

Light voter turnout expected Monday

FARMINGTON—Perhaps 13 per cent of the Farmington school district's eligible voters will cast their ballots in the June 9 school board election.

Based on the results of previous elections which didn't include mailage issues, officials predict Monday's turnout will be significantly lower than the April 29 special election.

On that date, nearly 60 per cent of the registered voters cast ballots.

They approved a four-voll increase for the school district.

Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. in each of the four voting precincts.

Among the candidates is the incumbent, Ann Rodewig. Mrs. Rodewig successfully ran for the position last year, which was left vacant after a board member's resignation.

George Bowman was also a candidate in last year's election. He was unsuccessful in his bid for one of two four-year posts, finishing third behind William Gravus and Mrs. Anne Straly.

An educator, Bowman is a student teacher placement coordinator for Central Michigan University and has lived in the area four years. He would like to see less communication between the audience and board of meetings, and more among the board members themselves.

A lawyer, Howard Schwartz places emphasis on his knowledge of business and finance. He is a graduate of Harvard Law School, has a BA in economics and was a part-time faculty member of the Wayne State University School of Business.

Schwartz would like to curb what he sees as a board tendency to become involved in administrative matters rather than the policy-making.

Margaret Wright is a former elementary school teacher who would like to see more citizen representation at board meetings. But if the people can't come to the board, she'd bring the board to the people via newsletters.

She criticizes the present board for using "big words to intimidate people."

JACQUELINE HILL is a mother of six who has lived in the area for a year and a half. To make up for her unfamiliarity with the district, she has read the minutes of all board meetings from 1979.

She praises the board for its encouragement of citizen input at its meetings, but thinks the district is educating children below par.

Michael Shipce at 18 is the youngest candidate for the board. He is a student at Wayne State University and was graduated from Hillman High School last year.

He began his campaign early, and was the first candidate to file for the position.

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Hills budget reflects accounting changes

FARMINGTON HILLS—A budget up more than \$1.3 million, mainly because of bookkeeping changes, will be considered for adoption next week by the Farmington Hills City Council.

The \$5.3 million budget includes no new personnel or programs, city manager George Majoros said, except for two police cadets. Other employees have been added through federal jobs programs, however.

The jump from last year's \$4 million budget represents a "slightly different method of bookkeeping," Majoros said.

Previous budgets have several categories where only net costs were included. Now, income is shown on the revenue side of the budget and expenses on the other side, even though the net might differ only slightly.

The major change in bookkeeping, the city manager said, comes in highway tax payments from the state.

The total of \$5.34 million represents a "very, very tight balance," Majoros said. It was a struggle to maintain the current six mill tax and still provide services, he added.

ON THE REVENUE side of the budget, local property tax income will

increase more than \$300,000, the budget predicts. Majoros said the increase is "Mainly based on an increase of assessed valuation of approximately \$51 million."

The total income from property taxes is \$2,490,000.

Income from federal grants will increase more than \$200,000, to \$251,000. Included are grants to hire high school summer help, several temporary employees, employees under the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA) and a building code inspector. Another part of a federal grant will be used for public water and sewers in southeastern Farmington Hills.

A highway safety grant which Farmington Hills has applied for might bring as much as \$36,000, Majoros said.

State shared revenue, the second largest total income category at \$1.15 million, will be up more than \$200,000, Majoros said. Farmington Hills share of state sales and incomes taxes has held up well despite the sluggish economy, Majoros said, because of a change in the formula used to distribute the money. When Farmington

Hills became a city, it qualified under a different formula.

Interest on Farmington Hill's \$1.3 million unexpended fund balances and other interest will amount to \$22,000 next year. Majoros said the city has a "much tighter investment program." Interest will be much higher than last year's budget but only slightly more than the actual amount received in interest this year.

THE EXPENDITURE side of the budget makes comparisons with last year difficult because of changes in categories. Highlights include \$51,000 more in local funds for the additional judge added to the 47th District Court; \$53,000 more, for a total of \$403,000, for the Farmington District Library; \$14,000 more for the corporation council, an increase to \$58,000, and an increase of \$200,000 for the police department to \$1.76 million.

Majoros told councilmen at a public hearing on the budget that "Generally, every department will be running on the same number of personnel" except for three positions in the police department.

Other increases reflect the in-



10,000 pledges
The Farmington Jaycees "Walk for Farmington" amassed an estimated 10,000 pledges from 838 youth who took off to cover a 20 mile route Saturday. "There were no casualties and no complaints from the police," said Mike McMartin, a co-chairman of the fund raising event. "The food was a little slow, but all in all a safe and good walk." Pledged money from the walk will now be collected and distributed to several local charities.

Judge has idea to clean up vandalism problem

FARMINGTON—Judge Michael Hand, 47th District Court, has a little surprise for youths found guilty of malicious destruction of property (MDOP) on the police logs.

