

# In Our Opinion . . .

## An Obligation We Must Assume

Next Monday, November 15, voters of the Farmington Public School District will be asked to decide on three proposals—a \$6,100,000 bond issue, an extension of the three mills tax for operating funds, and permission to raise the operating levy by four mills while correspondingly lowering the debt levy.

We have attempted in the last four weeks to present all the facts; and, in our opinion, the facts speak for themselves. The school district now has a classroom capacity of just under 14,000 students. Projected enrollment figures which have been amazingly accurate over the past 15 years, show that by 1970, we will have about 17,300 students to house. There is no question that the bond issue must be passed to provide the 98 additional classrooms necessary to meet the increased enrollment.

It goes without saying that operational costs will continue. Continuation of the three mills tax for operation must be approved. The third proposal, to raise the operational millage and lower the debt payment millage, makes sense to us. First, there is no question that costs for operation of the school system have risen and will continue to rise, even without the addition of the 98 classrooms. And it would be out of the question to build more buildings and classrooms without funds to provide equipment, teachers and operational costs.

The plan by which the school board and administrators propose to levy

more for operations and less for debt retirement gets our whole-hearted approval. Under this plan taxpayers will continue to pay the same rate—\$32.50 per \$1,000 of state equalized valuation—with \$25.50 being spent for operation and \$7.00 for debt retirement.

This will extend the debt over a longer period of time; but meanwhile, there will be new residents to share the debt for the classrooms their children will be using.

Our biggest concern is that the need for passage of the three proposals is so apparent that voters will not think it necessary to go to the polls. This attitude has defeated other worthwhile proposals in the past.

We don't delude ourselves that everyone in the district will favor the proposals and it is a historical fact that those who oppose something will get out and vote. Every eligible voter in the district who is in favor of the three proposals must therefore make it known at the polls — the only place his opinion counts.

We have gone a long way in maintaining a fine educational program in the Farmington public schools during the past several years of rapid community growth and we must not let down now, particularly when it is possible to continue to do so with no increase in our present school tax rates.

Long term financing is never desirable when it can be avoided, but it is necessary in many cases and this is one of them.

## A Multiple Benefit Community Event

Good things don't normally just happen in a community.

They are the result of a lot of hard work and effort on the part of a substantial number of people who "volunteer" their time and energies for the good of the community they have chosen to live and raise their family in.

A good example of a community project that has multiple community benefits and has come about and will only continue to be successful through volunteer help and citizen participation is the Annual Old Yule Log Benefit Football game.

The second annual event pitting North Farmington High against Farmington High on the gridiron this coming Saturday, Nov. 13, is an event that should draw a lot of citizens from all sections of the community. Even those who aren't particularly interested in football should get a kick out of witnessing and taking a little bit of a part in the "friendly fire" that has been waged between north and south Farmington for as long as we can remember.

The idea of promoting this annual rival athletic contest was originated by the Farmington Board of Commerce. The Farmington Board of Education,

recognizing the community values of such a rivalry contest, has cooperated fully.

Last year's first event didn't come about without a lot of voluntary help and cooperation and neither is the second annual contest this year. It has taken work and cooperation by school personnel and board of commerce members alike. Both are realizing benefits. The school system is receiving money for its athletic fund and the board of commerce funds for its Christmas lighting and community decorations fund.

But, more important than even these benefits are the benefits derived by the citizenry of the community as a whole.

Don't fail to get out to the Second Annual Old Yule Log Game this Saturday. In addition to seeing a top-notch football contest you'll also be helping provide for Christmas decorations and other times of the year. Furthermore you'll be helping the school system provide more and better athletic facilities.

You'll be a lot prouder of your community and more community-minded as well if you do.

## Looking Back in the Files

5 YEARS AGO	10 YEARS AGO	15 YEARS AGO
<p>NOVEMBER 10, 1960</p> <p>Dismal Besop</p> <p>The Farmington High School football team closed out a dismal season by taking a 34 to 0 loss at the hands of the Belle-ville eleven. The Jone Falcon touchdown came on a pass from quarterback Jim Anderson to end Tom Kufner. FHS failed to gain a victory during the 1960 grid campaign.</p> <p>Record Vote</p> <p>A record 14,068 persons turned out to vote in the General Election on Tuesday which represents 84.1 per cent of the total registered voters in the City and Township of Farmington. Local voters favored all Republican candidates and voted approval of the several proposals on the ballot.</p> <p>Kendallwood Arm</p> <p>Final steps are now being taken to get the new Kendallwood Sewer Arm under construction and hooked up with the Farmington Interceptor Sewer.</p> <p>Building Activity</p> <p>Building activity declined in both the City and Township of Farmington during the third quarter.</p>	<p>NOVEMBER 10, 1955</p> <p>Falcons Bow</p> <p>The Farmington High School football team suffered a 20 to 7 defeat at the hands of the Bentley Bulldogs in the final game of the season. The Falcons closed the season with a record of three victories and five defeats.</p> <p>Trojans Win</p> <p>The Clarenceville High School football team completed a victorious season, undefeated and untied, by downing West Bloomfield, 12-0. It marked the first undefeated season for the Trojans in the school's 12-year history and earned them the Wayne-Oakland League Championship.</p> <p>Building Code</p> <p>The Farmington Township Board passed a resolution at its regular meeting this week adopting a building code ordinance.</p> <p>\$15,000 Fire</p> <p>Farmington Township firemen battled a blaze at the H. Lumber Company on Ten Mile Road just east of Orchard Lake Road over the weekend which caused an estimated \$15,000 damage.</p>	<p>NOVEMBER 8, 1950</p> <p>Falcons Undefeated</p> <p>The Farmington High School football team wrapped up their first undefeated season in 1944 last Friday by downing Clarenceville's eleven, 20 to 13, in the annual inter-community rivalry between the Falcons and Trojans. Dick Alexander, Don Byrnes and Jim Bates scored the Falcons touchdowns, all coming in the second half after the Trojans had taken a 13-0 lead before the intermission.</p> <p>Imitation Butter</p> <p>The proposal to allow colored margarine on store shelves passed by better than a three-to-one vote margin in Tuesday's election.</p> <p>Vote Charter Change</p> <p>Farmington City voters turned out this week to pass by a six-to-one margin the proposal to change the City Charter. A total of 889 voters went to the polls from the City which represents a record 80 per cent turn out, highest in the City's history for an off-year election.</p>



