

## Two millage proposals on August ballot

The Tuscola County Board of Commissioners Tuesday voted to put two millage proposals on the Aug. 5 primary ballot.

By a 4-3 vote, it approved the request of the Tuscola County Commission on Aging to put a .2 mill, four-year proposal for support of senior citizen activities on the ballot.

Commissioner Royce Russell of Elmwood township was among those voting yes.

The second proposal that will go on the ballot will be 1 mill for five years, with the levy, if approved, to appear on tax bills for the first time in December, 1981.

A half-mill will be for local road bridges and village local streets and the other half-mill for county operating expenses.

Commissioners decided to schedule the vote this year as waiting until 1981 would have required a special election. The senior citizen millage, if approved, will go on tax bills this December.

Also on those tax bills, the present 1-mill levy for bridges will appear for the final time.

The county Road Commission notified the county board it will no longer need the full mill to complete the bridge program, that a half-mill will be adequate.

With county finances getting ever tighter, and in severe trouble should federal revenue sharing funds ever be cut off, commissioners decided to seek an additional half-mill for county operations. The county presently gets 4.2 mills.

The two half-mill requests will be lumped together in a single take-it-or-leave-it proposal.

In Huron county, a question was raised over whether the senior citizen millage vote could be held as part of the Aug. 5 primary election as state law says millage votes must take place during general elections.

A check was made with the State Elections Commission prior to the vote in Tuscola and an assurance was received that Aug. 5 was permissible for the millage votes as primary elections.

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## Some teachers more helpful

# You can learn if you want, new grads say

(First of two parts)

By James Iseler

You can learn if you want to at Cass City High School. However, most teachers will not put in extra time with students if the kids don't want to be taught.

That is the consensus of a number of Cass City seniors when asked about the validity of a high school education here.

"There are some teachers that make you want to learn, you know what I mean," said Sharon Lowe, a 1980 graduate. "But then there are some that figure if you don't get an 'A' fine, but if not they aren't gonna force it (learning) down your throat."

Asked if perhaps students should be made to work harder in high school, she agreed many students, herself included, could have benefited from academic prodding.

"I wish I would have worked harder. Now I do, but I suppose it's a little late," said Sharon of 4965 N. Germania Road, Snover.

Another student agreed, stating the grading system at school was not overly strenuous.

"I have a 3.7 and I hardly do anything," said Becky Hobart, of 4534 Oak Street. "I have homework, sure, but it's really nothing."

Most students asked said



JUST A MINUTE -- First grader Jeremy Stafford seems intent on studying a piece of artwork on display Tuesday at the annual Campbell Elementary School art show. His mother, Colleen Stafford, of 4178 Cass City Road, would like him to look at more than just one.

## One judge for one county or three for two? Commissioners must decide

An issue thought to have been settled two years ago has reappeared.

The legislature last week approved and the governor signed a package of bills to allow the realignment of several circuit, district and probate courts in the state and authorize additional judgeships.

Included was authority to split the present Tuscola-Lapeer circuit into two separate circuits.

Lapeer county would then have two circuit judges and Tuscola one. Presently, three judges serve the two counties.

The issue first appeared two years ago when legislation was introduced to add a third judge to the then overworked two-judge circuit. The Tuscola County Board of Commissioners fought unsuccessfully to have a new single-judge

circuit created here, one reason being so that the county would have its own judge. The two circuit judges then (and now) live in Lapeer county.

That fear was erased, however, when Patrick R. Joslyn, then Tuscola county prosecutor, was elected as the third circuit judge over a Lapeer county opponent. He still lives in Caro.

According to Paul Nagy,

chairman of the Tuscola county board, commissioners continued to make their wishes known since then to area legislators in Lansing that they wanted a judge for Tuscola county.

Thus when the judicial package was introduced this year, Sen. Alvin DeGrow, R-Pigeon, inserted an amendment to split Lapeer and Tuscola counties into separate circuits.

The measure passed the Senate but Rep. Larry Burkhalter, D-Lapeer, was successful in getting it defeated in the House of Representatives.

DeGrow's original measure would have given final authority to split the circuit to the Tuscola county board.

A compromise was reached; that the district will be split only if approved by the boards of commissioners of both Lapeer and Tuscola counties. That was the measure that was signed Friday by Gov. Milliken, having been approved the previous day by the legislature.

If the circuit were split, Judge Joslyn would be the judge for Tuscola county. He told the Chronicle, "The question I have in my mind is whether I can handle the docket."

