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## In Clarenceville

# Millage renewal vote is Jan. 19

Clarenceville School District voters will be asked to renew an 11-mill property tax levy at a special election scheduled for Monday, Jan. 19.

The levy, proposed for another 10 years, would represent \$1 million in revenues, or 30 per cent of the school board's budget said Supt. David McDowell.

He stressed that the millage is merely a continuation of an existing tax and doesn't mean any increase in school tax rates.

But the district will mount an informational effort to tell voters about the millage renewal.

THE SPECIAL election issue will be discussed at three PTO meetings in the next week. They are at Grandview Elementary, 1814 Louise, Livonia, and Edgewood Elementary, 21225 St. Francis, Farmington Hills, both at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 13, and Botsford Elementary, 18515 Lathrup, Livonia, at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 15.

McDowell said voters seeking information on the millage may call the board office between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. weekdays.

If small groups want to have a school board or administration representative present to discuss the issue with voters, a meeting would be arranged, he added.

McDOWELL TALKED about the continuing financial problems facing local school districts as he discussed the importance of public approval of the millage renewal.

The state government, facing its own financial crisis, has already cut nearly \$800 million from expected state revenues in Clarenceville, which has a \$4.7 million operating budget. The cuts amount to 2.3 per cent of the budget.

In addition, McDowell said, a new state law taking business inventories off the property tax rolls would cost Clarenceville an \$8 million tax base loss next year.

To help offset that loss, the state has promised to give districts 100 per cent of their expected state aid revenues next year.

But in order for Clarenceville to qualify for that 100 per cent, it must not cut its local property tax millage.

McDowell said the state aid formula requires that districts must levy 27 mills or more to qualify for full state aid revenues.

He said if the 11 mill levy is rejected Jan. 19, Clarenceville would be financially hurt in two ways.

One would be the loss of \$1 million through the millage and the other would be the cutback in state revenues, he said.

BUT HE and business manager Ed Salts pointed out that school district voters have a record of endorsing school money issues.

Since 1941, only four issues were defeated, all by a handful of votes. The last defeat was in 1968 when a millage increase lost by only 25 votes. Voters returned to the polls six weeks later to approve the increase.

The last millage boost was in early 1969 when voters approved an increase of two mills.

In a newsletter to be mailed by the

school administration to residents late this week, officials said defeat of the upcoming millage renewal "would be disastrous to the educational programs for the children of this district."

McDowell and Salts said in an interview that 85 per cent of the budget is for personnel costs and any budget cuts would have to involve employees.

The district currently has 300 employees of which 177 are teachers or administrators.

McDOWELL stressed that voter approval of the renewal doesn't automatically mean that all of the tax rate would be levied in the 10-year lifetime of the millage.

He said the school board in past years has levied only the taxes required to balance the operating budget and in many cases the board has levied less than the maximum rate.

The current millage is \$3.9, or \$23.9 per \$1,000 of state equalized valuation.

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## First aid class is offered

The Farmington Area Recreation Commission is offering a class in first aid, beginning January 14, from 7 p.m.-10 p.m., in the Hills City Hall, 31555 Eleven Mile Road.

The seven-week course will be a certified Red Cross class. A person must be at least 13 years-old to register.

The fee is \$2. It is waived for all senior citizens, 60 years and older. Red Cross first aid handbook and bandage are required at supplementary cost of \$2.40.

The course will teach standard first aid emergency procedure. After successful completion of the course, first aid cards will be awarded.

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