It was the sharp rise in the number of cases in the first four months of this year that prompted the Hand plan of action.

There are 137 MDOP cases this year compared to 85 for the same

time last year in Farmington. Most are for cars driven over lawns which Officer Norman Madison of Farmington calls "a new fad" among teens. The officer says most of the drivers are around 16 or 17. In a few cases, mailboxes are the targets, but mostly it is lawns.

"IN A LOT of subdivisions," said Madison, "there are sloping curbs, so

they can easily drive up the curb and over the lawn.

Destruction in excess of \$100 constitutes a felony punishable by a prison term or not more than four years, a fine of not over \$2,000 or both. Under \$100, the maximum is 90 days and \$100 or both.

Judge Hand plans to turn the MDOP offenders into a summer weekend work crew.

Explaining that he thinks it does more harm than good to jail such offenders, Judge Hand said, "But, if Junior's gonna pay for it."

Those found guilty in his court will be sentenced to spend every Saturday and Sunday cleaning up local parks and roadsides, plus making full restitution and paying a fine.

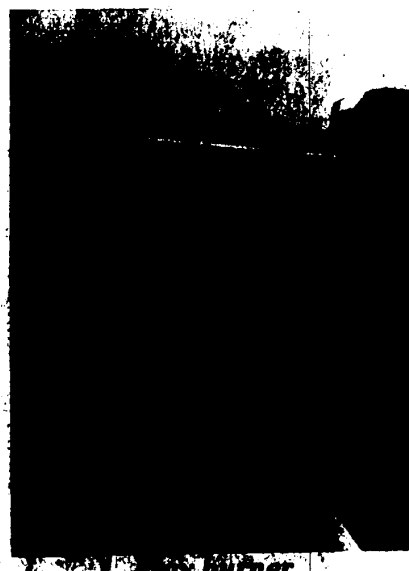
"WE'RE GONNA have the cleanest parks in the county this way, I think I'm gonna get their attention."

Two area youths have already felt the impact of the judge's brand of "let the punishment fit the crime" justice. Caught destroying mailboxes, they were told to pay \$100 fines, make full restitution and write a 3,000 work history of vandalism or serve 30 days in jail.

Along with this went an admonition to do an acceptable paper, not one full of errors.

"I'm reading one of them now, and I've already found nine mistakes."

As it stands now, at least in Judge Hand's court, that fast run over the grass and through the shrubbery could lead to an involuntary job as keeper of the county grounds.



Fire burner
Farmington Hills firemen extinguished a fire which consumed hay in a vacant lot on Lake Park Drive Sunday night. Volunteers from station four fought the smoky blaze. (Photo by Craig Newman)

FAAC service Rapline receives more calls

FARMINGTON—If success can be measured by phone calls, then the Farmington Area Advisory Council's Rapline has been doing well.

Mona Irey, Rapline coordinator, said the service received 600 calls within the last three months.

In response to city councilmen's questions, she said the crisis intervention system was successful because the number of phone calls has increased, which indicates the service is useful.

More than 80 per cent of the calls have taken from 15 minutes to an hour and a half, while most of the rest are informational.

needs are relinquished. Or the individual may attempt to redefine the problem. If these techniques aren't successful, then the person may use emergency coping techniques.

Failure of any or all of these methods will mean unhelpful breakdown.

The crisis center, and Rapline, may intervene at any of these steps, Mrs. Irey said.

They do not give advice, for the caller's good.

First, she said, they often don't want it and would only hang up.

SECONDLY, they are most familiar with their problems and would know more aspects than were available to the volunteer.

And most importantly, if the problem is solved, the caller has been robbed of the success, Mrs. Irey said. If the volunteer's solution is a failure, the caller is free from responsibility.

Therefore, the volunteer's role is usually that of a listener, although he may teach problem solving skills. He can assist the caller in listing priorities, verbalizing the problem and having verbal support to good resolutions.

He might point out consequences not immediately apparent by the caller, Mrs. Irey said.

If referral is needed, the volunteer has the telephone numbers of clinics, lawyers, and counselors in the caller's area.

Volunteers are trained in a 40-hour program which includes empathy

training, "misdiagnosis," human sexuality and value clarification.

After completing the program, volunteers serve a probationary period when they are watched by psychologists associated with Rapline.

"We don't want someone who would be damaged by talking to other people about their problems or someone who would damage others," Mrs. Irey said.

VOLUNTEERS read required material, participate in discussion, take

tests and role play in front of professionals before they are allowed to progress to handling phone calls.

The number of involuntary commitments to institutions are drastically lowered in areas where a crisis intervention center is operating, Mrs. Irey said.

Farmington's Rapline provides services for all ages, and calls have made to the center from as far away as Pennsylvania.

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