

C'ville residents will vote today on tax increase

By Kevin Brown
staff writer

Even though residents are paying more in taxes as Clarenceville home values rise, the school district isn't getting any richer.

That point is the toughest to get across to district residents with a millage election today Monday, April 24, said Clarenceville superintendent Michael Shibler.

"It may be hard to believe," Shibler told about 18 residents last week the Bolford Elementary School gym. "But the school district is not getting that money" for a net increase. "You the taxpayer are paying

more... and the state is paying less."

That's because, as a relatively property-poor district, Clarenceville must rely on state aid.

But while the state paid for 50 percent of school operations in the early 1970s, Shibler said, the state now pays less than 20 percent. Clarenceville homeowners are paying more as the state pays less — and the district's funding isn't keeping up with inflation.

SHIBLER'S APPEARANCE at Bolford was the last in a series of four presentations — one at each district school — to urge residents to approve the two millage issues be-

fore voters today.

Voters are being asked to approve both a Headlee waiver to allow the district to maintain its operating rate at 37.9 mills, and a 3.5 mill increase.

Shibler said that if the Headlee waiver fails, the operating millage would be trimmed by 2 mills, and the school district would lose \$350,000.

"That would be extremely difficult to deal with," Shibler said, adding that athletics and possibly some academic programs would have to be trimmed if the measure fails.

The millage increase — made possible by Redford's approval of charter township status last fall — would

allow the district to raise money for employee pay raises, reduce class size to a 1-to-25 ratio in kindergarten through the third grade, possibly allow the hiring of a full-time librarian, and allow the district to buy replacement textbooks and pay insurance premium increases.

SHIBLER STRESSED that the board is able to ask for even more millage.

"The board is not asking for 5.53 mills," the maximum allowed but, "is asking for exactly what it needs to have, 3.5," he said.

In saying pay raises were in order for district employees, Shibler recalled that the board trimmed

\$400,000 from the district's budget last spring, and that district employees' pay has been frozen since Sept. 1.

"We never want to be in a situation where we only get the leftovers," he said. "I don't think there's anybody in this room that wants their kids taught by a teacher that nobody wants."

MEDIAN TEACHER salaries in Wayne County rose 7 percent this school year, Shibler added.

"My wages don't match their wages," said Connie Lynn, who has three children in Clarenceville Public Schools and attended Shibler's presentation.

"We have our budget just like the school has a budget," she said, adding that many residents may not be able to afford a tax hike.

Donna Greer, who has two students in Clarenceville's schools and is a school employee, said she intended to vote for the millage.

Residents with homes valued at \$60,000 would pay an extra \$105 per year, or \$8.75 more a month, if the millage passes.

Residents with homes valued at \$80,000 would pay an extra \$140 per year, or \$11.67 per month.

Polls are open at 7 a.m. and close at 8 p.m. today. Precinct I is in the middle school and Precinct II in the high school.

police/fire calls

Listed below are some of the Farmington-area police incidents, fire calls and court cases reported during the past week:

UNARMED ROBBERY

District Judge Margaret Schaeffer of Farmington Friday found over for trial a 35-year-old Detroit man charged with unarmed robbery in connection with the theft of \$200 from a Farmington Hills motel room.

The defendant, Dorian Crandell Bonner, is awaiting arraignment on the charge in Oakland County Circuit Court. No date has been set. At his district court arraignment April 14, he stood mute; a plea of not guilty was entered in his behalf.

Following a preliminary exam Friday, Schaeffer continued cash/surety bond at \$10,000. The defendant faces up to 15 years in prison if convicted.

According to a Farmington Hills police report:

Shortly before 4 a.m. April 13, a guest at the Clarion Hotel, 31525 12 Mile, called an escort service number he found in a newspaper. He agreed to pay an escort \$175 for three hours.

A short time later, the guest answered a knock at the door. A man entered, grabbed two \$100 bills on a table and ran from the room after a brief struggle with the occupant.

The victim alerted a security guard, who detained the man in the lobby. There, the man threw down one of the bills, then motioned for a companion waiting in a car to come inside. When his companion was inside, the man fled.

Officer Dan Luoma arrested Bonner, using a pay phone at 12 Mile and Bolfoiret.

CAR STOLEN

A Westland man told Farmington Hills police he was knocked unconscious at the Mobil gas station, 38080 10 Mile, and awoke to find his car gone last Monday.

When car problems developed at 6 p.m. April 17, the 22-year-old man called into the gas station to make a call. When he returned to his 1978 Olds Delta 88, he was knocked unconscious by one of two men who had approached him.

