

Headlee leads battle against tax increases

By JACKIE KLEIN

"No way does Lansing recognize the new and staggering load dumped on Michigan taxpayers again this year in the name of state equalized property taxes."

The spokesman, Richard Headlee, is chairman of Taxpayers United for Tax Limitation. He tagged Gov. William Milliken's recent economic annual report to the legislature "the best reason for the people of Michigan to sign petitions and vote in November for a limit on state government spending."

The immediate goal of the group, Headlee said, is to get 266,000 voter signatures for a constitutional amendment linking taxes directly to personal income of Michigan residents.

"The people of Michigan are fed up with state government's inability to understand that our sagging economic growth is directly tied to uncontrolled state spending and taxation," Headlee maintained. "The tax limitation amendment to be voted on in November will correct this."

The proposal calls for limiting the total from all forms of state and local



RICHARD H. HEADLEE

taxes to their current ratio to the total personal income of state taxpayers.

HEADLEE, past president of U.S. Chamber of Commerce and now presi-

dent of the Alexander Hamilton Life Insurance Co. of America in Farmington Hills, said the tax reform group is statewide and nonpartisan.

Its leadership, he said, includes factory workers, housewives, farmers, businessmen and women, retirees and organized housewives who are determined to "return economic growth to Michigan by limiting state spending and taxing."

"Michigan's track record of taxation and government spending over the past 10 years has increased at a faster rate than the ability of people to pay," Headlee said.

"Personal income is up by 140 per cent, and that's great. But during the same 10 years, state government spending has increased by 225 per cent—nearly twice as fast as you and I have been earning it. That's not so great."

In the past 10 years, Headlee said, Michigan's population has increased by 6.7 per cent. The number of state employees, he maintained, has skyrocketed more than 30 per cent. There

were 8.6 million Michigan residents in 1967 and 9.2 million today, according to Headlee. Ten years ago, he claimed there were 42,000 employees on the Michigan payroll. According to Headlee, that has increased to 65,000 today. While state spending during the past 10 years was increasing 225 per cent compared to the 140 per cent increase in personal income, State of Michigan income taxes were going up 730 per cent.

LOCAL TAXES have risen 394 per cent during the same period, Headlee contended. Welfare spending in Michigan is up 506 per cent, five times the level 10 years ago, he added.

"Meanwhile, Michigan lost five per cent of the production jobs in the pri-

ivate sector," Headlee said. "These are the jobs which fuel Michigan's economy and generate the money to feed our families and educate our children."

Milliken's economic report, Headlee claimed, verifies Michigan's economic growth is stymied by the lack of new production jobs in Michigan until a tax limitation is included in the state constitution. Detroit continues to struggle with a 37 per cent unemployment rate among young persons, he said.

An independent national study, Headlee said, recently ranked Michigan's business climate among the seven worst states in the nation.

"Inflation, increasing state and property taxes and unrestricted state spending also limit the ability of Mich-

igan's citizens to plan their futures," Headlee said. "How can we budget our households when the state, almost at will, keeps taking away from us a bigger percentage of our income to finance more and more state spending? Neither can business or farmers or anybody in Michigan plan ahead until we have a limit on taxes."

"I heard about state budget director Gerald Miller's statement that he will communicate with the legislature about holding down state spending until, and if, Congress approves a \$25 billion tax cut. That reminds us of the fox guarding the chicken coop and it can't provide benefits to taxpayers."

"Remember, 'Hell hath no fury like a verted interest parading as a moral principle.'"

Trustees contemplate re-election options

By LYNN ORR

After four years as members of the Farmington Board of Education, President William Gravius and Trustee Anne Struble are face-to-face with the question of seeking reelection.

And they both admit to fence-sitting. "I'm considering it," Gravius said; and Ms. Struble picked up a petition for candidacy last week. But neither trustee is willing to announce a decision yet.

Both agree they'll reach a decision soon, probably at least two or three weeks before the April 10 deadline for filing petitions.

But the decision is difficult, they admit.

The amount of time required by the job as well as personal commitments to career and family, expressed satis-

faction with the current functioning of the board and apprehension about the lack of qualified candidates are the factors each will weigh, they said.

