

# Budget talk

## Clarenceville eyes override of Headlee

By Sue Mason  
staff writer

The Clarenceville School District may soon feel an economic pinch caused by the economy, something the Livonia Public Schools may avoid this year.

The pinch involves a rollback in the authorized tax rate required by the Headlee amendment.

The amendment, approved by voters in 1978, aims to ensure that municipalities and school districts don't benefit from inflationary increases in property values.

"Textbook companies aren't going to roll back their prices because the school district has to roll back its millage," said Clarenceville superintendent Michael Shiber. "Detroit and Edison won't roll back their rates and neither will Consumers Power."

"We're in a situation where we have to ask voters to reaffirm the millage. We hope voters will continue to support our programs and vote for the proposal."

Before Headlee, governmental units were able to receive higher property tax revenues without increasing the tax rate and without a vote of residents whenever inflation increased real estate prices.

THE HEADLEE amendment provides that operating tax rates be reduced whenever the district's state equalized valuation (one-half of the market value of property) increases by more than the cost of living. However, it allows governmental units to forego the rollback with voter approval.

The issue before Clarenceville voters in the June 8 election is should the school district be allowed to maintain the current tax rate.

A yes vote will keep the tax rate at \$37.90 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. The district also levies 3 mills for debt retirement and building and site purposes, rates not affected by Headlee.

A no vote will mean a \$1.20 rollback per \$1,000 and a reduction in programming, Shiber said.

WHAT THE problem school dis-

## Concert tickets are free

Metropolitan Opera tenor Misha Raitzin will be featured in a concert at 8 p.m. Thursday, May 7, in Adat Shalom Synagogue, 29901 Middlebelt, Farmington Hills.

The concert is sponsored by the Adult Study Commission of Adat Shalom Synagogue, under the chairmanship of Sharon Hart and Allan Gelfond, and is the Esther Allan/Sally Allan Alexander Memorial Concert.

Described as "one of the greatest voices to come out of Russia," Misha Raitzin was born in the Ukraine and studied music at the Moscow Conservatory, graduating with honors.

He performed as principal tenor with both the Bolshoi and Leningrad opera companies and was guest soloist with symphony orchestras in Moscow, as well as London, Paris, Berlin, Prague, Budapest and Peking, and toured throughout the Soviet Union.

He left Russia, and a successful operatic career, to emigrate to Israel. Upon emigration he became a soloist with the Israel Philharmonic and the Tel Aviv Opera Company and toured South Africa, Mexico and West Germany.

He made his United States debut in Town Hall and then engaged by the Metropolitan Opera Company for the role of the false Dmitri in "Boris Godunov." Tenor roles in "La Traviata," "Un Ballo in Maschera" and "La Gioconda" followed.

He continues to be a principal tenor with the Metropolitan Opera Company and is the only Israeli citizen on its roster.

In addition to his concert and operatic career, Misha Raitzin has a special love for cantorial liturgy and the songs of his people.

His father, a goldsmith, was also a fine Ba'al Tzillah, and secretly taught his son Hebrew, Talmud and liturgy. His mother sang Yiddish songs to him, and the family practiced their religion in secret. The freedom to be able to express his feelings in public is a special joy, which is communicated to all his audiences.

Misha Raitzin has officiated as Cantor at the Sutton Place Synagogue in New York City, at Grosinger's Hotel, and last year at Adat Shalom Synagogue. He continues to make his home in Israel. His brothers and sisters also live in Tel Aviv, having left Russia just after Misha's emigration.

The Esther Allan/Sally Allan Alexander concert is open to the public at no charge, but tickets must be picked up in advance. They are available in the office of Adat Shalom Synagogue. For further information, call 851-5100.

**'Textbook companies aren't going to roll back their prices because the school district has to roll back its millage.'**

— Michael Shiber,  
superintendent

tricts are beginning to face is the improved real estate market and a continuation of low inflation. Clarenceville officials expect a 5 percent SEV increase this year, while Livonia anticipates a 7 percent increase.

In comparison, the cost of living increased 1.9 percent, the lowest increase in 22 years.

Clarenceville, which serves northeastern Livonia, is an in-formula school district.

Twenty percent of the money it spends for education comes from state school aid. The rollback would cost the district \$200,000 in local revenue plus an unknown amount of state school aid, Shiber said.

The state school aid formula is tied into the number of students in a district and the tax rate.

TEN YEARS ago, Clarenceville received 50 percent of its revenue from the state, now it receives 20 percent, Shiber said.

When that is broken down to a per-pupil basis, local tax dollars provide \$2,200 per student with the state kicking in just \$600, he said.

"This district runs a tight budget," Shiber said. "Our teachers aren't among the highest paid nor are our administrators. We're in such a positive mode and are doing things that don't cost a lot that we have to ask voters to reaffirm the current millage."

Livonia is an out-of-formula school district and receives almost all of the money it spends for education from local property taxes.

THE DISTRICT has an authorized operational levy of 36.70 mills, but levies only 35.20 mills. The district also levies 2.5 mills for debt retirement.

District finance director Michael Furlong believes the Headlee amendment "shouldn't hurt" the school system this year because it is 1.5 mills below the authorized level.

But, he added, the district may have to deal with it next year when the full effect of a boom in real estate sales shows up in the SEV.

The Headlee override is a complicated issue that voters need to understand, Shiber said. It isn't a vote for new taxes, but rather on the existing millage, he said.

The number of mills levied won't increase if the override passes, Shiber said.

