

# The Farmington

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# State To Ponder School Tax Cut

## Agency Says Levy Enough To Pay Debt

The Michigan Municipal Finance Commission may decide Tuesday whether Farmington School District property owners will get a tax cut.

The issue is whether it's legal and financially proper for the Farmington School Board to levy more than absolutely necessary to pay the principal and interest on its bonded debt.

School district officers last Tuesday argued in Lansing for permission to levy nine mills (\$9 per \$1,000 of state equalized valuation).

State officials say it really needs to levy only 3.9 mills to meet its obligations.

Supt. Roderick J. Smith said he thought the Farmington delegation had made a good case and was hopeful that the three-man MMFC, watchdog over local finances, would rule in the school district's favor.

The local school board must set a tax rate by the second week of August so that the city and township which the school district overlaps may set up the administrative machinery to collect school taxes in December.

Here is the background:

When Farmington voters approved a four-mill tax increase for operations a few years ago, the board intended to raise the operating rate one mill a year and reduce the debt retirement rate the same amount in order to keep the total levy at 32.4 mills.

The board levied 11 mills in 1965-66, then 10 mills in 1966-67, and apparently nine mills in 1967-68, the current fiscal year.

THE ATTORNEY general's staff, however, argued that the local district had no legal authority to levy more than it.

The session will be held in the Novi Village Hall on Novi Rd., just south of Grand River. The formal rezoning order includes two parcels for rezoning to commercial and apartments.

Presently the land is zoned for small farms.

The corner parcel of about 75 acres will include an office center, a professional building, a motel, regional offices and a community center.

The other 25-acre piece would include apartments and a recreational area.

Proponents of the development are Richard Gabel, a real estate man from Southfield, and Mr. and Mrs. William Walker, Jr., owners of the property.

## Contract Talks On Again

Contract negotiations between the Farmington Education Association and the Farmington Schools opened again last week following a 16-day lay-off.

The time lapse was due to a mutual agreement on the part of the two teams for vacation.

Members of the FEA team had attended the NEA national convention the week of July 3, while the Board's team had asked for the two-week period.

NEGOTIATING sessions were scheduled for two evenings last week and will be held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings until a contract is signed.

A master contract must be signed by Sept. 5 when the teachers are due to report back to the schools. Just before the beginning of the summer recess the FEA members adopted a resolution asserting that they would not work in the fall without a contract.

The two teams are reportedly far apart on some major issues.

These include the salary and fringe benefit package, sick and personal leave for the teachers, jury duty, working conditions involving starting and quitting times, the length of the school day and the use of the telephone, along with Board policies.

The FEA representatives are also seeking a financial responsibility clause to the contract. This would mean that all the teachers would be required to pay dues to the organization. The teachers, however, will not be required to formally join the FEA.

The FEA says that this provision is necessary in order to meet its expenses.

The teachers also seek arbitration as a part of the regular grievance procedure.

MAJOR SALARY gains sought by the teachers include a schedule of 10 or fewer steps over the same period. The current schedule provides for 13 steps over 15 years.

Teachers are also seeking increased salaries at the upper end of the scale and have long contended that the experienced teacher can not afford to stay in the district.

Expenses for the summer negotiations of the FEA team are being paid for by a \$10 donation on the part of more than 300 FEA members. This covers the office cost, salary for the attorney and a small stipend for each FEA team member.

The first of two special Farmington Founders Festival & Centennial sections published by The Farmington Enterprise & Observer is included in today's paper.

Included in the section is a complete schedule of the Festival events, photo coverage from past Festivals, and information about the special activities.

The second section will be published with Wednesday's copy of The Farmington Enterprise & Observer.



THIS IS THE rush hour jam at I-696 and Orchard Lake in Farmington Township. On the night this photo was taken the traffic was lighter than usual as traffic often backs up on Orchard Lake across the bridge over the expressway. The Farmington Township Board has registered a formal protest

about the traffic jams in both Lansing and Washington. Supervisor Curt Hall warned the Board, however, not to expect much action on obtaining another expressway exit in the Township and warned that the protest would be "stuck in a file."



