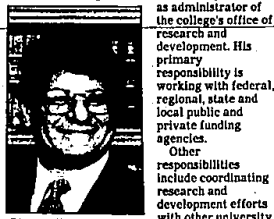


IN BRIEF

Ilmer named associate dean

STEVEN ILMER of Farmington Hills has been appointed associate dean for research in the College of Education at Wayne State University in Detroit.



Steven Ilmer
promotes grant, research and publication efforts of the education faculty.

"This is an exciting time to be involved in issues of education," said Ilmer, "and to be in the College of Education."

Before joining WSU, Ilmer was chairman of the Department of Counseling and Special Education at Central Michigan University in Mt. Pleasant. Earlier he was coordinator of the special education program in the Department of Advanced Studies at California State University in Fresno.

He has been an invited speaker at numerous national conferences and has authored or co-authored several publications.

Ilmer earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Illinois, Chicago; a master of arts degree from Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago; and a doctorate from the University of Michigan.

New director named

THOMAS E. ZUPKO has joined McCabe Funeral Home, Inc. in Farmington Hills as a funeral director. He previously served as a funeral director in Plymouth and Westland.

After receiving a degree in mortuary science from Wayne State University in 1987, Zupko was licensed to practice by the state. He is a member of the Michigan Funeral Directors Association and the National Funeral Directors Association. McCabe Funeral Home, in business since 1893, has been led by four successive generations of the McCabe family.



SHARON LAMIEUX/staff photographer

A fair day

Buzz Diehr of Farmington prepares corn on the cob during the annual Fall Festival at St. Alexander's Catholic Church on Shlawassee in Farmington Hills. The fair, held Sept. 13-15, featured rides, entertainment, food and a Vegas room.

Fliers answer bond questions

Our view: see page 16A

By Marie Chestney
staff writer

Special mailings designed to answer questions about Monday's \$19 million bond issue vote went out this week to residents in the Clarenceville School District.

The mailings are meant to answer the main questions, said interim superintendent Ralph Skrocki. Clarenceville, based in Livonia, serves southeast Farmington Hills and northwest Redford Township.

THE QUESTION, Skrocki said, is why the district is asking for a 4-mill tax increase in recessionary times.

"People are asking why we're going for a bond issue in such a bad time. But interest rates are the lowest they've been in 15 years. And, with construction down, we should get some of the best bids seen in years."

If approved, \$3 million of the bond issue will be spent to improve each of the district's four school buildings with the technology needed for the workplace of the 21st century.

The remaining \$16 million will be used to renovate school buildings, remove asbestos, improve heating and water systems, bring schools up to code, and make buildings more energy efficient.

Skrocki expects 600-1,000 votes to be cast Monday at the district's two voting precincts, Clarenceville Middle and Clarenceville High. Polls open at 7 a.m. and close at 8 p.m. About 60 absentee votes already have been cast.

Despite recessionary times, Skrocki also believes the tax increase will pass.

"We feel that when people get information and see the total situation, those who take the time to find out the total situation will be receptive."

HOWEVER, if the tax increase doesn't pass, Skrocki said he did not believe the school board would bring

the question back to voters soon.

"Right now, there's no consensus by the board what they would do. But if it is defeated, I think we'll limp along with what we have. Money for repairs that have to be made would have to come from the operating budget. And whatever comes out of the operating budget comes out of the instructional program for kids."

Trustee Dale Weighill previously said that "a more modest proposal" might be brought to the voters if the tax increase did not pass.

The bond issue, if approved, will cost a homeowner with a \$60,000 house an extra \$120 a year, a homeowner with an \$80,000 house an extra \$160 a year, and a homeowner with a \$100,000 house an extra \$200 a year.

Residents, Skrocki said, also are asking why the bond issue will run for 30 years.

"Why should the present set of parents pay for the whole shot. We should let their kids pay, too."

The last bond issue approved by Clarenceville voters was a \$1 million, 25-year bond issue approved in 1971.

IF APPROVED, the 4-mill tax increase will appear for the first time on the district's December tax bills.

The district's architects estimate it will cost \$3.2 million to improve Botsford, \$2.7 million to improve Grandview, \$6.1 million to renovate Clarenceville Middle, and \$6 million to improve Clarenceville High.

If approved, the work will be done over the next three years.

Clarenceville now levies 0.75 mills for debt retirement, a tax that expires in two years.

Passage of the new tax means that taxpayers would be paying two debt retirement taxes at the same time for two years.



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