, administrative assistant Byron Oliver announced to the school district's administrative staff this week. The count shows an increase of 28 students over the count registered at the opening of school three weeks previously.

This particular membership count is of special significance to the school district because state financial aid is geared to it. The count, according to Oliver, shows a slight decline over last year in the number of children attending kindergarten, with sizable gains in the number of students at the 8th and 10th grade levels.

Superintendent G. V. Harrison pointed out to the principals that the membership gains in these areas spell out the need for additional classrooms at the secondary level. He expects enrollment growth to continue at the secondary level while it levels off at lower elementary grades.



1966 LICENSE PLATES which went on sale Monday of this week drew a lineup of motorists in front of the Grace Insurance Agency on Grand River Avenue in downtown Farmington the local Secretary of State's office. For the first time, motorists buying new license plates must show evidence of insurance or pay a \$25 fee into the state uninsured motorist pool which does not provide them with any insurance protection but only goes towards paying accident claims which may occur while they are driving. If an uninsured motorist has an accident, he must pay back the claims damages to the state uninsured motorist pool or lose his right to drive. Make sure you have your certificate of insurance showing proof of insurance, your car registration and the money to pay the license fee when you go to buy your new plates.

Incinerator Need Study Continuing

City Manager John Dinan reported at the Council meeting Monday night on his findings to date regarding controls placed on industrial and commercial firms in burning refuse.

Some provisions contained in the City of Livonia Incinerator Ordinance were read and Dinan also revealed that he was reviewing the very detailed Wayne County Air Pollution regulations.

During discussion, general agreement was expressed that it would not be practical for the City of Farmington to adopt any type of ordinance that would require complex smoke and air pollution measuring controls.

IT SEEMS to be generally agreed that industrial firms in particular and also some commercial businesses should be required to have incinerators. Now the question is whether the city should specify particular types of incinerators for various kinds of burning by plants or let the plants develop their own incinerator plans to handle their burning needs without causing nuisances and submit these plans to the city for approval or rejection.

Manager Dinan stated that his advice from City of Livonia officials was to have the firms develop their own plans rather than try to specify specific

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Considering 2nd Library Bldg. in Twp.

Now under consideration by the Farmington City and Township Library Board is the possibility of leasing a building in the 13 Mile-Orchard Lake Road area for a second community library facility, it was disclosed by a member of the library board of directors Monday night.

The building being considered is the Manufacturers National Bank building in the 13 Mile-Orchard Lake Road area. The building contains approximately 1,800 square feet of floor space. Discussion has already been held by the library directors on the leasing of this building to provide public library facilities to residents of the North Farmington area. More discussion is on the agenda for a meeting of the directors to be held, Wednesday, Nov. 3.

A proposal to utilize a library facility at the North Farmington High School in cooperation with the Farmington Board of Education was determined by both the library directors and board of education to be unsuitable.

Church Sign Plan Ready

Plans for a proposed attractive sign to designate the various churches, located in the City of Farmington for placement at entrance ways to the city was presented to the Council Monday night, Nov. 1, along with cost figures.

The sign proposed was designed by the recently appointed city beautification committee. It would be 8 feet high and 4 feet wide and cost approximately \$300.

Councilmen agreed with City Manager John Dinan that the next step should be to contact the nine churches expressing interest in such a joint sign to determine their interest in sharing the cost and to find out how many signs they would like and at what locations.

Annexation Attempt By City Rejected

The majority decision of those presently living or owning property in the approximately 594 acre area that the City of Farmington was seeking to annex Tuesday in favor of remaining a part of Farmington Township.

The vote registered from the area proposed to be annexed was 65 against the annexation to 60 in favor. There are a total of 177 registered voters in the 594 acre area, according to Township Clerk Floyd Cairns. Therefore, only 32 of the eligible voters from the area did not ballot. This figures out to a total voter turnout of just a little under 82 per cent.

ALL PRESENT registered voters in the City of Farmington were also qualified to ballot on the proposition. While only about 23.7 per cent of these registered voters in the city bothered to go to the polls, those who did were strongly in favor of the city's annexing the additional land area. There were a total of 1,435 votes cast in the city with 960 favoring the annexation against only 185 opposing this expansion move.