Weather may even be a key for Ms. Struble.

"I've had a rough winter in my personal life," she said, noting general malaise rather than board problems. Her energy will have a lot to do with the decision to seek reelection, she said.

"If MY personal satisfaction rekindles, that will probably make the decision final," she said. Accumulating 26 signatures needed for filing will give her a chance to get out into the community, she added.

But often feedback from her constituents is slow in coming. "Nobody's at the meetings anymore,

or they leave as soon as a particular agenda item is addressed," she said. "To me, that's an indicator that they're satisfied."

Gravius agrees that a lack of attendance indicates approval of the board and the educational system.

But where are the community members interested in seeking a board seat in the June election? he asked.

"No one's been following what's been going on," he said. "If both Anne and I choose not to run, that much inexperience without background will alter the board."

That's obviously a major consideration for both potential candidates. They stress the board's current cooperation and abilities, as well as an

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Fingertip artistry

Children still do fingerpainting in school, but with a modern flair. Spools of thread and other household objects are used as "brushes" to create new designs. Art in the schools has also taken on some other unfamiliar forms, such as batik and paper-cutting. Even

papier-mache volcanoes come complete with bubbling lava in a dry ice and imagination. See Preston (left) guides students at Brooklands Elementary in the Rochester Community School district. (Staff photo by Doug Bauman)

Petition deadline nears for election

Candidates for two seats on the Farmington School Board must file petitions by 4 p.m. April 10 at the Administrative Offices, 32500 Shawasse.

Seats now held by Anne Struble and William Gravius will be filled in the June 12 election. Neither Ms. Struble nor Gravius have announced intentions to run for office at this time.

All candidates must be 18 years of age or older and residents of the Farmington School District. Petitions require 26 signatures of registered voters.

Petitions are available at the administrative office from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday. Administrative Ass. Scott Bacon is available to assist candidates with information about filing and campaign finance laws.

Both seats are for a four-year term from June, 1978 to June, 1982.

City employee challenges bosses on road assessment

By STEVE BARNABY
Farmington editor

Alex Moiseff is fighting city hall.

Although many residents find it an ordinary circumstance to take on their local government, there is a difference in this case—Moiseff is a city employee.

The 39-year-old department of public services employee is waiting for an answer from the city council after making a presentation at last week's special session. He is protesting a special assessment which has been charged to him and five other residents on Nine Mile at Halstead.

Moiseff maintains that requiring

these residents to fork out funds to pave a major road is a break from city policy and is inequitable to the Nine Mile residents. In previous cases the city has paid for major road paving by a combination of state shared revenues and participation by building developers, according to Moiseff.

Cities divide roads in major and local designation. Local roads are considered to be those in subdivisions. Usually, homeowners participate in paving such roads. Major roads are those used by the general public.

If the city refuses to reconsider the road assessment, Moiseff said he and his neighbors will go to court.

"The establishment of this special assessment district has, in effect, started the subsidy of subdivision developers by city resident homeowners," Moiseff told the council.

"The developers are no longer asked to use the local road standard participation in combination with state shared revenues, but have been encouraged to overwhelm a small group of existing homeowners."

He labeled the action as discriminatory against residents who live south of Eleven Mile, citing five other incidents where major roads have been paved and residents weren't assessed.

"It seems obvious that an unnecessary, unjust and inequitable financial burden is being placed on the small number of Nine Mile and Halstead roads homeowners," he said.

Moiseff lashed out at city officials, saying that during last year's construction season the city charged developers \$20.29 a linear foot of paving on major roads. His assessment will be \$23.70 cents, a 42 per cent increase in paving costs.

"A degree of management ineptness

is implicit with the way costs are fluctuating," he said.

"Either the city prematurely depleted available state shared revenues by undercharging past developers' standard contributions, or the Nine Mile project is cushioned in excess of the value of the paving benefits received from the improvement."

Moiseff warned that if residents are forced to pay for original paving on major roads, they could pay for the extra maintenance needed on high volume roads, as well as paying for resurfacing.

