

School Budget Hearing Set

The Farmington school district's budget has gone through a series of traumas in the past year, including cuts of \$1.5 million and three voter rejections of an additional 3.5 mills.

But now it appears state aid and an increased state equalized valuation (SEV) have restored the budget to a little more than its level two years ago and a little less than

it would have been had the millage passed.

BUSINESS MANAGER William Prisk is readying a \$17 million budget for a public hearing Aug. 29. He said copies will be available to the public after Aug. 15.

Prisk said the district's SEV, the tax base, taxes, increased by 7 million this year, increasing the budget "a

couple hundred thousand dollars" because state aid decreases proportionately as SEV increases.

The district recently got word it would receive an additional \$750,000 in state aid, but Prisk is skeptical about how much of it will be delivered.

The state cut back on announced payments as the

fiscal year drew to a close in 1971 and 1972.

"Right now I'm trying to come to a conclusion on how much of this money we can plan on," said Prisk.

Despite cutbacks of \$1.5 million last year, the district ended the year about \$300,000 in the black, spending \$15.5 million of its \$15.8 million budget. Prisk said the figures are not finalized.

CUTBACKS REDUCED extracurricular activities, field trips, athletics, maintenance and library services. Many teachers were laid off.

A preliminary budget of \$17.5 million which anticipated \$1.2 million from a 3.5 mill increase, was drawn up in March, but residents rejected the millage by a narrow margin in April.

A new preliminary budget of \$16.6 million was presented in June, reflecting the loss of the millage and the increase in SEV.

Prisk predicts a higher turnout at this year's hearing.

"I've been here four years and I could count on both hands the number of people who have come to the budget hearings," he said. "One year only one person came."

He said public attendance has increased at regular board meetings lately, and he expects about 25 people at this year's hearing.



CROWLEY'S OPENING -- A new name went on the shopping center at 12 Mile and Farmington Rd. in Farmington Township when Crowley's opened their new store on the site.

From left: LeRoy King, store manager; Rick Verriest, assistant manager; Observer Newspapers Publisher Phil Power, and Crowley President Robert Winkler. (Evert photo)

Airman Honored

Steven B. Pierdon, 22, 29784 Foxgrove, received the 1972 "outstanding airman of the year" award for the Michigan Air National Guard's 127th Tactical Fighter Group's Tactical Air Command Hospital at a special group formation at the close of their annual two-week encampment at Selfridge Air National Guard Base.

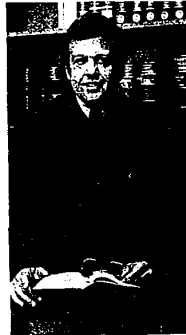
Pierdon, an airman first class in the organization, has been a member of the Air National Guard for less than a year. His responsibilities in the hospital include the ordering and distribution of hospital supplies.

A graduate of North Farmington High School, Pierdon is attending Michigan State University. He is employed by Steelcrete as a truck driver.

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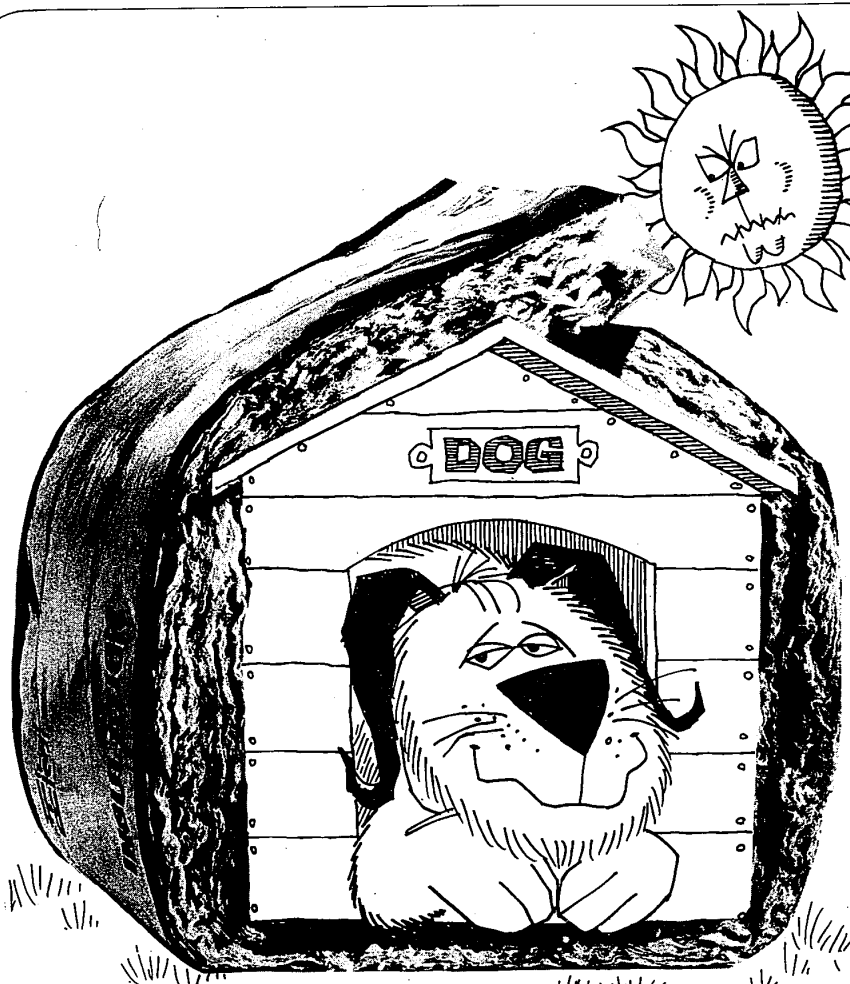
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