Although reluctant to outright oppose the proposal, he did mention a judicial study done as part of the original debate two years ago showed the caseload in Tuscola required more than one full-time judge while the caseload in Lapeer needs fewer than two judges. "I suspect Lapeer county will come out in much better shape with two full-time judges."

Problems develop in single judge circuits whenever the judge is away or out due to illness in scheduling a visiting judge, he said, pointing out that he will be attending a judge's conference in Reno, Nev., for a month, something that would be hard to do if he were the lone judge.

The other two judges, Norman A. Baguley and Martin E. Clements, both oppose the splitting of the circuit, which was also their position two years ago.

Nagy pointed out that

DeGrow polled the Tuscola commissioners to make sure they still supported the split circuit before pushing the legislation through.

Before the board votes on the measure, he said he wanted to talk to all of the judges, prosecutor and lawyers about the effect a lone judge in Tuscola would have.

He did feel there would be some advantages, including the need for only one courtroom instead of the present two.

He hadn't seen the final legislation when contacted Monday by the Chronicle but it was his understanding the county commissioners in the two counties have until June 27 to make a decision.

Tuscola commissioners met Tuesday, but only discussed the proposal informally during lunch, according to Commissioner Royce Russell of Elmwood township.

The feeling was, he said, that their counterparts in Lapeer county will oppose the measure. If so, the three-judge, two-county circuit will remain as is.

## Progress on a

# Council was for word on sewage plant

The Cass City Village Council is going to have to wait a little longer for the new sewage plant to rise and the old grain elevators to fall.

A pregnant secretary is part of the reason for the first delay.

The council was informed Tuesday that all is in readiness for the start of the construction on the wastewater treatment plant expansion project except for the final okay of the construction bid and cost breakdown by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The EPA has given its verbal okay, village President Lambert Althaver reported, but the letter giving the official okay, being prepared at the agency's Chicago office, had to be redone because of mistakes. Then the secretary apparently responsible for typing the letter left on maternity leave.

The village has now been informed if it doesn't receive word by Wednesday, June 4, it should call the EPA in Chicago.

Village superintendent Lou LaPonsie reported a pre-construction meeting with the village engineers

and the contractor, H.C. Weber Construction, was held May 20. The contractor said it hopes to have all the concrete work done by December.

Althaver told the council the results of his telephone conversation with James R. Suchodolski, Wickes vice-president for eastern operations, regarding demolition of the firm's old elevators on Vulcan Street.

The council has been after the firm for several months to have the elevators torn down and in March authorized its attorney, Clinton House, to begin condemnation proceedings.

Althaver said his aim was to try to get the structures torn down faster than would take to complete lengthy condemnation proceedings.

According to the village president, Suchodolski first said the hoped for sale of the cleared property to General Telephone had fallen through and that Wickes was turning the property over to a real estate agency for sale, with hope for progress within a month.

Althaver responded that wasn't soon enough. The Wickes executive then con-

tacted his firm's headquarters in California and called the village president back Tuesday to tell him he had received authority to have the demolition bids updated that it obtained several months ago.

Suchodolski then told Althaver he will call back within two weeks to report what progress has been taken.

The village president told council members "I guess I would recommend another 30 days of patience and it will be underway."

### RAILROAD CROSSING

A letter has been received from the Grand Trunk Railroad offering under a new state law to pay half the cost of erecting stop or yield signs at the Garfield Street crossing, with the village to pay the other half.

The letter also said that the cost of installing automatic flasher lights is about \$80,000.

Althaver questioned whether installation of the signs might legally absolve the railroad of liability in case of a car-train accident.

He directed the public safety committee to work with attorney House in examining the railroad's proposal. Stopping at the crossing presently isn't required.

### OTHER ITEMS

The council approved changes to two village ordinances, both to take effect June 17.

One puts the village ordinance in accordance with state law by raising the stated allowable drinking age from 18 to 21.

The other applies the junk car ordinance to the entire village. The present prohibition on storage of inoperable or partly dismantled motor vehicles applies only to areas zoned residential.

The estimate of Keck Consulting Services, Inc., of East Lansing, of \$11,762 for its hydrogeological study of the Cass City landfill, including eight test wells, was approved. Its proposed work plan must be submitted to the state Department of Natural Resources by Sept. 1 and the final study by some time in 1981.

Aim of the state required study is to determine if groundwaters are being polluted from the landfill. The village won't have to pay for the study until 1981.

The swimming pool will be open Saturday and Sunday afternoons, weather permitting, until school is out, when daily hours will commence.

The art and crafts program will start June 11.

