

Clarenceville changes to annual tax collection

BY MARIE CHESTNEY
STAFF WRITER

All property owners in the Clarenceville School District, including businesses, will pay their entire tax bill this summer.

The good news is that taxpayers won't face a winter tax bill, as they have in past years.

The district, which includes a portion of Farmington Hills, switched to the one-time-only summer tax collection after determining that a single tax bill won't be unduly burdensome to businesses, said Ralph Skrocki, finance director of Clarenceville.

"We talked to a few business people and gave them examples of what will happen to them," Skrocki said. "Business will pay a little more in the summer, but they'll still pay less than they did before, and they won't have a second bill in the winter."

For example, total taxes in 1993-94 on a Clarenceville business with a State Equalized Valuation of \$100,000 were \$6,500. To-

tal taxes on the same business in 1994-95 will drop to \$4,700, with the business paying 100 percent of the bill this summer.

"This means the summer tax will be \$1,450 more than the 1993-94 summer tax," Skrocki said. "It also means that the winter tax will be zero. This is a total saving of \$1,800. Business people will have to put up a little more in summer, but nothing in winter."

On March 15, with the passage of Proposal A, Clarenceville's property tax plunged from 42.18 mills to 6.10 mills.

Having just one tax collection this summer will keep Clarenceville from paying higher interest charges on money it must borrow for school operations, Skrocki said.

This will be the first time in the six years that he's been with the district that Clarenceville will borrow money, Skrocki said.

Even with the summer-only tax collection, Clarenceville expects

to borrow at least \$800,000, Skrocki said.

But if it had stayed with the two tax collections, summer and winter, it would have had to borrow \$1.8 million, he said.

A 4 percent interest rate on the \$800,000 means the district will pay \$88.80 per day, or \$2,666 a month, in interest charges.

But a 4 percent interest rate on \$1.8 million shoots the interest charge up to \$200 a day, or \$6,000 a month, he said.

Clarenceville laid the groundwork for a summer-only collection in December, when the school board approved giving itself the option of doing so in 1994.

State law requires districts to tell taxpayers ahead of time how taxes will be collected in a given year.

Under Proposal A, the yearly school tax rate now paid by businesses is 24 mills, four times more than the 6 mills paid by homeowners.

RECREATION NEWS

Each week, the recreation division of the Farmington Hills Department of Special Services presents a synopsis of upcoming activities. For more information regarding programs, call the recreation office at 473-9570. For city council agenda items, call the Newsline at 476-3838.

HERITAGE PARK SHELTER RESERVATIONS

At the Department of Special Services office, Farmington/Hill residents, in person, may reserve one of the three shelters within Heritage Park. Rental and deposit money must be paid at the time of reservation. To obtain rental fees and location and size of shelter, call the registration office at 473-9570.

SOFTBALL REGISTRATION

New teams may now register for an adult summer softball league at the recreation office. Leagues available include men's, women's and coed. There are 14 games plus playoffs for the men's and women's leagues, and 10 games plus playoffs for coed leagues. Registration fees are \$410 for resident/industrial, \$450 for open, and \$355 for coed. Call 473-9570 for

additional information.

OUTDOOR SAND VOLLEYBALL REGISTRATION

Registration for returning teams will begin April 4 at the recreation office. New teams can begin registering April 18 on a first-come first-served basis. All games will be played at the new sand volleyball courts at Founders Sports Park. For more information, call the Recreation office at 473-9570.

DAY CAMPS

Registrations are now being accepted for the summer day camps, which will be in Heritage Park. Day camps are scheduled for 6- to 8-year-olds and 9- to 12-year-olds. Nature's Way Camps will also be for ages 6-8 and 9-12 ages. There are eight one-week sessions scheduled beginning June 20. Half-day session for Camp Wee-Wonnies (ages 3-5) are also available. For more information, contact the recreation office.

NATURE DISCOVERY WAGON

Pre-registration for children ages 3-6 and a parent or grandparent is being accepted for a program that will provide a tour of Heritage Park's natural sights, sounds and textures of spring. Participants will ride on a hay wagon with spe-

cial stops along the way. The evenings end with a camp fire and roasting marshmallows. Fee of \$5 per person will be accepted for the Wednesday, April 27; May 4, May 18 and June 1 programs. Programs runs from 7-8 p.m.

FARMINGTON COMMUNITY CHORUS

Farmington Hills Department of Special Services and the Farmington Community Chorus present their spring concert, "All That Jazz," at 8 p.m. Friday, May 13; and Saturday, May 14, at the Harrison High School Auditorium, 29955 W. 12 Mile Road. Tickets at the door are \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors and students and \$3 for children 10 and under.

GOLF LESSONS

A six-lesson program working on your swing, stance and grip will be offered on Mondays/Wednesdays and on Tuesdays/Thursdays starting the week of May 9, at the Novi Oaks Driving Range. Each lesson is 50 minutes and participants will be asked to buy a bucket of golf balls. Beginner classes only. Pre-registration fee of \$45 required.

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