THE LARGEST GROUP of new members ever to be inducted into the ranks of the Farmington Junior Chamber of Commerce were initiated at a dinner program held last Friday evening in the Frontier House banquet hall, 25 of the 30 new

Jaycees are pictured above prior to the start of the program. Jaycee Scott Cralter was the membership chairman for the drive which netted the bumper crop of new Jaycees.

## Explains No Change In Tax Rate By Approving School Propositions

By MARJORIE EICHER  
Community Relations Coord.  
Farmington Public Schools

The question taxpayers ask most frequently about the Nov. 15 Special School Election is how a "no" vote on Proposition III will provide the Farmington Public Schools with four more mills for operation without increasing the total tax rate.

It's a matter of simple arithmetic. Supposing your home has a market value of \$20,000 — this is considered average in this community. The State Equalized Valuation on a \$20,000 home would be approximately \$8,000. The law requires that school taxes be levied on state equalized valuation.

The total school tax rate is \$32.50 per \$1,000 State Equalized Valuation. On a \$20,000 home with a state Equalized Valuation of \$8,000, a Farmington taxpayer is paying in 1965

a total school tax of \$260 (\$32.50 x 8). The total tax is now spent for operation and debt in this way:

Operation — \$21.50 per \$1,000, which makes \$172 on a \$20,000 home—\$21.50 x 8) and Debt — \$11.00 per \$1,000, which makes \$88 on a \$20,000 home—(\$11.00 x 8) for a total of \$32.50 per \$1,000, which makes a total of \$260 on a \$20,000 home—(\$32.50 x 8).

As the following figures show, the proposed tax rate after approval of Propositions I, II and III on the same average \$20,000 home will not change the total tax rate. Operation — \$25.50 per \$1,000, which makes \$204 on a \$20,000 home—(\$25.50 x 8) and Debt — \$7.00 per \$1,000, which makes \$56 on a \$20,000 home—(\$7.00 x 8) for a total of \$32.50 per \$1,000, which makes a total of \$260 on a \$20,000 home—(\$32.50 x 8).

THIS IS THE SAME as the existing total tax rate. What it provides for is an exchange of \$4.00 per \$1,000 from debt retirement for \$4.00 per \$1,000 for operation.

The effect of lowering the debt rate from \$11.00 to \$7.00 would be to extend over a longer period of years the payment on the bond issue. The school district has been assured by experts in school bonding and finance that this action is financially sound and necessary in a rapidly growing school district where increased operating funds are so urgently needed.

This is illustrated by the fact that the average tax rate for debt in all the school districts in Michigan is just over \$9.00 per \$1,000. "Our people will still be making a valiant effort to meet the rapidly growing needs of the district by paying a tax rate of \$7.00 per \$1,000 for debt," says Supt. G. V. Harrison.

## Public Letterbox

To the Editor:

Having waged and won the battle to have our architectural plan for the new Farmington Town Hall, Farmingtonians settled back in the comforting reassurance that the Masons would "restore" the old town hall to its former dignity. Quite obviously, this was a gross deception on the part of the Masonic Brothers for, in its present state of restoration, the casual observer would hardly recognize the building as an example of 1870 Victorian-Renaissance architecture.

The first "improvement" — a poorly designed portico tacked on the building's east end — was the first step in a program of spoliation that has become attuned to the current trend toward the "colonial look." After all, if it's right for Washington D.C., Brookdale Apartments, Kendallwood and Independence Green, it's de rigueur for our Town Hall.

And then the bricklayers went to work and suddenly, there are walls where once there were windows. At least it's the similar shade of brick. Far and away the most arresting aspect of the building's "new look" is the recent coat of sparkling, white paint.

Granted: paint alone, properly applied, can create vast improvement when used with taste and discretion but when a whole roof-top full of dormer windows suddenly turns opaque white, there is an obvious violation of a promise to "restore."

In conclusion, I suggest that the Masons re-evaluate their restoration plans before they completely disguise that which so many have labored to save.

Thank you,  
David Sidwell

City of Farmington  
Farmington, Michigan  
Attention: Mr. John Dinsan  
and City Councilmen

Genlemen: My sincere "thanks" to you and your planning commission for a very thorough presentation regarding the annexation proposal.

As you know, yours was the only detailed written presentation that could have been considered. I wish that the township had presented their proposal, in writing, so the voters could have made a more accurate evaluation.

The citizens of the City of Farmington should be very proud of their government officials for the forthright approach in answering the questions of those petitioning for annexation.

You should be commended, regardless of the outcome, for a position well stated, a job well done and for exemplifying the integrity in public officials that is so often hoped for in today's society.

Yours truly,  
Robert G. Chesley

Farmington, Mich.  
November 6, 1965

To the Editor:

The members of the American Association of University Women of the Farmington Branch support all three of the School Proposals that will be presented at the Special Election, November 15, 1965, and urge the registered electors who own property in the School District to cast their votes.

Sincerely,  
Velma N. Kitzredge  
Corresponding Secretary

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