

Renewals pass in Clarenceville

BY MARIE CHESTNEY
STAFF WRITER

David Kamish, Clarenceville superintendent, can retire from his post June 30 knowing the finances of the district are in good shape.

Voters came through in Monday's special election and approved by a 368-128 vote a millage renewal request that generates \$2.4 million yearly for Clarenceville, which includes southeast Farmington Hills.

The district would have lost about 20 percent of its operating budget if voters had not approved the renewal.

Voters approved for 10 years both a non-homesteaded renewal of 18 mills and a hold-harmless renewal of 1.121 mills levied against all homeowners. Both taxes would have expired June 30, 1996.

The millage now expires in 2005.

That takes care of us for the next 10 years, said a happy

Kamish Tuesday. The special election was needed to meet the requirements of Proposal A, approved by Michigan voters in 1994.

The 18 mills levied mostly against Clarenceville's commercial property generates about \$2.3 million. This is a tax on everything except primary residences, including businesses and offices, and is an underpinning of the school finance reform system under Proposal A.

The 1.121 mills levied against all Clarenceville home owners generates \$135,000. This tax allows the district to tax itself at levels in effort before the passage of Proposal A. Districts are held harmless. In other words, it is not required to cut programs as long as voters approve taxing themselves to make up the difference, which Clarenceville voters did Monday. Under Proposal A, the bulk of the district income — \$9.3 million — comes from the state.

Chorus stages Broadway's best

The Farmington Community Chorus will present its annual spring concert at 8 p.m. Friday, Saturday, May 17-18, at Farmington High School, 32000 Shawwassee.

The chorus, sponsored by the city of Farmington Hills Department of Special Services, will present a program of exciting musical selections from the stages of Broadway's greatest plays. These will include many favorites such as "They Say It's Wonderful," "I Love a Piano," and "Colors of the Wind."

Several soloists and small ensembles will also perform and always we will include some comical numbers. Join us as we begin our 16th year serving the communities of the Farmington area.

The 80-plus voices of the Farmington Community Chorus are under the direction of Steven SeGraves, and are accompanied by Susan Garr.

Tickets are available in advance from any chorus member or at the Farmington Hills Department of Special Services, 31500 W. 11 Mile Road. Ticket prices are \$7 for general admission and \$5 for seniors and students.

For additional information, contact chorus ticket manager Harry Doerr at 435-9154.

Age gap

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the Farmington Hills elementary school.

"I think it gives me the opportunity — with my knowledge, my skills and my abilities — to talk to them about things not directly related to the educational system," said Eastman, who lives in West Bloomfield. "I just love it."

Eastman has been a SAGE volunteer for six years. Most his time is spent in teacher Walkey's fifth-

grade class, but he's taken students to the senior center.

He's brought in a video of a volcano eruption in Hawaii and shared pictures from a Japanese wedding. He's worked with the hearing impaired and had someone come by and demonstrate the alphabet in sign language.

He had the classroom hold a straw vote and related his own experiences overcoming a brain tumor.

"I think the interest in having someone else there... He's an older person so they have contact with another generation," Walkey said. "Some of the children don't have grandparents who live nearby."

Eastman found out about the SAGE program through the Farmington Hills Senior Center where he visits three times a week. He retired from Ford Motor Co. six years ago.

SAGE is sponsored by the Hills Department of Special Services Senior Adult Division and Farmington Public Schools.

Eastman once considered teaching but veered into accounting instead.

"It gives them an opportunity to see what an active senior adult does," he said. "I think we have to narrow the generation gap."

Etudiants

from page 1A

cally challenged reporter.

"Superb," said the French student with Lavanchy's interpretation.

Don't feel bad, other Dunkel students seemed to say later. They've been armed with French-English dictionaries and pocket translators, but have largely been reduced to international sign language.

"Even though we don't understand everybody's word language, we understand body language," said Karen Doerr whose family is hosting Estelle Guilbert. "You have to be creative."

What do the visitors think of American schools?

Classes are shorter and they don't seem to have as much

school work, said Lavanchy interpreting the French student responses. They've had to get used to American cuisine and family life.

The differences are in the details," said Lavanchy, who heads the English department at the French school. "The papers they do are not the same. The tests they take are not the same... They (the students) are pretty much the same."

The visiting teacher wanted to know if students were allowed to wear caps in the classroom. She was told no.

"Ours are not either," said Lavanchy, rolling her eyes at the universal teen fad. "These are the common points."

They're getting a big kick out of American culture. French students like to shop for anything Nike, drink Coca Cola and watch cartoons, Dunkel students said.

They're also refreshingly frank, one Dunkel student said.

"If they don't like something, they will tell you," Lynnea Arnold said. "At dinner she'll say, 'I don't like this.' But she'll eat it anyway just to be polite."

Girls love the French boys, lamented another Dunkel sixth grade boy.

French students tend to speak more English than Dunkel students do French. That's because English is compulsory in France, Lavanchy said.

Since the group arrived April 17, students have taken field trips to Farmington Hills City Hall, Detroit Institute of Arts, and Cranbrook Institute of Science. They'll also be going to a Detroit Tiger baseball game and Henry Ford Museum.

"This has been just so much fun," said Dunkel teacher Mary Green, who helped coordinate the exchange.

Lavanchy agreed.

"I really enjoy it," said Lavanchy whose two children are in exchange programs in New York. "Even if they don't go home fluent in English, it gives them a new frame of mind."

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Intent

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Moore, who testified April 16, and the statement given by Garcia both indicated that the victim and four friends, who had stopped to shoot some beers before going to Windsor, had been mistaken for members of a rival gang.

Detroit Police Officer Chris Vintevogel read Garcia's statement given during a March 27 interview. In the statement, Garcia said he was drunk while steering a blue minivan with his right hand and shooting with his left at the Tracker at about 11 p.m.

"I figured that they (rival gang members) were taunting us because we were out of our neighborhood," Vintevogel said Garcia wrote.

Garcia's statement corroborated the testimony of Moore. It said Moore had not done any of the shooting during the incident, but had later shot another man at another location. Moore was granted immunity from prosecution in both incidents for his testimony.

Garcia and Waucaush are being held at the Wayne County Jail without bond.

Tony Lucas, the victim's brother, said after the exam that he was happy that the two will be tried for first degree murder.

"I plan to be at everything until this is finished," he said of the court proceedings. "My parents are going to be at the trial. But this is something I want to do."

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