

Learn more about Oakland Schools millages at Monday forum

BY SUE RUCK
STAFF WRITER
sruck@oecomm.com.net

A gathering of tax advocates, largely parent volunteers, will host a forum 7-9 p.m. Monday, Sept. 10, to explain the two separate tax-increase proposals - special education and vocational education - presented by the Oakland County Intermediate School District.

The meeting, which is open to everyone, will be at the Costick Center on 11 Mile west of Middelet. It is presented by the Farmington Special Education Forum and the Farmington Area ITA Council.

"Oakland County Schools Superintendent James Redmond is the headliner," said Diane Bauman, director of school and community relations, Farmington School Superintendent Bob Maxfield will also speak.

Voters in 28 Oakland County School districts, including Farmington, will go to the polls Tuesday, Sept. 25.

District officials say they need more money for special education than is provided by the state and federal government. The amount of aid has not increased as fast as the costs of the program, officials said.

To get more money for special education, local school districts have tapped into their general operating budgets for up to 60 percent of the cost for mandated special education programs, according to literature provided by Farmington Schools. The special education tax will be distributed among all the school districts in Oakland County, to

A forum on the Sept. 25 Oakland Schools millage election will be held Monday, Sept. 10, 7-9 p.m., at the William Costick Activities Center.

compensate for those dollars. The vocational education proposal will provide students with access to the technologies and equipment that are critical to student success in their possible career area, officials said.

The money will be used to improve the four Oakland Technical Centers, make career preparation programs available to all students, and pay for grants to school districts for technical education programs.

Questions at council

Maxfield and school board member Cathy Webb spoke at the Sept. 4 Farmington city council meeting. The literature they distributed didn't contain the cost to residents, so Councilwoman JoAnne McShane asked for that information. She also asked what cuts could be expected if the proposals fail.

"People will want to know that," she said. Using \$200,000 as the average home price in the Farmington area, Maxfield said residents can expect to pay an annual increase of \$117 for the special education tax and \$22 for the

vocational education tax. Maxfield and Webb stressed the district's desire to maintain small class sizes, an exemplary fine arts program, athletic opportunities and employee training.

This will be the second time Farmington Farmington Hills voters go to the polls this year.

The first time was in June to vote for school board members. Voters also approved tax renewals for both the Farmington school district and Oakland Community College.

City of Farmington voters will trend to the polls a third time Nov. 6 to elect three council members. They will also decide if the city should borrow up to \$1.8 million to begin a sewer rehabilitation program.

If the city's tax proposal passes, residents would pay \$46 per year on a home that sells for \$200,000.

Noting the city would be presenting information about its millage that night, Webb said that just as the sewer tax request was of paramount interest to the city, the school district's proposal was equally paramount to kids and the school district.

Kim Heath, tax committee chairwoman, said in a later interview that a reminder to go to the polls will be mentioned at all PTA meetings, school open houses and in postcards.

"The MEA (state teachers union) is donating their phones at the end of the month (for a phone bank)," Heath said.

Diversity

ADL director keynotes event

BY KEVIN BROWN
STAFF WRITER
kbrown@oecomm.com.net

Richard Lobenthal started as a civil rights professional in the 1950s, years before "cultural diversity" became a widely addressed concept.

But in some ways, times haven't changed much.

"I'm always taken aback when I'm confronted by bigotry," said Lobenthal, longtime Michigan Director of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL).

Now a consultant specializing in human relations, Lobenthal is the keynote speaker Sunday, Sept. 16, at the Mini-Conference on Religious and Cultural Diversity, sponsored by the Multicultural/Multiracial Community Council.

The program opens at 1 p.m. at the Costick Activities Center; his address is at 145 p.m. The public is invited to attend.

Lobenthal was director of the ADL from 1992-96. Founded in 1911, the ADL is the world's largest private human relations organization.

Mini-Conference Co-chairwoman Karen Bolsen said of Lobenthal, "He spent a lot of time in our community as the former director of the Anti-Defamation League; he knows it well. He's seen as a leader in the diversity community."

The West Bloomfield resident has served as interim director of



Guest speaker: Richard Lobenthal will keynote the Mini-Conference on Religious and Cultural Diversity, held Sunday, Sept. 16 at the Costick Center.

the Michigan American Civil Liberties Union; as an expert in civil rights litigation certified in federal, state and county courts; on the Michigan Board of Ethics appointed by Gov. John Engler and on the Michigan Humanities Council, appointed by former governor Jim Blanchard.

While there have been advances in civil rights and acceptance of cultural diversity by the broader population, Lobenthal said more work must be done.

"There is a viable hate move-

ment because the Internet allows the haters to be as creative as the rest of us - people who say 'We'll determine your choices,'" Lobenthal said. "I've always been startled by that. It should have been lost years ago from our culture."

Tolerance increasing

But he said some have become far more tolerant since he began his professional life. "You see populations, couples, friends, groups of kids, lovers, families that reflect multicultural variety. We've become much more laid back, much more accepting of that kind of culture."

Lobenthal is scheduled to speak on religion and how it affects our behavior. "When I'm talking about religion, I'm really talking about issues of spirituality," Lobenthal said - adding this is a subject applicable to those who identify themselves as part of a faith, and to those who don't.

"Dealing with cultural practices that are not familiar with sometimes is annoying to us, it can be a positive thing only if we can make it so."

In 1989, Lobenthal was a consultant to the Republic of Germany, addressing social problems arising out of German reunification.

