

Clarenceville postpones tax vote three weeks

BY MARIE CHESTNEY
STAFF WRITER

Clarenceville Public Schools' September millage election, designed to help raise a \$228,000 shortfall, will be postponed until Oct. 4.

The original Sept. 13 date for a Headlee Amendment waiver has been scratched because of its proximity to Livonia's Sept. 14 primary election.

The Headlee Amendment to

EDUCATION

the Michigan Constitution requires districts to roll back millage rates to offset property assessment increases that outpace inflation.

The waiver, if passed, will allow the district to levy the total authorized millage for the district, 41.33 mills. The millage saved

would generate \$228,000 for the district.

The Clarenceville Board of Education has not yet determined how programs will be cut if the waiver is not approved.

"We'll make those decisions after the election," said Ralph Skrocki, finance director.

Clarenceville recently recalled eight laid-off teachers who could lose their jobs once again in mid-year if residents reject the waiver.

These recalls are for one semester only.

"Their second semester hinges on the millage and on the state aid bill," Skrocki said.

The \$228,000 shortfall is projected for the end of the 1993-94 school year. This deficit could climb even higher once the state enacts its 1993-94 school aid bill.

Passage of the waiver means that a resident with a home assessed at \$40,000 would pay an

extra \$40 per year in property taxes.

Under the Headlee Amendment, districts cannot collect property tax income on assessments which have increased greater than the cost of living. To collect the full millage rate, voters must waive the Headlee rollback requirement. If the waiver request is defeated, the millage is reduced so the increase in property tax income does not exceed inflation.

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Connector from page 1A

now: The interchange between M-5 and I-96 east of Haggerty, the interchange at Haggerty and 12 Mile, and the boulevard work on 12 Mile.

Maki, MDOT project development engineer who has been working on the connector for two years, said the project got off to a slow start.

"The weather (in the fall of 1992) just blasted us," he said. "But it's gone very smoothly this year."

■ 'This will have a tremendous impact on access to the mile roads.'

Hank Lotoszinski
MDOT planner

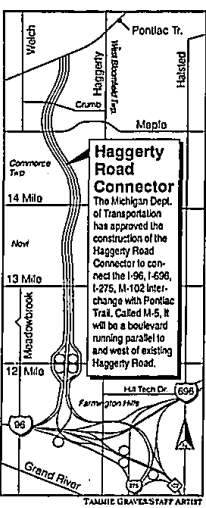
year, especially for a project this size. We have good contractors. Maki said although federal funding for roads is "way down," the connector has high priority, and will likely be completed as planned — and on time.

Hank Lotoszinski, a planner for MDOT, said the project will provide relief from a lot of bottlenecks that came about because of the continued growth of the northwestern suburbs and areas beyond.

"This will have a tremendous impact on access to the mile roads," Lotoszinski said. "I think it will make a big difference especially at 275 and Eight Mile."

Lotoszinski said the project is part of a long-range regional plan to provide access to major highways in the area. The completion of the eight-lane I-696 link to I-96 in 1989, the renovated interchange from I-696 and Orchard Lake Road and the M-5 project are three of the five original projects planned in 1986, he said.

A planned interchange at Drake Road fell through because property could not be obtained and the



proposed Tyler interchange at I-696 east of Inkster in Southfield is still under study, he said.

Demjanjuk from page 1A

Demjanjuk's citizenship because he hid his past as a guard at the Nazi-controlled death camp.

Interest in the Demjanjuk case was so intense, the rabbi said that the official who led the efforts to expel Demjanjuk was invited to speak at part of the memorial center's guest lecture series.

Alan Ryan — then director of the Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations — generated extensive interest when he spoke about extraditing Demjanjuk here in 1986.

Ryan's appearance also triggered vitriolic debate with Pat Buchanan.

In a highly publicized 1988 trial, Demjanjuk was convicted of war crimes and crimes against humanity. He was sentenced to death.

Problems arose, however, when evidence surfaced casting doubt on Demjanjuk's being Ivan the Terrible. In 1991-92 documents obtained from Russia quoted former Treblinka guards who identified another person as Ivan.

A federal judge reviewing the case concluded the U.S. un-

■ 'There's no doubt Demjanjuk was a guard. But I knew if there was doubt about him being Ivan the Terrible, the court would set him free.'

Charles H. Rosenzweig
Holocaust Memorial Center founder

intentionally withheld evidence that cast "substantial doubt" on whether Demjanjuk was Ivan — despite death camp survivor who positively identified him as the sadistic Ivan.

The judge said there was sufficient evidence Demjanjuk was a prison guard, and he recommended the case be closed.

While the Demjanjuk trial seemed to present a moral dilemma in Israel, Rosenzweig dismissed suggestions the Israeli judicial system itself was on trial. "I followed it very closely," the rabbi said.

'Court was fair'

Prosecutors were scrupulous about being fair, he said.

Even when serious doubts were raised about Demjanjuk's true identity — and role as a prison guard — Rosenzweig remained confident the Israeli

court would be just and impartial.

"There's no doubt Demjanjuk was a guard," Rosenzweig said. "But I knew if there was doubt about him being Ivan the Terrible, the court would set him free."

Being a prison guard was a crime in itself, the rabbi said. "They (guards) volunteered for that job. They didn't have to do it."

"What kind of human being could be a guard and watch day-after-day as women and children were executed in the gas chambers?"

Even with Demjanjuk's acquittal, Rosenzweig said a useful purpose has been served by the trial and subsequent acquittal. "The world had never seen such a crime against humanity. And it's never happened again."

"It would be a terrible thing if

those who committed this crime went unpunished."

Rosenzweig was a small boy in the Polish city of Ostrowiec when the Nazis took over much of Europe and began the systematic eradication of Jews. He lost relatives, including his brother Uziel at Treblinka.

Rosenzweig said he survived by hiding his Jewishness and passing as a Pole, an experience the rabbi still remembers vividly.

Some Poles helped Jews and undoubtedly saved lives, he said. Others sympathized with the Germans, and they reported Jews to the Nazis.

"But the majority of Poles were indifferent to the suffering of the Jews," he said.

Rabbi Y. Kagan of the Lubavitch Center in Farmington Hills said Demjanjuk's acquittal resulted because the court "couldn't be 100 percent sure."

"He was acquitted for lack of evidence," Kagan said. "That's not really a change in attitude. The legal decision doesn't diminish anything. The guy who was there was no angel either."

Park hosts free Adeline performance

A free concert will be offered by the Spirit of Detroit Sweet Adelines at 8 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 4, at Heritage Park on Farmington Road between 10 and 11 Mile roads.

Spirit of Detroit Sweet Adelines is a 90-women chorus. The chorus has six Farmington-area residents: Jean Ald, Kathy Davenport, Betty O'Connor, Mary Smith, Elizabeth Tallent and Chris Tandon.

A variety of music — new, old and patriotic — will be featured. Spirit of Detroit is conducting a membership drive. Interested persons should visit a rehearsal at 7 p.m. any Tuesday in the VFW Hall, I-96 and Inkster, Redford Township. For information, call 534-4468.

Spirit of Detroit will compete in an international competition in Reno, Nev., in November. On Sept. 15, the group will sing the national anthem at Tiger Stadium.

Open housing group holds family picnic

The Oakland County Center for Open Housing will hold its family volunteer picnic 2 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 8, at the Civic Center Park picnic grounds, 23000 Evergreen Road, Southfield.

A fun day is planned, including hot dogs, drinks and ice cream, games, awards, and a special clown, 007.

The event celebrates the culmination of this year's family volunteer program, and recognizes those volunteers who are interested in furthering racial integration.

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