THIS IS THE VIEW as a motorist exits from the I-696 expressway at Orchard Lake Rd. The only expressway exit in the Township, commuter traffic backs up during the rush hours at

this point. Part of the problem is the fact that many motorists exiting wish to make left turns at 12 Mile Rd. and the southbound traffic on Orchard Lake slows down this process.

## ON ROADS:

# Ban Together For Action

A small, but militant, faction of the Farmington Citizens Advisory Council to the Office of Economic Opportunity met Tuesday night at William Grace

School to discuss mutual problems, all centering on road conditions. Set up as a road committee, the group plans positive action

to get better roads in the southeastern part of the township. As committee co-chairman, Wes Smith, 2017 Cass, put it, "we're banded together and will continue to be until we reach satisfaction with Oakland County road officials."

Committee chairman is Clifford Antia, 21294 Cass. Fourteen local residents attended the meeting. They live on Colgate, Roosevelt, Purdue, Sunnydale, Fend, Edmonston and Cass.

THEIR COMPLAINTS ranged from roads below county specifications, potholes on roads during spring thaws, bad surfaces to stagnant water standing in ditches which they claim the county doesn't clean.

Each resident took home a report to be filled out listing road conditions. Each resident, block by block, will be asked to sign one. Smith says the township has been covered with these from Nine Mile to Eight Mile and Halsted to I-696.

He plans to present the reports to State Senate Democratic Leader Raymond Dezeloni at the earliest opportunity. He says that Dezeloni will bring pressure to bear on the county road commission. Dezeloni does not, however, represent the district.

EACH CITIZEN was also directed by Advisory Council co-chairman, Vivian L. Smith, 20550 Sunnydale, to write a letter to road commission officials signed by name and the official designation, "member of the Farmington Citizens Advisory Council road committee."

Smith further suggested that those residents concerned about stagnant water in ditches must write of it to the state Water

Purification Board. Said Smith, "If they get 30 or 30 samples of that green sludge, believe me, you'll hear from them."

The council currently is conducting a voter registration drive and has recently registered 15 new voters.

## Planners Set Four Hearings

Farmington Township Planners will conduct four separate public hearings at their monthly session Thursday, July 27. The meeting begins at 8 p.m. in the O.E. Dunkel Junior High School on 12 Mile Rd.

The hearing will concern: A rezoning request by George and Thomas Duke to change zoning on slightly more than 25 acres just north of the I-696 expressway from residential to office. The parcel lies between the Forrester Estates Subdivision and the Expressway.

The proposed ordinance amendment on the parking, sales and rental of motor bikes.

Addition to the ordinances about a new classification of B-4, Planned General Business Districts, and

The necessary rezoning of land to allow for an enlargement of the parking lot at the U.S. Tool and Cutter Company. U.S. Tool is located on Orchard Lake Rd. just south of 13 Mile Rd.

IN OTHER business, the Commission will:

Make a preliminary review of a rezoning request for additional parking facilities in the Grand River Homes Subdivision.

Take the first look at a request for apartments on Eight Mile Rd. between Goldsmith and Metroview Rds.

Hear a report from Planning Consultant Charles Lemay on the requirements made for acceleration and deceleration lanes and passing lanes.

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# Accident Injures Three Teens

Three teen-agers were injured July 18 in an accident at the corner of Northwestern Highway and Middle Bell Rd.

Taken to Botsford General Hospital were:

\*Roger A. Mahmeister, 17, of Detroit.

\*Kathy Rosales, 17, of Detroit.

\*Denise Rosales, 12, of Detroit.

Mahmeister and Kathy were treated at the hospital's outpatient clinic and released, while Denise was listed in "very good" condition at press time.

According to the township police, Mahmeister was driving an auto northwest on Northwestern when it struck a vehicle driven by George D. Legge, 48, of 32017 Tarryton, Farmington.

Legge, who was not injured in the accident, told police that he had stopped for the traffic light on Middle Bell and was the second person back from the light.

Legge said that he started

through the intersection after the first auto when Mahmeister struck his vehicle.

Mahmeister told police that the light on Northwestern was green.

Township police ticketed Mahmeister for running a red light.



THREE TEENAGERS were injured while riding in the auto in the foreground in an accident July 18 at Northwestern and Middle Bell. Township Police ticketed the driver of the auto with running a red light. The other driver, George D. Legge, was not injured.