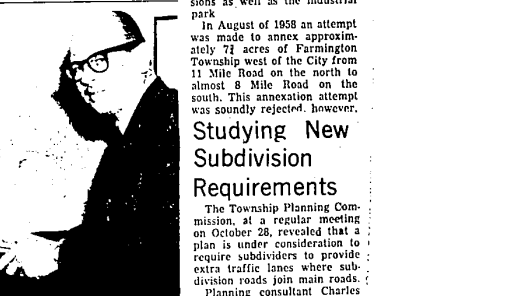
The margins in favor of the annexation in all four precincts in the city were one-sided.

In order for the annexation to have been approved it would have been necessary for both those in the area proposed to be brought into the city and those presently living in the city to vote in favor of the proposition.

THE CITY now stands even at two to two in its four attempts during the past 20 years to extend its boundaries by annexing parcels of land from the Township of Farmington. The first two annexation attempts were approved and the last two rejected.

In 1948 the city added the Floral Park Subdivision area north of Grand River east of Orchard Lake Road extending to and including Hawthorne Street on the east and to Fink Street on the west. In April of 1957 another 170 acres was added to the city. This area includes a strip along the east side of Farmington Road south from Nine Mile and the Farmington Meadows, and Tall Oaks residential subdivisions as well as the industrial park.

In August of 1958 an attempt was made to annex approximately 72 acres of Farmington Township west of the City from 11 Mile Road on the north to almost 8 Mile Road on the south. This annexation attempt was soundly rejected, however.



THE NEWLY APPOINTED co-chairmen of the Farmington Founders' Festival (L to R) John K. Cotton and Marley Walters are pictured above receiving the file on Farmington's First Founders' Festival held last July. From Bill Conroy, President of the Farmington Board of Commerce, a Founders' Festival poster can be seen on the wall of Conroy's office and below it is the Proclamation issued last July by the City and Township settling the dates for the area-wide observance. For the next eight months, Cotton and Walters will be spearheading the plans for the 1966 Founders' Festival.

Add Classes In Adult Education

Richard T. Tyler, Director of Adult Education for the Farmington Public Schools, announced this week the opening of two new classes in the 1965-66 Adult Education program.

Both new classes are scheduled to open the week of November 15 with registration open through Monday, Nov. 15. Classes in ski instruction (beginning, intermediate and advanced) will be held at Pine Knob. The indoor ski classes will deal with orientation to the sport, exercises and introduction.

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Yule Log Game Tickets Going Fast

The annual Olde Yule Log benefit football game between North Farmington High and Farmington High is just a little more than a week away now. The time is Saturday, Nov. 13 at 2 p.m. The game will be played at Farmington High School's Clarence Bell Field on Shawwassee just west of Orchard Lake Road adjacent to Farmington High School.

The proceeds from the Olde Yule Log game are divided equally between the Farmington School Athletic Fund and the Christmas Decoration Fund of the Board of Commerce.

ALL ADVERTISING, promotional expense and coordinating efforts are absorbed by the Board of Commerce.

All student tickets at 50 cents must be obtained from the schools prior to the game. There are no student tickets sold at the gate. All elementary students will be admitted for 25 cents. These tickets will be sold at the gate only. Pre-school children will be admitted free with an adult admission.

The response to the adult tickets already been overwhelming. It is reported. Don't be left standing in line. There are tickets still on sale at the following stores and business offices:

Bon-Ton Gift Shoppe, Downtown Farmington Center; Bud's Sport Shop, Westbrook Center; Book Corner, Downtown Farmington Center; City National Bank, 10 Mile & Orchard Lake Road; Camerama Shop, Downtown Farmington; Farmington Enterprise, Downtown Farmington; Greg Shoes, Bel-Aire Center; Harv's, Farmington Plaza; Farmington Office Supply, Downtown Farmington; Gabe Shoes, Kendallwood Center; Hinkley's, Farmington; House of Music, Downtown Farmington; Paris Room, Downtown Farmington; and Farmington Board of Commerce Building, 3311 Grand River at Grove Street.

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