

# Clarenceville seeking ways to control budget

**By Teri Sanna**  
staff writer

The Clarenceville School District has submitted a \$5.9 million expense budget to the Wayne County Tax Allocation Board that calls for maintaining current year costs. No program cuts are planned.

The budget statement is a requirement of the county taxing authority and provides the earliest indication of a school district's financial projections for the coming school year.

Clarenceville's 1983-84 projected budget, representing a slight reduction from this year's budget (the difference is less than \$1,000), is based on the district's current operating tax rate of 37.9 mills. Clarenceville is levying the maximum tax rate and could not increase the rate without a vote of the residents.

The CLARENCEVILLE Board of Education is expected to adopt a budget for 1983-84 by this June.

Budget estimates make no provisions for salary increases in 1983-84 and includes laying off two teachers, said Edward J. Salisz, superintendent of business. Negotiations of employee contracts are expected to begin in the next three weeks, he said. Contracts are negotiated yearly in Clarenceville.

The budget provides for 101 teaching positions at a time when enrollment is projected to drop by 69 students next year. That would put the student population at 2,290.

The financial estimates note a drastic drop in the district's property assessments, indicating a declining property tax base. The school district takes in parts of Livonia, Redford Township and Farmington Hills. The property assessment is projected to drop to \$126.5 million next year, down by more than \$3.5 million from the current school year, Salisz said.

Assessment declines have never happened to the best of Salisz' knowledge. "And I've been here 18 years."

ALTHOUGH FINAL figures will not be known for a while, the district is looking for ways to cut costs, Salisz said.

Among suggested areas for budget trimming is transportation, he said. Reducing just one bus from the district transportation fleet would reduce the budget by more than \$10,000, he estimated.

Cost-cutting moves taken this year will also pay off in reduced costs next year, he added. Savings are expected to be realized in 1983-84 from the district's move recently to buy its own telephones. Clarenceville has been able

to cut its telephone costs in half, Salisz said.

Last February, the district also raised \$188,000 from the sale of its vacant Westbrook Elementary School in the coming year to augment the new school budget. Located near Merriman and Eight Mile, the building recently was considered by Livonia's Ward Presbyterian Church as the site of a private church school.

The district's reliance on state aid is a big fiscal worry. As an in-formula

school district, Clarenceville receives state aid to supplement its school budget. But in recent years the state's own fiscal problems have reduced and often delayed that aid.

To date, the district has only received \$287,304 of its allocated \$742,682 state aid payment. The district could end up in the red in June if the balance due is not received, Salisz said. At best, the district would borrow

money to meet its June payroll and bills. Any borrowing would be at the district's expense.

This year, the district lost an estimated \$50,000 in interest earned on state aid investment payments because of the delay in those payments.

"If we don't get any more help from the state, we're going to be in really bad shape," he said.

Michael, 18, and Elizabeth, 16; mother Shirley Leavitt; and sister Judith Ours.

Services will be at 3 p.m. Thursday at the Ira Kaufman Chapel, Southfield, with burial at Ada Shalom Memorial Park in Livonia.

Memorial contributions may be to the American Heart Association, the Juvenile Diabetes Association or a charity of the donor's choice.

# Hills businessman dead after jogging

**By Tom Henderson**  
staff writer

At 12:15 a.m. Tuesday, West Bloomfield police discovered the body of a man in a running suit lying along Bloomfield Shore Drive — no identification, no name.

Four hours later, Frances Rassler reported to police that her husband had gone out jogging and never came home. The body was that of Richard Rassler.

Rassler, a 44-year-old West Bloomfield native who owned a Farmington Hills consulting firm that bore his name, died Monday night, apparently of a heart attack while running.

"There was no indication of foul

play, nothing suspicious," said West Bloomfield police Sgt. Mike Madigan. "So, until we hear from the medical examiner, we have to assume it was a heart attack."

RASSLER, who LIVED on Valley View Drive, was president of Richard H. Rassler and Associates Inc., a leasing and retail consulting firm that did some work for the city of Farmington Hills.

"I just saw him yesterday," said Mrs. Louis Lengyel, the next-door neighbor. "He was a nice person and was well liked by the neighbors."

Rassler was pronounced dead at the scene by a paramedic crew from Prov-

idence Hospital.

"Apparently, he had been a heart patient," said Madigan. "There were scars from previous heart surgery."

RASSLER WAS a 1960 graduate of Michigan State University and a member of the congregation at Shaarey Zedek synagogue. He is survived by his wife, Frances; children Bradley, 23,

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