HUGE DIAMOND SALE

"Sidney Krandall & Sons has purchased the entire inventory of another jewelry company at liquidation prices. Many of these items are duplicates of existing inventory and will be sold at phenomenal savings. Hurry in for the best selection."

TROY LOCATION:	Diamond	Retail Value	NOV	Diamond	Retail Value	NOV
Rd. 28x10H30	\$910	\$236	PC 76x GVS32	\$4,128	\$1,064	
Rd. 48x10H30	\$4,806	\$448	Mg 107x J51	\$9,988	\$4,494	
Rd. 12x10V30	\$1,363	\$545	PC 108x FVS31	\$13,209	\$6,604	
Mg 81x10H	\$2,603	\$709	PS 135x F51	\$17,053	\$6,821	
Rd. 68x10H30	\$4,870	\$2,035	Rd. 132x10V30	\$16,093	\$7,231	
PS 88x10H	\$7,602	\$2,801	Rd. 916x30V32	\$113,584	\$45,433	

LAKE ORION LOCATION:	Diamond	Retail Value	NOV	Diamond	Retail Value	NOV
Mg 28x10H30	\$422	\$126	PC 76x GVS32	\$6,810	\$3,420	
Rd. 26x10V32	\$962	\$384	Rd. 35x FVS2	\$9,866	\$4,933	
Rd. 48x10H	\$1,254	\$418	PS 102x GVS2	\$9,380	\$4,690	
Os. 42x10V30	\$1,499	\$524	PC 108x FVS31	\$10,235	\$5,117	
Rd. 62x10H	\$1,829	\$623	Rd. 186x10V32	\$18,731	\$9,355	
Mg 107x10V32	\$8,306	\$3,532	EC 208x10V32	\$21,335	\$9,591	

**Items may be viewed at select locations without charge.*

Sidney Krandall & Sons
30 YEARS OF FINE JEWELRY & GEMS

TROY & LAKE ORION
355 WEST MAIN ST. TROY, MI 48063
12237 ZOSLYN COURT, LAKE ORION, MI 48643
TEL: (313) 251-1111 FAX: (313) 251-1112

Best Value Travel and Tours, Inc. and Funjet Vacations

Invite you to attend the **HONEYMOON OPEN HOUSE**
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2001 • 6:00 P.M.

Featuring *Sandals Resorts* and other romantic destinations!

Exclusive Honeymoon Package \$350.00

RSVP 248-476-2020
2037 Middlebelt Road
Between 7 and 8 Mile Road
Livonia, Michigan 48152

**Restrictions apply. Minimum 7 night stay and hotel vacation required. Valid on Funjet Vacations only bookings 45 days or more in advance. Discounts may vary by date of final destination room category and occupancy.*

Picture Perfect!

SAVE 30%

On A Sporty Blouson Natural **Mink Jacket**
Starting At: **\$2,520**

Through Saturday Only!

In-Store Financing
No Finance Charges
Until December

Dittrich
Since 1923
Know Thy Furrier

Monday - Saturday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Orionfield Hills: Thursday 11:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Detroit • (313) 873-8300
7373 Third Ave.
Bloomfield Hills • (248) 642-3000
39515 Woodward Ave.

THE FALL HOME FURNISHINGS SALE

SEPTEMBER 1 THROUGH OCTOBER 15

BARRIE BIRMINGHAM FURNITURE • BARRIE • ACCESSORIES
34100 WOODWARD AVENUE, BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN 48418-9938-9608
M, Tu, F - 10-8, T, W, Sat - 10-6, Sun - 11-1

How to become a financial visionary.

Finding a way to protect your money from inflation doesn't require a crystal ball. Check out www.savingsbonds.gov to find out more about Series I Bonds from the U.S. Treasury.

iBonds
Treasury Bonds Sold Direct to You

www.savingsbonds.gov
A public service of Q1a newspaper

Cozy Kitchens

Fabulous FURNITURE

You can WIN A SHOPPING spree!
\$12,000 IN DISCOUNTS!
Watch for details!

TOTAL COMFORT

BETTER HEATING & COOLING BUREAU

ENJOY YEAR 'ROUND COMFORT

A MESSAGE FROM THE BETTER HEATING AND COOLING BUREAU

Dear Southeastern Michigan Consumer,

Don't take a chance on anyone but a member of the Better Heating and Cooling Bureau.

Have you ever considered how vitally important the heating/cooling system of your home is? It should give steady year round comfort. It can keep all of your rooms at a uniform, healthy temperature, or it can leave some areas drafty and chilly, causing your youngster to catch cold easily. Your heating/cooling system can be highly efficient and economical, or it can be faulty with high repair bills.

Yes, your heating/cooling system is vitally important and should be properly sized, equipped and installed to fit your home's exact needs. It should give you carefree relaxed comfort all year through. But how can you be sure a heating/cooling system is exactly right before you buy a home or before you have a replacement system installed? How can you know it will actually give you and your family the year round comfort so necessary to your health and well being? How can you be sure your system will operate efficiently and economically?

SELECT YOUR SPECIALIST TODAY • SMART MONEY BUYS NOW

CALL THE BETTER HEATING AND COOLING BUREAU TODAY FOR YOUR FREE BROCHURE

(248) 649-3740

The answer: Install a heating/cooling system in compliance with the Better Heating and Cooling Bureau's rigid residential standards which include the following important benefits:

1. Heating/Cooling System will give you uniform comfort in every room.
2. Highest quality materials will be used and properly installed for economical operation.
3. Materials and workmanship will be honestly priced.
4. Materials and workmanship must meet the highest standards.