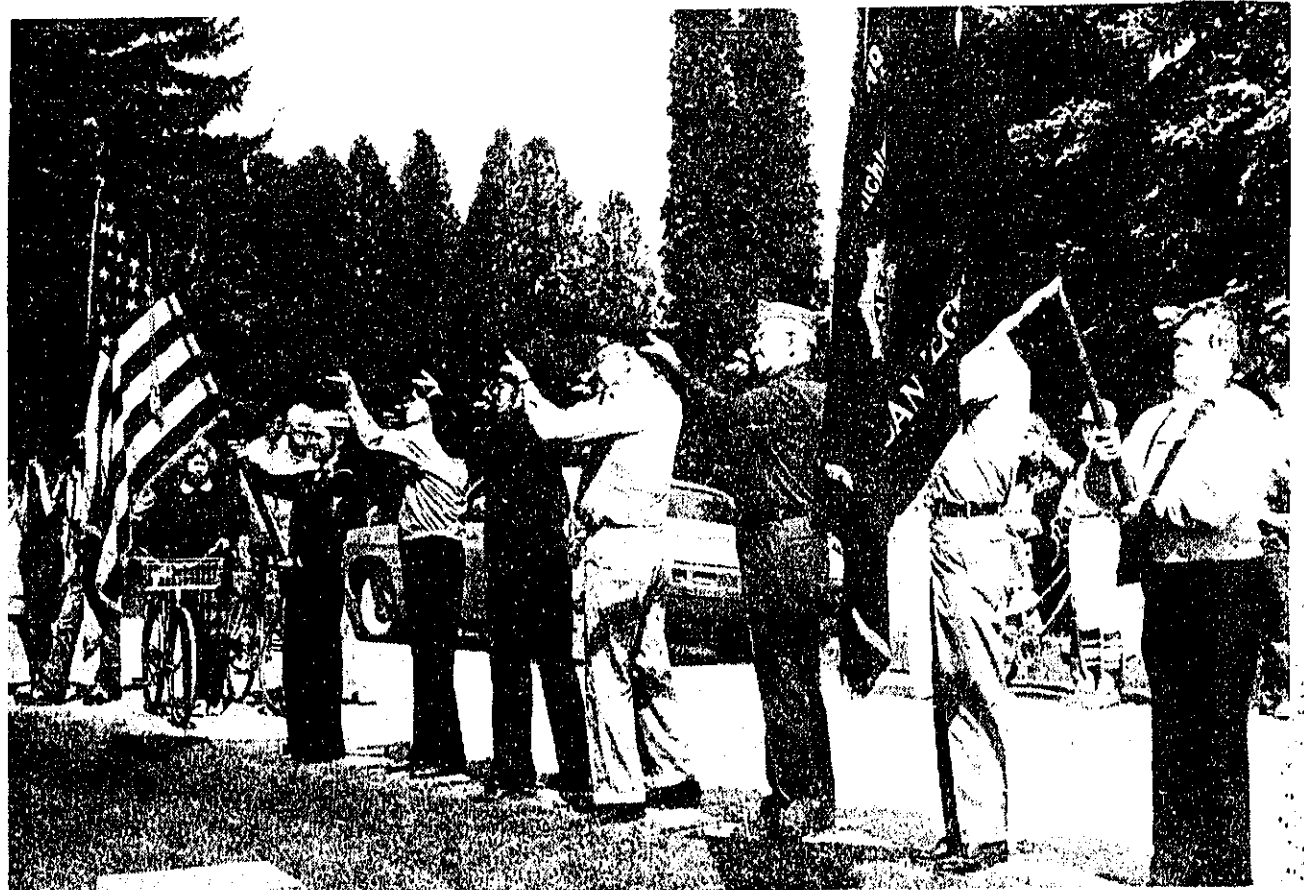
Cost of installing a drinking fountain by the softball diamonds proved excessive, almost \$1,000, so instead a water faucet will be installed.

Action will commence on changing the present zoning ordinance prohibiting new apartments downtown in buildings that didn't have them when the zoning ordinance went into effect.

The Elkland-Novesta United Way has contributed \$1,500 to the village park and recreation program, up from \$1,000 last year.

The finance committee was given authority to make preliminary application for workers' compensation insurance through the Michigan Municipal League which should save the village 20 percent over its present premium of about \$15,000 annually to Auto Owners Insurance.

One effect of having a fifth policeman on the village force is more parking meter tickets being written. The four-man force wrote 39 overtime parking citations in April, 1979; 152 in April of this year.



THE THREE VOLLEY SALUTE was fired by representatives of the various branches of the Armed Forces at the Memorial Day service at Elkland township cemetery Monday to honor the war dead. (Other pictures, page 15).