BUT THE amount of taxes a property owner pays will go up because of higher property values.

This is the first time Clarenceville has had to deal with the Headlee amendment.

It's not alone. The Plymouth-Canton Community Schools will have a similar proposal on its June ballot. It is a rerun of a February ballot issue that was rejected by voters.

Shiber already has begun meeting with parent groups to explain the ballot proposal. He also is seeking specific information on what the cost of living increase is for the Detroit metropolitan area.

That figure, he has heard, is closer to 5 percent and if used could negate the need for an override vote.

Shiber is proposing a \$7.3 million budget for 1987-88 based on the full tax rate.

If voters reject the override, Shiber said adjustments will have to be made, mostly through layoffs and increasing class sizes.

### VERTICAL BLINDS 60% to 75% off!

WE'LL BEAT ANY PRICES — ON ANY BLINDS!\*

Custom Made 6-Foot  
**VERTICAL DOORWALL**  
**\$39.90**  
78" X 84" PVC  
Take With!  
LARGEST SELECTION IN MICHIGAN!  
No Freight Or Handling Charges

**MINI-BLINDS**  
By Rail  
Hundreds of colors in 12" x 2" lower styles.  
**65% off!**

**PLEATED SHADES**  
By Rail  
Combines the charm of fabric with the beauty of mini-blinds.  
**60% off!**

**FREE SHOP-AT-HOME! CALL: 353-6191**

**BLINDS-TO-GO**

|  |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| <b>TROY</b><br>1313 MONROE ROAD<br>Troy, MI 48063<br>Mon-Fri 9-5 Sat 10-5 Sun 11-5 | <b>LIVONIA</b><br>10711 HALL ROAD<br>Livonia, MI 48150<br>Mon-Fri 9-5 Sat 10-5 Sun 11-5 | <b>ROYAL OAK</b><br>10711 HALL ROAD<br>Royal Oak, MI 48063<br>Mon-Fri 9-5 Sat 10-5 Sun 11-5 | <b>SOUTHGATE</b><br>10711 HALL ROAD<br>Southgate, MI 48063<br>Mon-Fri 9-5 Sat 10-5 Sun 11-5 | <b>ROSEVILLE</b><br>10711 HALL ROAD<br>Roseville, MI 48063<br>Mon-Fri 9-5 Sat 10-5 Sun 11-5 | <b>PONTIAC</b><br>10711 HALL ROAD<br>Pontiac, MI 48063<br>Mon-Fri 9-5 Sat 10-5 Sun 11-5 | <b>FLINT</b><br>10711 HALL ROAD<br>Flint, MI 48063<br>Mon-Fri 9-5 Sat 10-5 Sun 11-5 |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|



## We want to collar a few good men.

The Archdeacon of Detroit has a job to do. We know some people who are facing tough choices in life who need good advice. We know some people who are facing no choices who still need hope. We know a lot of great kids who need a place to be kids, and maybe someone to bring the ball or the music. We know a few older people who are going to die whether or not someone is there to bring them peace.

All over the Archdiocese there are people who need a place to count their blessings and share their sorrows — people who need a hand, or a shoulder to lean on, or sometimes just an ear.

At Sacred Heart Seminary we're teaching young men to use the hands and shoulders and ears and hearts God gave them. It's a great education. A college degree. Graduate work. We'll give you up to eight years to decide you really want to be a priest before we ask you to do it for good.

Sure, the hours are long. But they're flexible. And if you come to work here, you'll get rich in ways few people can imagine.

Not everyone can do the job. If you think you can, call us. We have God Calls. We can't call you.

**The work is hard. But the rewards are infinite.**  
Sacred Heart Seminary 868-2700

# CONNOLLY'S

## \$4,000,000<sup>00</sup>

### Storewide Liquidation SALE

ALL ITEMS SOLD AT LIQUIDATION PRICES  
**ACT NOW FOR THE BEST SELECTION**  
GREAT GIFT IDEAS FOR MOTHERS DAY, FATHERS DAY, WEDDINGS, ANNIVERSARIES AND GRADUATIONS.

Truly unbelievable savings in every department!

- DINNER RINGS
- ENGAGEMENT RINGS
- MOM'S RINGS
- WEDDING BANDS
- PENDANTS
- BRIDAL SETS
- BRACELETS
- EARRINGS

## DIAMONDS

at liquidation prices.  
All Loose Diamonds

## All 14K Gold

### GOLD

at liquidation prices  
CHAINS • CHARMS • EARRINGS • BRACELETS

## All Watches

### WATCHES

at liquidation prices  
ALL FAMOUS BRAND NAMES

## All Pearls

### PEARLS

at liquidation prices  
STRANDS • ALL LENGTHS • EARRINGS  
• BRACELETS • RINGS • PENDANTS

## FLATWARE • GIFTWARE

### ALL FAMOUS BRAND NAMES

## ALL SALES FINAL

• No special orders • In stock merchandise only • No giftwrapping

## ASK ABOUT:

- Unclaimed Layaways
- Estate Jewelry (including Rolex watches)

## NO LAYAWAYS

DIAMOND BROKERS, IMPORTERS, JEWELRY MANUFACTURERS

# CONNOLLY'S

Jewelers & Silversmiths since 1916

**Rochester** Meadowbrook Mall • 375-9100  
Daily 10-9 • Sunday 12-5

**Birmingham** 280 N. Woodward • 642-7157  
Mon-Sat. 9:30-5:00 • Thurs. 'til 9

**Detroit** 126 Fisher Building • 872-3360