

District to go to voters for Headlee waiver

By Mario Chestney
staff writer

If voters don't approve a Headlee Amendment waiver in June, a \$320,000 surplus now on the books of the Clarenceville School District will be wiped out, leading to a \$70,000 deficit in 1991.

In an effort to keep its current surplus and even boost it to \$330,000 by July 1991, the Clarenceville Board of Education March 8 approved putting a Headlee Amendment waiver vote on the June 11 election ballot.

"If it is not approved, the fund equity will be used up, we may have to make some minor cuts, and we'll get into a deficit situation," said finance director Ralph Skrocki.

"If we get the Headlee override, we won't have to use up our fund equity, we can maintain our pro-

Clarenceville

The district includes parts of Livonia, Redford and Farmington Hills.

gram and still maintain a modest fund equity."

IN ASKING for a Headlee waiver, the district is asking voters to let it keep all additional tax income generated by the district's average 11 percent increase in assessments.

If the voters turn down the waiver, the district can collect additional property tax income for the 1990-91 school year of only about 5 percent, approximately the current rate of inflation.

The district serves students living

in the southeast section of Farmington Hills northeast Livonia and northwest Redford.

The Headlee Amendment to the Michigan Constitution requires school districts and municipalities to reduce its tax rate when assessments increase greater than the cost-of-living in any year.

Livonia recently announced an average 11 percent increase, effective July 1.

The waiver would allow property tax income collected to be higher than the rate of inflation.

If approved, it will be the fourth Headlee Amendment waiver approved by district voters in the last four years.

In June 1989 voters also narrowly approved a 3.5-mill increase. The district will not seek a millage increase in the upcoming election.

IN FIGURES given to the trustees Thursday, Skrocki said the district had about \$90,000 more income in 1989-90 than expenses.

He pegged the district's current budget at \$9 million.

The extra \$80,000 will boost the district's fund equity, or surplus, to \$400,000 by July 1990.

"That fund equity is not all money," Skrocki said. "One-half of it is inventory, such as floor wax and toilet paper."

If the waiver is approved, Skrocki estimated the district's income in

1990-91 will be \$9.8 million, its expenses \$9.9 million.

The extra expenses would be paid for through the fund equity, leaving a \$330,000 surplus in July 1991.

If the waiver is not approved, Skrocki estimated the district's income in 1990-91 would be \$9.4 million, its expenses \$9.9 million. Without the waiver, he projected a \$70,000 deficit in July 1991.

The \$950,000 in extra expenses for 1990-91 include:

- A 9 percent pay increase for teachers, as negotiated in a 4-year contract, or \$620,000 extra.

- A 17 percent increase in the cost of fringe benefits, or \$150,000 extra.

- A 5 percent increase in retirement costs, or \$31,000 extra.

- Additional retirement costs of \$40,000.

- One new bus, costing \$35,000.

- A 5 percent increase in utilities, or \$15,000 extra.

LAST YEAR, Clarenceville became an out-of-formula district. That means it stopped receiving general state aid and no longer depends on that source to balance its budget.

The district's tax rate is 41.4 mills. District officials hope to continue to boost the present 4 percent fund equity toward the 10 percent of yearly budget recommended by auditors.

Skrocki said the estimated 1990-91 budget contains no new teachers and no loss of teachers.

The district will soon present its preliminary budget to the Wayne County Tax Allocation Board.

The proposed budget, proposed tax rate and request for a Headlee waiver will then be aired at a public hearing before the budget is adopted.

Downtown Farmington going to the dogs with cookout

Hot dog! Downtown Farmington is hot dog, and the area will show it with a 500-foot-long hot dog cookout.

In preparation for the Downtown Day cookout on Wednesday, March 21, the event's fearless chefs, Downtown Farmington restaurateurs, will

practice cooking maneuvers — re-quiring 30 people to handle the oversized sausage — today.

