

OBITUARIES

EUNICE C. MILLER

Mrs. Miller, 94, of Farmington died March 28 in Greenery Care Center.

Born in Central Lake, Mich., Mrs. Miller was a teacher in the Memphis, Mich., schools 1919-42. She was a teacher/principal in Centerline Schools.

Mrs. Miller was a member of the Michigan Association of Retired School Personnel. Survivors include her daughters, Eloise Hamler and Virginia Rogers; sister, Esther Snell; 11 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren and four great-great grandchildren.

Services were March 31 at the Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington, with the Rev. Larry H. Austin officiating. Burial was in Memphis Cemetery. Memorials may be made to the Lung Association.

MARIE (LENA) DESOUSA

Miss DeSousa, 23, of Farmington

Hills died March 31 in William Beaumont Hospital, Royal Oak. Born in Warren, Miss DeSousa was a graduate of Mercy High School and U of D Mercy College. She graduated Summa Cum Laude and held a degree in psychology. She was a member of Alpha Sigma Nu and the Honor Society.

Survivors include her parents, Diane and Dr. Jose DeSousa; sisters, Cynthia, Christina and Vanessa; brother, Jason; grandmothers, Eleanor Angelone and Maria DeSousa.

Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Monday, April 4, in Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church, Farmington. Burial will be in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Southfield.

Memorials may be made to Oakwood Hospital in memory of Lena DeSousa, 18101 Oakwood Blvd., Dearborn 48123.

Arrangements were made by the Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington.

BY PAT MURPHY
STAFF WRITER

It's hard to imagine homeowners missing a chance to cut property taxes.

But that's exactly what about 14 percent of Oakland County residents are in danger of doing if they miss the extended deadline for filing the affidavit for the Homestead exemption from some school property taxes.

"We just want to remind homeowners they can still qualify for the tax cut," county executive J. Brooks Patterson said Thursday. "But they shouldn't wait too long."

The tax cut, of course, was linked to Proposal A, the state-wide ballot proposition that won about 70 percent of the vote last March 15. That proposal — a crucial part of Gov. John Engler's school financing reform — raised the state sales tax from four to six percent.

While Proposal A passed easily, tax relief is not automatic. To qualify for reductions ranging as high as 65 percent, homeowners must file the Homestead affidavit stipulating their residence is in fact their home.

Initially homeowners had until

March 1 to file, and the county sent out about 342,000 computerized forms. But that deadline was extended until May 1, about four weeks from today.

At a press conference Thursday, Patterson and other county officials including Robert Vandermark, manager of county equalization, said that as many as 23,000 county residents — or nearly 14 percent of the total — had not filed the required affidavit as of March 28.

"Some people may have thought it wasn't worth the effort," said Patterson. "Others might have simply forgotten or put it off. The money will go to Lansing if they put it off."

The state would realize a lucrative windfall if sizable numbers of homeowners do not file the affidavit. "But that's not what the governor had in mind," said Patterson, who helped Engler promote Proposal A.

Whatever the reason for not filing the affidavit, the county is again mustering its computerized resources to reach those 23,000 homeowners.

Just as it did prior to March 1, the county is again sending computerized notices to those individ-

uals who, according to records, are eligible for the tax cut, but have not yet filed the affidavit to qualify.

The first of the letters went out last week, and the remainder will follow quickly.

Oakland is also re-emphasizing its Homestead Hotline through which homeowners can get additional information. That number

is 858-1123. Callers will need their 10-digit property identification number, something that included on county notices or can be obtained through the local assessor's office.

Vandermark said that while some homeowners have not yet filed, the problem appears to be greater with condominium owners.

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