## **Budget talk**

## Clarenceville eyes override of Headlee

The Charenceville School District may soon feel an economic pinch caused by the economy, something the Livonia Public Schools may

caused by the economy, something the Livonia Public Schools may avoid this year.

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

The amendment, approved by votice in 1978, alms 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 Shibler. Detroit Edison won't roll back its rates and melhar will Consumers Power we made to a low years 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 avote of residents whenever inflation increased real estate prices.

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 Headdee.

A no vote will mean a \$1.20 roll-

A no vote will mean a \$1.20 roll-back per \$1,000 and a reduction in programming, Shibler said.

WHAT THE problem school dis-

## Concert tickets are free

Metropolitan Opera tenor Misha Raltzin will be fentured in a concert at 8 p.m. Thursday, May 7, in Adat Shalom Synagogue, 29901 Middle-belt, Farmington Hills. The concert is sponsored by the Adult Study Commission of Adat Shalom Synagogue, under the chair-manship of Sharon Hart and Allan/Sal-ly Allan Alexander Memorial Con-cert.

cert. Described as "one of the greatest voices to come out of Russia," Misha Ralitzin was born in the Ukraine and studied music at the Moscow Conservatory, graduating with honors. He performed as principal tenor with both the Bolshol and Lenlagrad opera companies and was guest so-loist with symphony orchestras in Morcow, as well as London, Paris, Berlin, Prague, Budapest and Peking, and toured throughout the Soviet Union.

He left Russia. and a successful

He left Russia, and a successful He left Hussia, and a successivi 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 The Medical Company

He made his United States debut in Town Hall and was then engaged by the Metropolitan Opera Company for the role of the false Dmitri in "Boris Godunov." Tenor roles in "La Travistat," "Un Ballo in Maschera" and "La Glocoma" followed. He continues to be a principal tenor with the Metropolitan Opera Company and is the only Israeli citi-zen on its roster.

Company and is the only Israeli citizen on its roster.

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

His father, a goldsmith, was also a line B'aal Tillah, 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.

which is communicated to all his audiences.
Misha Raitzin has officiated as Cantor at the Sutton Place Synagogue in New York City, at Grossinger's Holel, and last year at Adat Shalom Synagogue. He continues to make his mone in Israel, His brothers and sisters also live in Tel Avu, having left Russia just after hisha'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 851-5109.

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

> Michael Shibler, superintendent

tricts are beginning to face is the improved real estate market and a continuation of low inflation. Clarence ville 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.

crease in 22 years.
Clarenceville, which serves northeastern Livonia, is an in-formula shool 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, Shibler said.
The state school aid formula is tited 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, Shibler said.

When that is broken down to a per-pupil basis, local tax dollars provide \$3,200 per student with the state kicking in just \$600, he said.
"This district runs a tight budget," Shibler said. "Our teachers aren't among the highest paid nor are our administrators. We're in such a posi-tive mode and are doing things that don't cost a lot that we have to ask voters to reaffirm the current mil-lage."

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

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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, Sbibler 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, Shibler said.

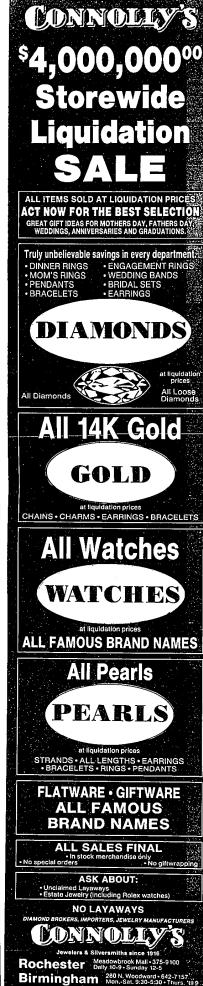
BUT THE amount of taxes a property owner pays will go up because of higher property values.
This is the first time Clarenceville has had to deal with the Headlee

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MINI-BLINDS

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



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