Bills to reassess mobile homes

Mobile homes in licensed mobile home parks would be taxed just like houses under three legislative bills that are getting increasing local government support.

Since 1959, mobile homes in parks have been taxed \$36 a year, although local officials say some are worth as much as \$60,000. The Southeast Michigan Council of Governments last week joined the Michigan Municipal League and Michigan Townships Association in supporting three bilts in the House of Representatives to tax mobile homes the same as site houses.

"THE CURRENT form of taxa-tion of mobile homes within it-censed mobile home parks is dis-criminatory and antiquated," said the SEMCOG resolution, offered by Romulus Mayor Beverly McAnally.

"Taxpayers in the community are paying higher taxes to offset cost of schools, police and fire pro-tection and recreation services provided to residents of mobile home parks."

Charley's

. Valid 3-5-90 thru 4-30-90.

It passed without opposition.

Mobile homes on private property—as distinct from those in mobile home parks—pay property taxes just like site houses.

MOBILE HOME owners do pay the state 4 percent sales tax when they buy their units. Their reat also report to the sales tax when they buy their units. Their reat also reporty to the and single business tax along with special assessments for water and sewer.

And mobile park owners say they provide many municipal services at no cost to the city or township — internal street maintenance, lighting, sidewalks, trass-collection and snow removal.

But local government officials say mobile home parks fall to pay for their share of schools and other costly services.

for their share of schools and other costly services.

SEMCOG's executive committee endorsed the concept of House Bills 4943-45. They would repeal the current \$3 a month tax, provide for the taxation of mobile homes in parks as personal property and exempt used mobile homes from the 4 percent used mobile homes from the 4 percent used tax.

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'Expensive, inefficient'

Official's critical of county government

stall writer

As residents in the county north of Grand Rapids prepare to vote on adopting a county-executive form of Grand Rapids prepare to vote on adopting a county-executive form of government — like the one in Oakland County — Oakland board of commistoners chairman Ray Rewold has some advice: "Don't."

It's expensive, inefficient and opens the door to cronism, according to newspaper accounts of Rewold's trip to Ottawa County which is north of Kent County on Lake Michigan.

Next week Ottawa County will hold a referendum on switching from an appointed administrator and going to an independently elected county executive who oversees all county security experiment except that entrusted to other elected officials.

Oakland Caunty traveled a similar governmental road in 1974, when it became the direct of Michigan's 82 counter of adopt the county executive with the county is considered to adopt the county executive with the county of the county of the county of the county is considered to adopt the county executive with the county of the

ment.
REWOLD, R-ROCHESTER, has ment.

IEBWOLD, R-ROCHESTER, has been a commissioner for eight years under an executive and its currently chairman of the Oakland County Doard of Commissioners.

He went to Ottawa County north of Kent County on Lake Mitchigan — on Feb. 15, at the invitation of a group calling itself the Citizens for a Responsible County Government. According to newspaper stories about his trip, Rewold volced his opinions in Holland and Grand Haven advising against Ottawa's opting for a county executive.

For one thing, having a county executive unnecessarily costs more than 31 million, according to newspaper accounts of Rewold's speech services it would make your head spin. Telewid was quoted as saying in the Ottawa (County) Advance, one of 10 newspapers circulating in the Grand

Rapids area. "And that's just the fat.
"If I ran my business like I've seen some of these things done by the county executive, I wouldn't be in business," the story quoted Rewold

business," the story quoreu removes saying,
a SAED ABOUT the stories and
reports of his comments, Rewold
Wednesday said they were basically
accurate, with one exception.
They did not make clear that his
comments were directed at the system, rather than the man occupying
the executive's post — Daniel T.
Murphy.

the executive's post — Daniel T. Murrily,
"My remarks were critical of the system, not of Dan Murphy," said Rewold.
Stories also quoted Rewold as saying commissioners sometimes have of "work around" the executive to get things done.
In a Feb. 18 story in The Grand Rapids Press, Rewold was quoted as saying, "We (Oakland commissioners) don't know what is going on until thappens.

It happens.

The story also quoted Rewold as

saying that Oakland County's reputation as a prosperous, well-managed county is the result of good economic times, not a result of its form of government.

The story also quoted Rewold as saying there is a movement for an election, possibly in 1991, on changing Oakland's form of government.

OTHER COMPLAINTS attributed to Hewold in the stories include:

Because he is elected to a four-year term while commissioners serve two-year terms, the executive can lobby or support his preferred commissioner candidates.

Consultants and contractors who donate to the executive's campaign "can easily be included in county business."

Although the executive's job requires training and experience, it included by the county business of the county business. The county business is executive to be released to the staff and consultants the executive hires.

Adapt to their surroundings will be discussed at three nature programs adapt to their surroundings will be discussed at three nature programs discussed at three nature programs are preserve this precious resource at "Earth Day Primer." Groundwater of Saturday, March 3, a naturalist will demonstrate the Early American technique of tapping maple trees for syrup. Participants will view the process from start to finish, sample the syrup, and make some "maple mag; to take home. The program will be from 1-2:30 p.m., sources of water be served to the ground -a list suces and abuses will be discussed. "Earth Day Primer: Groundwater of the program will be from 1-2:30 p.m. The fee is \$1 a person. Water is crucial for sustaining Title SUBJECT of animal adaption will be explored during the "Co-Explorers Investigate Animal Pages and Feel" mithelass on Satur. "Earth Day. The program will be from 1-2:30 p.m. The feel stal a person. Water is crucial for sustaining the beat of the program will be program to the feel mithelass on Satur.

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THE SUBJECT of animal adap-tion will be explored during the "Eco-Explorers Investigate Animal Faces and Feet" mini-class on Satur-

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day, March 31, from 10 a.m. to 2

oay, naren 31, rron 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Children ages 6-8 will learn how animals' physical features adapted to their environment. A variety of outdoor activities will take place, weather permitting Par-ticipants should provide a sack lunch and dress for the weather. The cost

and dress for the weather. The cost is \$6 a person.
Pre-registration is required for all nature center programs.
Activities at the Independence Oaks Nature Center are made possible through millage funds supported by Oakland county residents.
Independence Oaks, an Oakland County Park, is on Sashabaw Road, 2½ miles north of 1-75, near Clarkston.

ion.
For more information, call 625-



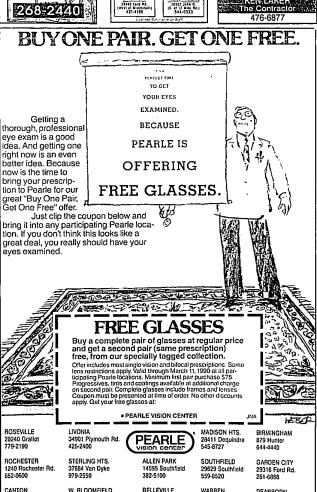
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