Since the huge hot dog will still be in production, the restaurateurs will settle for the next best thing — nearly 200 feet of rope provided by the

Farmington Department of Public Safety and Farmington High School.

ADDING to the practice's authenticity, dachshunds, the little German "hot dogs," will be on hand to help the chefs mentally prepare

for the biggest sausage event of their lives.

Beginning at 9 a.m., the practice will take place at the site of the event, on the northeast corner of the intersection of Grand River Avenue and Farmington Road.

In the case of inclement weather, the practice will move across the street to the lobby of the Village Mall.

The dachshunds and their owners are members of the Midwest Dachshund Club. There are approximately 200 dachshunds in the club.

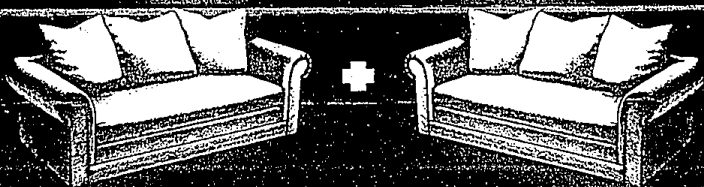
HOSTED BY the Farmington Downtown Development Authority, Downtown

Day will give Downtown Farmington's supporters a chance to show their commitment to the historic area at a noon free cookout.

In addition to lunch, activities will include a hot dog cutting ceremony led by Michigan business ombudsman Dick Allen, announcement of the I.D. (Identify Downtown) photo contest winners and a hot dog eating contest.

• Twice a week is better • Twice a week is better •

**FOR 4 DAYS ONLY,
CUSTOM-COVERED
SELIG COMBINATIONS
FOR JUST \$995!**



**THURSDAY THROUGH SUNDAY ONLY,
AT GORMAN'S CLEARANCE CENTER... SAVE OVER 50%* ON
SOFA, LOVESEAT AND CHAIR GROUPINGS!**

Thursday through Sunday only... Gorman's has been chosen to close out all 1989 overstock fabrics! That means you can special order practically a roomful of famous Selig, covered in your choice of over 100 fabrics, in your choice of 4 styles, and all for an unbelievable \$995!

Choose from these special 2- and 3-piece combinations:

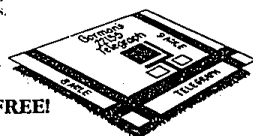
- PAIR OF SOFAS, 4 styles... \$995
- SOFA AND 2 CHAIRS \$995
- TWO-PIECE ANGLED SECTIONAL... \$995
- OR SOFA AND LOVESEAT (sectional style) \$995
- OR SOFA (sectional style) AND 2 CHAIRS, 4 styles... \$995

*We make it easy for you! There'll be a Selig factory representative to show you colors, fabrics and styles.

**AND WE'LL
DELIVER** YOUR SELIG
SPECIAL ORDER BEFORE
MEMORIAL DAY—OR IT'S FREE!**

**40% TO 70%
SAVINGS EVERYDAY!**

**GORMAN'S
FURNITURE
CLEARANCE
CENTER**



**THE QUALITY
YOU EXPECT AT A
PRICE YOU DON'T.**

Phone: 357-7774
Thursday and Friday Noon - 9:00 pm
Saturday and Sunday Noon - 5:30 pm

© 1990 Gorman's
*Percentages are comparable values
**Domestic charge for delivery



and this,



and this



**from only
\$136,900!**

Stunning carriage ranch condominiums. Collinwood Village is one of the "neighborhoods" in the award winning Heathers community. There's a championship golf course in your backyard with social and golf memberships available at The Heathers Club. What's more, you'll have a Bloomfield Hills address to impress.

**THE
HEATHERS
in Bloomfield Hills**

On Square Lake Road between Opdyke and Adams.
Open noon to six everyday. Phone: 333-0300

Rb

**ROBERTSON BROTHERS CO.
COMMUNITY DEVELOPERS**