

Decision day

Clarenceville votes on tax hike

BY MARIE CHESTNEY
STAFF WRITER

At least six Clarenceville teachers will be laid off in January 1994 if residents reject a Headlee Amendment waiver, or tax increase, in Monday's special election.

The waiver, which would generate an extra \$228,000, is the only issue on the ballot in the Clarenceville School District which includes southeast Farmington Hills, northwest Redford, and northeast Livonia. Polls are open from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m.

"The loss of six teachers would have a tremendous negative effect on our early childhood program and would quite likely change our middle school program from a seven-period day to a six-period day, thus limiting experiences for middle school students," said Superintendent David Kamish.

If approved, money from the waiver would help erase the dis-

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Clarenceville superintendent

trict's \$286,000 deficit projected for the end of the 1993-94 school year.

If approved, the additional cost to residents would be about \$29 a year for the owner of a \$60,000 house, about \$39 a year for the owner of a \$80,000 house, and almost \$49 a year for the owner of a \$100,000 house.

The Headlee Amendment to the Michigan Constitution re-

quires governmental units to roll back millage rates to offset property assessment increases that outpace inflation.

The waiver, if passed, will allow Clarenceville to levy the total authorized millage for the district, 41.33 mills. The proposal would increase the levy by 0.9872 mills.

Clarenceville recently recalled eight laid-off teachers and gave them a one-semester contract. At least six of these teachers could

lose their jobs in mid-year if residents reject the waiver.

If the Headlee waiver is approved, the eight recalled teachers would teach the full school year.

Administrators have said that Clarenceville faces significant cuts in 1993-94 if the waiver is not passed.

Administrators said Clarenceville is seeking the extra income because:

- The Michigan Legislature for the past two years took away adult education income of \$435,000.
- The Michigan Legislature last month ordered Clarenceville to pay \$150,000 in FICA (Social Security) costs that the state paid last year.
- The Oakland Intermediate District lost \$5-million when General Motors won a property assessment appeal in Pontiac. Clarenceville's share of the cost was \$87,000.

George Romney to speak at volunteerism night

Former Michigan Governor George Romney will be the keynote speaker at Farmington Hills' first volunteerism night, Oct. 5, at 7:30 at the Mercy Center on 11 Mile just east of Middlebelt.

Romney, who chairs a statewide committee to encourage volunteerism, has distinguished

himself in the fields of business, government and volunteerism.

In addition to a distinguished career in politics, the former three-term governor has been active in volunteer efforts throughout the state and nation and considers strengthening the role of volunteers in American life as his

most important contribution.

Representatives from more than 20 volunteer organizations from Farmington Hills will also be recruiting volunteers and explaining the mission of their organizations at booths. The meeting is open to the public.



George Romney

Farmington to test hydrants

The City of Farmington will be performing hydrant testing and flushing in various locations throughout the city Friday, Oct. 1, to Tuesday, Oct. 5. This is being done as part of a fire protection system evaluation.

Residents may experience

cloudy or brownish water during this period. This condition does not pose a health threat. If water discoloration occurs, allow a couple of hours for the water in the main to settle, and run faucets until the water clears.

Cable from page 1A

The regulations forced MetroVision to reduce revenues by \$13,000 a month in Oakland County.

Bjorklund added the same discount would have to be given to full basic customers under the new CC-managed per-channel formula for cable rates.

Also, MetroVision lost money from remote controls and additional outlets, which were regulated by the FCC.

The bottom line, Bjorklund said, is the basic tier was a public service the cable operator could no longer afford.

"We don't think it's fair," Bjorklund said. "We were glad to provide a service that was, frankly, being subsidized by other customers, but a low-price service for many years. It was not part of our franchise that we needed to do it."

Some residents at the SWOCC meeting didn't buy the explanation.

Masha Silver of Farmington Hills said MetroVision reneged on promises the service would last indefinitely. She referred to ads and a newspaper article from two years ago.

Silver said she wanted to write

ing from MetroVision documentation stating the FCC mandated the rate increase. She joined with Aldo Vagnozzi in calling for MetroVision to open its books.

Bjorklund said the company, which is privately owned, would not open its books. MetroVision does file audited financial reports with SWOCC.

"You were overcharging," Silver said. "So now you lowered what you were overcharging, which you said was a little bit, and sock it to them by raising whatever you can a lot more."

Bjorklund said 73 percent of the customers chose to keep the basic service, which includes public access and broadcast channels. Another 15 percent upgraded to full basic service. Others discontinued.

"I will tell you flat out, I will not pay for this," Silver said. "I will cancel."

At Monday night's Farmington Hills City Council meeting, the council unanimously approved a resolution to initiate the process of regulating cable TV rates.

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