

Millage election set

By TIM RICHARD

Schoolcraft College will try again Feb. 27 for a property tax rate increase, but this time there will be some changes.

"It will ask one mill for five years (1978-82) instead of an indefinite term. "The dream of a 2,000-seat fine arts auditorium will almost surely have to be sacrificed, a poll shows, if public support is to be won.

ALTHOUGH millages have been rejected in regular June elections of 1976 and 77, trustees think they have an improved chance by tailoring their offering to what their poll shows the community wants.

They were pleasantly startled to learn 67 per cent agree or strongly agree it's a "strong academic school" while only 14 per cent disagree.

The poll also shows 85-5 per cent agreement that Schoolcraft is "community oriented." "Community education and vocational-technical programs account most for the two-year college's reputation.

"But the fine arts auditorium is a dead duck," said first-year Trustee Harry Greenleaf, who had emerged as the eight-member board's warmest supporter of the program.

"THE PRELIMINARY conclusions," said President C. Nelson Grote, "are that we learned we have a very good image, very favorable.

"We are perceived to be community based and sensitive to the community's needs. That comes through loud and strong.

"We are perceived as having quality

programs. We have a very strong base of support, but they (voters) are cost-conscious," he said. The poll was designed and guided by Lansing political pollster Al Mann.

Volunteers telephoned 329 randomly selected households the week of Nov. 28 in an attempt to learn what people needed in the way of programs and services and what their attitudes were toward the college.

Each questionnaire was designed to take 13 1/2 minutes to complete, but pollsters were surprised that respondents talked for 20 minutes, indicating a high level of interest in the college. Only one person in 25 terminated the answers before the survey was completed, another good sign.

TRUSTEES WERE unanimous in deciding to hold a special election to seek the millage increase.

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"We haven't won the other kind, Mark," said Trustee Rosina Raymond, who first proposed a limited term millage. "We've been going for the exercise, and we don't need any more exercise."

Pointing to the survey, Greenleaf said, "We haven't been getting across the message we need."

Trustees and Kenneth Lindner, vice

president for finance, agreed the general message would be "Protect your investment," a reference to the major maintenance and equipment replacement that the new money would be used for.

If approved, one mill (\$1 per \$1,000 of state equalized valuation) will yield \$2 million the first year when spread across the five K-12 member districts—Clarenceville, Garden City, Livonia, Northville and Plymouth-Canton.

"PART OF the reason we've lost," said board Chairman Paul Kadish, "is that we haven't had the opportunity to face the voters by ourselves." He referred to the fact that Schoolcraft's millage proposals have always shared the ballot with local K-12 proposals.

"I hope any other district considering a millage would give us the same consideration that we have given them," said Kadish, recalling that Schoolcraft held back on asking for millage in past years so that K-12 districts would have a better chance.

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Robbery attempt foiled by phone

A young man, described as between 17 and 18 years old, attempted to hold up Grimes Cleaners, 38257 West Ten Mile, Farmington Hills, last Tuesday by threatening the clerk with a crow bar.

The would-be robber left the office, according to Hills police, when the woman attendant screamed into the near-by office phone. She had been talking on the phone before stopping to wait on the man.

The man entered the cleaners with a jacket over one arm and appeared to

employ Hester Fuqua, 53, to be bringing the coat in for cleaning, police said.

She told police when she asked the man for his name he told her to give him the money or he would kill her.

As the man walked around the counter and began to shake a crow bar at her, she began to scream, police said.

The person on the other end of the phone line heard the screams and called police but the man was gone before police arrived on the scene.

A.R.C. trains babysitters

The American Red Cross now offers a course for would be babysitters.

In the Mother's Aide course, young people 11 to 15 years old learn to properly care for children under their supervision. Students learn how to diaper and feed babies, how to amuse small children and how to handle emergencies.

Taught by trained volunteers, the classes are held at Red Cross offices, community centers and public libraries throughout the tri-county area.

Representatives from fire and police departments are invited to participate in the sessions to discuss home and fire safety and mouth-to-mouth respiration.

Volunteers are also needed to teach the course. To be eligible, volunteers must be 17 years or older and complete an instructor-training course.

For more information about the Mother's Aide classes, call Red Cross Nursing and Health Programs, 833-4440, ext. 261.

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