

# Clarenceville asks voters for tax hike

By Marie Chesney  
Staff writer

On Sept. 23 voters in the Clarenceville School District will be asked to approve a \$19 million bond issue that, if passed, will increase the property taxes.

If approved, over the next three summers money from the bond issue will go to renovate school buildings, remove asbestos, upgrade heating and water systems and bring facilities up to code and in tune with the technological demands of the 21st century.

The four-mill increase in the debt retirement budget will cost a homeowner with a \$50,000 house an extra \$20 a year, a homeowner with an \$80,000 house an extra \$30 a year, and a homeowner with a \$100,000 house an extra \$40 a year.

The millage increase would appear for the first time on the district's December tax bills. The district includes northeast Livonia, southeast Farmington Hills, and northwest Redford.

CLARENCEVILLE NOW levies 0.75 mills for debt retirement that expires in two years.

Passage of the new tax means that taxpayers would pay two separate debt retirement millages for bonds over the next two years.

The first one, passed about 20 years ago for building renovations, would then expire, leaving taxpayers with only the second, 25-year bond issue to pay off.

Clarenceville officials plan to schedule an informational meeting sometime this summer to show residents how the money would be spent at each of the district's four school buildings and its maintenance facility.

## Clarenceville

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

The list of work that should be done started at \$28 million and got whittled down to the \$19 million, said school trustee Richard Wood.

"We knew this would cause sticker shock so we went over the list, asking, 'what can our voters afford?'" Wood said. "We knew we had to be realistic. So we sat down and went over the list line by line."

The \$19 million will be spent on the most critical needs of the district, Wood said. Some, such as asbestos removal, are mandated by law. Others, such as new windows and new plumbing, heating and lighting systems, will ultimately save the district money through energy conservation.

THE LIST of work to be paid for through the bond sale includes:

- Updating science, computer areas and kitchen facilities in all schools.

- Remodeling of classrooms and offices.

- Relocating the media center in the high school.

- Updating the vocational educational areas in the middle and high schools.

- Refurbishing the physical education and playground facilities in all schools.

"We're spending \$100,000 every year to repair things in the district," Wood said. "This money comes out of the general budget and takes money away from educating our kids."

The work list was compiled by the district's architect, Greiner Corp. of Grand Rapids, and a renovations committee made up of school officials and residents.

The architect went through each of the district's five buildings and came up with the master "wish list" that got whittled down, Wood said.

IF THE September bond issue is approved, the most needed improvements will be done next summer, after the 1991-92 school year ends.

"It's like taking out a home equity loan to modernize your home," Wood said. "Right now, we have more favorable interest rates and construction costs are down. There's not a better time than right now to go for a bond issue."

District officials estimate asbestos removal will cost about \$1.2 million and upgrading the heating systems will cost about \$1.1 million.

"If this work is not done, we'll continue to operate with costly, inferior systems," Wood said. "With the new systems, we'll get double bang for the buck. We'll get new systems and lower heat and water bills."

Clarenceville's oldest school, the middle school, was built in the 1940s. Its newest building, the high school, was built in 1957.

If the millage is approved, this will be the first major upgrading of district buildings.

## Camp for substance abusers' kids

By Ralph R. Echlinaw  
Staff writer

Maplegrove Community Education has expanded its free counseling program for children of substance-abusing adults to include a day camp next month in West Bloomfield Township.

The initial children's program that began last year at Maplegrove's Troy center has enrolled 100 students and put many on a waiting list to get in. The day camp, at Maplegrove's center on 15 Mile Road, will include 60 children divided into two sessions.

"We can't find anything else like it in Michigan," said Lorna McEwen, Henry Ford Health System public relations officer. "It's probably the first in the state."

MAPLEGROVE WAS CREATED 10 years ago in a joint effort by Henry Ford Hospital and the Junior League of Birmingham. The children's programs are limited to kids in grades one through seven. Fourteen volunteers (13 women and one male high school student) are expected to staff the day

camp's two-week sessions beginning July 8 and 22. The classes are 9 a.m. to noon Monday through Thursday.

Project co-coordinator Kathy Walton of Rochester Hills said the children will be taught the chemical process of drugs in the body, what addiction is, practicing ways to say "no," dealing with peer pressure, and more.

Games and activities, primarily outdoors, will be incorporated into the day-camp program to a greater degree than they are in the indoor programs.

"We're going to try to be outdoors as much as possible," Walton said. "In a camp situation, we can throw in fun things to do."

Children will also be invited to stay overnight once at Bloomer Park in tent and sleeping bags. Walton taught substance abuse prevention in Lansing for seven years before moving to Rochester Hills two years ago.

The Maplegrove volunteers take 80 hours of training before working in the program. Walton said the training costs \$100, but most people can find a way to be trained

free. "The one commonality (among volunteers) is the need to see that kids get a better deal."

Betty Conger, also of Rochester Hills, is Walton's partner in the day-camp program. A Maplegrove volunteer since 1986, Conger has a master's in social work.

WHILE THERE IS no follow-up program to see how these children fare with time, Conger said she saw immediate changes in kids who went through the Troy center program. "They seem to be a little brighter, a little livelier," she said.

The indoor Troy program runs year round, but it's on hiatus until October due to the day-camp program.

Maplegrove is also planning to establish indoor programs for children this fall at the Fisher Building in Detroit and the Maplegrove center in West Bloomfield, creating a need for more volunteers.

To be a volunteer, or to enroll children in the day-camp program, call 661-6170. To enroll children in the Troy indoor program, call 637-2960.

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| ✓ CHALK LINE                | ✓ LAG BOLTS             |
| ✓ POST HOLE DIGGER          | ✓ GALVANIZED DECK NAILS |
| ✓ CONCRETE MIX              | ✓ STAIR STRINGERS       |
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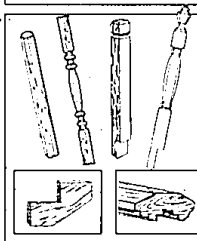
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| 10' x 10' | \$189                             | \$199                   | \$249                 |
| 10' x 14' | \$259                             | \$289                   | \$359                 |
| 10' x 18' | \$319                             | \$339                   | \$509                 |
| 12' x 14' | \$319                             | \$349                   | \$449                 |
| 12' x 16' | \$389                             | \$419                   | \$609                 |
| 12' x 20' | \$479                             | \$499                   | \$649                 |
| 14' x 16' | \$449                             | \$489                   | \$689                 |
| 14' x 20' | \$559                             | \$589                   | \$789                 |
| 16' x 18' | \$619                             | \$639                   | \$709                 |
| 16' x 20' | \$639                             | \$679                   | \$889                 |

## TREATED DECK TRIM

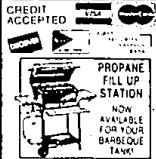


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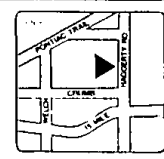
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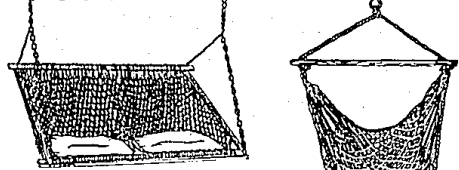
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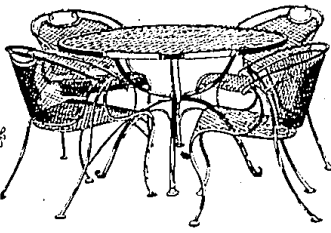
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