When he awoke, the car, valued at \$400, had been taken, according to a Farmington Hills police report.

B&R DAMAGE

A man refused alcohol because of his condition threw three pool balls behind the bar at JR's Saloon, 23159 10 Mile, Wednesday, breaking three full liquor bottles.

The man fled when police were called. The three liquor bottles were valued at \$25 apiece, according to a Farmington Hills police report.

GUN FOUND

A Livonia man driving along Halsted near Grand River found a loaded gun in the roadway Tuesday.

The .25-caliber automatic handgun was valued at \$50, according to a Farmington Hills police report.

THEFTS REPORTED

A spa valued at \$2,000 was reported stolen from a house under construction on Kenloch, Farmington Hills, April 17-19.

More than 180 door lock sets valued at \$40 were reported stolen from a storage room at Carrington Place Apartments, 33300 Freedom, Farmington Hills, April 17-19.



RANDY BORSI/staff photographer

It's for the birds

Fourth graders in Robert McLean's class at Flandora Elementary in Farmington were chirping happily after completing a class project in which they studied birds and designed bird houses. Pictured here is Robert Glingerich, the first-place winner of a bird house contest judged by local Kiwanis club members. Other winners were: Alex Owen and Matt Patton, second place; Amber Muncy and Susan Giovannini, third place; and Inge Beasler and Michael Fabian, honorable mentions.

Masons help youth who have diabetes

The Michigan Masons and Children's Hospital of Michigan have joined together to help area children who have diabetes. The Masons are sponsoring a free regional clinic in Detroit on Wednesday, May 10.

A team of specialists in diabetic education and diabetes management from Children's Hospital of Michigan evaluate each child's health status and make recommendations for future care. Specific discussion groups for parents and children have also been planned. This clinic will offer the most up-to-date concepts for diabetes management.

For information or to make an appointment, contact Chester E. Peery, the Master of Farmington Lodge 151, at 348-2540, or Howard Legg, secretary, at 474-2584.

If there are any transportation problems, members of Farmington

Lodge will provide necessary assistance.

Residents can meet the Masons when Farmington Lodge 151 hosts Open House for the community from 1-4 p.m. Sunday, April 30, in Farmington Masonic Temple at the corner of Grand River and Farmington Road.

The Farmington Masonic Temple was erected in 1876 and has been in continuous use as the meeting place of Farmington Lodge since that time. The building also served as the Township Hall for many years.

The Farmington Masonic Temple is also home to Farmington Chapter 239, Order of the Eastern Star, Trinity Shrine 44; White Shrine of Jerusalem; Farmington Bethel 55, International Order of Job's Daughters; and Frank A. Marshall Chapter, Order of DeMolay.

The Worshipful Master of Farmington Lodge 151 is Chester Peery.

Seniors can get discounts

Farmington-area seniors age 60 and older can take advantage of discounts offered by merchants across the nation.

Pictures to be laminated into plastic identification cards will be taken from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, May

19, at the Farmington Hills Senior Center at Mercy Center.

ID cards enable holders to get discounts on a variety of items and services: auto parts, rustproofing, hair care, prescription drugs, eyeglasses and dry cleaners.

on the agenda

Below are highlights from agendas of government meetings this week. All meetings, unless otherwise noted, are open to the public.

- Farmington Hills City Council Council chambers 3:15-5:15 p.m. Monday, April 24
- 7:30 p.m. Monday, April 24
- Public hearings:
 - For a request from St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 20805 Middlebell, for a festival and carnival on their property for five days, May 10-14.
 - The council will consider enactment of a zoning ordinance amendment for sculptures and structures in front yards. A request from the Marriott Corporation for a new full-year Class B hotel liquor license with Sunday sales, east of Orchard Lake Road, south of 12 Mile. Reports will be presented to the council on the following topics: annual police department activities; police department senior citizen program; guidelines for temporary certificate of occupancy. The council will consider approving a labor contract for police dispatchers.
 - Award of bid for street sweeper.
 - Award of bid for water and sanitary sewer at San Marino Golf Course.
 - Award of bid for asbestos abatement at the Eleanor Spicer estate house.
 - Award of bid for portable access ramps for the special services department.
 - Award of bid for purchase of computer equipment for the engineering department.
 - Establish special assessment district for Marvin Street paving and setting the public hearing date for May 15.

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SATURDAY APRIL 29th 9-8

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TAYLOR 446-9210
15100 Telegraph Rd.
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NOV TOWN CENTER 347-4140
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