The Nine Mile residents are victims of bad timing, said Moiseff, adding that residents on Fourteen Mile are presently receiving road paving with costs being paid with state revenue.

"To charge one segment of the city and not the other leaves the administration wide open for legitimate criticism. The established major road paving program has locked the city into spreading the cost of major roads over the general population as a general benefit."

"If people north of Eleven Mile receive the benefits of state shared revenues, the people south of Eleven Mile demand the same."

Half day scheduled

Students at North Farmington and Harrison High Schools will be dismissed at 10:40 a.m. March 16 to allow staffs to prepare for upcoming evaluations.

Both high schools are due for North Central Accreditation evaluations next fall, said NFHS principal Clay Graham. High schools are evaluated every seven years for accreditation.

Hills agenda ready for tonight's meet

The following is the agenda of the Farmington Hills City scheduled for 7:30 tonight at city hall, 31555 Eleven Mile, corner of Orchard Lake.

•Enactment of considering rezoning property side of Orchard Lake Road between Twelve and Thirteen Mile, from light industrial to business and parking use.

•Consideration of enactment of an ordinance to prohibit parking in front of mail boxes.

•Consideration of a resolution to amend the 1977-78 general fund budget.

•Consideration of reserving unappropriated fund balance for road equipment replacement.

•Consideration of establishing a special assessment district for placing calcium chloride on unpaved roads.

•Consideration of a resolution authorizing a charter amendment for an additional one mill tax levy for major road over improvements.

•Setting a date for a necessity hearing for Lincolnshire Estates road resurfacing.

•Consideration of an agreement with the Oakland Board of Road Commissioners for the improvement of the Fourteen Mile, Orchard Lake intersection.

•Consideration of cost participation on Halstead Road storm drainage located north of Thirteen Mile and reimbursement to United Corporation.

•Consideration of a traffic control order to implement a "no right turn" at anytime at the corner of Orchard Lake and Fourteen Mile.

•Consideration of fee adjustment for residential improvement permits.

•Consideration of installation of storm sewers in the Mimow Park Subdivision #1.

•Consideration of final approval of Greenhill Apartments Phase # 3 and park plans for park # 5.

•Consideration of an open space plan for Meadowbrook Park Subdivision.

•Consideration of transfer of a liquor license from the Night Lite Bar to a tavern license for the Pizza Hut, 3830 Ten Mile.

Hills gunman nabbed in high-speed chase

By HARRY MAUTHIE

Following a high-speed chase, Ronald J. Davis, 19, was arrested by Farmington Hills police early Sunday morning.

According to witnesses, Davis, a Hills resident, discharged a 20-gauge shotgun in the direction of a car occupied by three persons in the parking lot of the Nugget Restaurant, 30685 W. Twelve Mile, Farmington Hills.

No one in the car was injured. Police say the incident appears to have started after Davis argued with restaurant managers over the working hours of a girlfriend. After the argument he left the restaurant and returned with the weapon and ammunition, police say.

When Hills Police Sgt. Charles R. Archambeau and Officers Dan Massey and James St. Louis arrived at the restaurant at 4 a.m., the suspect attempted to flee in a 1969 Pontiac.

A police car containing Archambeau and Massey attempted to force Davis' car over a curb, losing control of their vehicle. St. Louis continued the pursuit eastbound on Twelve Mile.

Archambeau and Massey were close behind. They said they reached speeds greater than 80 mph during the chase.

As the suspect made a sudden attempt to cut through a Baron gas station at Twelve Mile and Middlebelt, Davis struck a snowbank. According to Archambeau, Davis was "literally airborne."

Davis then lost control of his heavily damaged car and veered in front of Archambeau and Massey, resulting in a collision and ending the chase.

Davis was not injured, but Archambeau and Massey sustained minor injuries.

Following the arrest, Davis is in Hills police custody pending arraignment today on charges of felonious assault, assault with a deadly weapon and fleeing and eluding police.

inside

WATCH OUT, LIONS

That's what Don Cowan and the boys over at North Farmington High School are saying as they prepare to meet the Detroit Lions in a little game of basketball tonight. To see what the North Farmington squad, comprised of parents, faculty and alumni, are turn to page 5A.

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