Brotherton battles creeping tax hikes in state legislature

A constitutional amendment which rould lower property taxes 50 to 70 ercent is being proposed by state legitators.

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The proposal by State Rep. Mark Silander, R-Three Rivers, is comprehenive and would have to be approved by
le legislature and the voters before it
sold take effect, according to State
leg. Wilbur Brotherton is Deberton is
i Farmington Republican whose disrict also includes Southfield and
Parmington Hills.

"If the legislature refuses to put the
imendment on the next general election ballot, an effort will be made to
place it there through a citizens petition drive." Brotherton said. "That
method was used by Richard Headlee
and his Tanpayer's United Group to get
approval of tax limitation last year."

The proposal calls for the first 28
mills in school property taxes to berepealed in effect, Brotherton said. The
money school districts will lose will be
made up by an increased amount of
state aid, he said.
Under the measure, school districts be

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state aid, he said.
Under the measure, school districts will be guaranteed to receive no less than the amount generated by 26 mills worth of property taxes. The increased amount of money needed to replace school aid would come from a 1 percent hike in the state sales tax, he said.
"MICHIGAN currently levies the maximum 4 percent sales and use tax permitted by the state constitution," Brotherton said. "The increase would push it to 8 percent. Of course the increased sales tax wouldn't be placed on food or drug items because voters in 1974 took the tax of those items.
"Voters in individual school districts would retain the option of increasing operating miliage. But school boards and administrators wouldn't be permitted to seek such increases more than twice in a single year.

Ski club begins

The Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation Department is sponsoring a ski touring club for adults, families, beginners and experts. Club activities include skiing a different park each week, night skiing, special events and trins.

trips.
There are no club dues. Registration

There are no club dues. Registration is \$1 to cover mailling costs.

There will be an organizational meeting from 7-9 p.m., Dec. 12 in the Farmington Hills Library, 32737 West Twelve Mile. For further information call the parks and rec department at 474-6115.

"This portion of the proposal is designed to get at the repeated compaints legislator serevice. Even though voters reject school millages, according to the compaints, administrators and boards keep scheduling new elections in the hopes of beating down voter resistance."

Another provision of the property tax reduction amendment would provide an index to assure personal state income tax exemption keeping pace with inflation. Brotherton said. As the rate of inflation increases, so would the amount of personal income tax exemption, he maintained.

"THIS PROVISION attacks what I call the 'creeping tax increases.' They're not approved by anyone, not even the legislature, the governor or the voters," Brotherton said. "They just cocur because inflation has reduced the value of the personal income tax deduction. For a family of four, it makes a big difference.

a big difference.

"It has been estimated that if the personal income tax exemption, which was pegged at \$1,500 in 1974 by the legislature, were to reflect the same value in 1979 dollars it would have to well above \$2,000."

Today, wages, benefits and other factors in our modern economy include built-in cost of living increases to proceed employees from the ravages of inflation, Brotherton said. Personal income tax exemption should be no exception, be contended.:

Another provision of the proposed constitutional amendment would give senior citizens and renters special desenior citizens and content special desenior citizens and conte

constitutional amendment would give senior citizens and renters special de-ductions so they would share in the lower taxes, Brotherton said.
"It's estimated that when various ad-justments are made for the lower prop-erty taxes, taxes would effectively be lowered by about \$250 million," Brotherton said. "Adjustments include the elimination of property tax credit in computing an individual's income tax.

in computing an increasing tax.

"This is a complex proposal. But I believe it's a major step towards relieving the tremendously increasing pressure of property tax. It's no longer true in this nation that the amount of property tax held by an individual is an accurate reflection of conomic stature.

"Libbigan



Decisions, decisions

Sure enough, picking out that special holiday greeting card can be difficult as is exemplified by Farmington resident Agnes Stevens. But

than making decisions about special persons is what makes the holidays fun. (Staff photo by Randy Borst)

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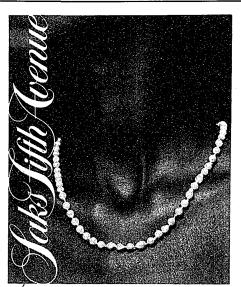


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Perfectly in place: Hathaway's pinned eyelet collar. Yes, the pinned eyelet is back - very fashionably. Hathaway, always an arbiter of good taste, shows it here on a dress shirt of easycare Dacron/cotton, with barrel cuffs and a single pocket. It comes in white, blue or ecru, and the price is a reasonable \$20. And wouldn't today be a perfect time to do some Christmas shopping?





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