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the reminder

Zone 2

Independence & Springfield Township

Volume 4 Number 28

April 2, 1981

"Simple" Tax Relief Plan On Its Way to Ballot

by Dawson Bell

With cries of "Hurray", "Where's Tisch?" and "Oh, No, Not Again!" the Michigan legislature recently approved placement of House Joint Resolution G or the "Smith-Brown Property Tax Relief Amendment" on a special statewide ballot for May 19.

The action once again puts the question of property tax reform before the voters. Oddsmakers are predicting that the new proposal has a better than even chance of winning approval. Although, as one observer put it, "Not so much because it's good but because it is."

If approved, the proposal (an amendment to the Michigan Constitution of 1963) would largely replace the Headlee Tax Limitation Amendment of 1978 with a 50 percent reduction in homestead property taxes, place a 6 percent cap on property tax increases and limit the total tax bill on homesteads to \$1400.

The new amendment would also offer cuts in city income taxes (at the same time it raised the maximum levy allowed) and ostensibly recoup most of the property tax losses by raising the state sales tax from 4 percent to 5.5 percent.

Independence Township Clerk, Chris Rose, said the legislature had set several goals for itself in drawing up the plan -- to increase property tax relief, cut some spending, make the proposal visible and easy to understand, and balance the tax structure (away from an over emphasis on property).

Rose, with a few reservations, thinks they have accomplished those goals.

He said the 6 percent revenue growth limitation would effectively reduce the township's projected budget for 1981-82 by \$105,000 since, under the current system, revenue would be expected to increase this year by at least 13 percent.

Local revenue is, in theory, not affected by the 50 percent base reduction included in the proposal. That money is to be returned by the state from the returns on the increase in the sales tax.

The savings to the taxpayer (i.e.) the homestead property taxpayer) is in fact not really 50 percent anyway. The portion of tax monies presently allocated for the repayment of debt is excluded from the base reduction.

In Independence and Springfield debt millage is approximately 10 percent of the total.

At the township's annual meeting last Saturday Rose said that the \$105,000 shortfall would be taken out of the budgets of the general fund and the police and fire departments.

He said of the proposal, simply, "We can live with it." And both Rose and township supervisor, James Smith, said they expect the proposal G to be adopted.



John Q. Public

The attitude at another local unit of "government" - the Clarkston Schools - is not quite so stoic.

The portion of property tax revenues that accrue to the schools is significantly larger (2/3 of the total in 1980) than the township's.

And superintendent, Milford Mason, told the school board last week that he anticipated losses not only related to the 6 percent celling, but from a gap in the state's

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Chairman of the lighting fund committee, Eric Reickel, is shown above at the bulb table.

Light Bulbs For Sale--Cheap

Clarkston's Lighting Fund committee has come up with another "bright" idea to raise money for a new lighting system at the high school football field.

In a program begun last week the committee is offering light bulbs for sale at reduced rates.

On a minimum order of 12 bulbs the purchaser can realize substantial savings at the same time he helps the fund raising effort.

The first public sale of the bulbs was at last Friday's lighting fund basketball game between Clarkston School faculty and Oakland County

Sheriff's deputies.

Another big sale is slated for Saturday, April 4, at Clarkston Junior High. Quantity orders, with in-

creased savings, are also available.

For more information, contact Larry Beamer 394-0321.

*Free Local Dialing
May Be Thing of Past*

CEASE Learn of Bombshell

Dennis Snyder, attorney for the Holly and Springfield area Citizens for Extended Area Service (C.E.A.S.E.) said he was "taken by surprise" when telephone company officials revealed in recent testimony that one of the reasons they opposed increasing phone service to the Holly area was their intention to phase out free local dialing to all phone customers in the near future.

The revelation came during the course of hearings before the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) Administrative Law Court.

Snyder was questioning officials of the General Telephone Company about their continued refusal to grant Extended Area Service (EAS) to residents in the 634 exchange when he was told that by the time EAS could be implemented in Holly the phone company was hoping to have eliminated the service altogether.

EAS service, in use throughout the state, allows phone customers unlimited dialing privileges within their service area, toll free.

Snyder said the request to replace EAS with a Time and Distance system had been filed with the MPSC in May of 1980 (for residences) and in January 1981 (for businesses), but that the applications have not been publicized because "the phone companies want to push it through without a lot of public outcry."

The phone company's request Snyder said would make the case for C.E.A.S.E. that much more difficult.

"If we had known about this when we started," he said, "It would have changed our whole strategy."

The group is now faced with the prospect of rallying against Time and Distance (or User Sensitive Pricing (USP) as it was formerly known) at the same time they fight for EAS.

Snyder said he hoped to generate some public interest in the question which so far has remained low profile.

The institution of Time and Distance charges would radically change the nature of phone service throughout the state, he said.

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editor's note

Taxes are again the thrust of this week's cover story. It's no secret that the May 19 statewide vote is very important to the welfare of this state. But another very important institution, like our property tax, is also in need of reform, and possibly done away with.

I'm speaking of the annual township meeting that Independence and Springfield Townships hold each year. At that meeting, which is suppose to resemble a New England style township hall meeting, everyone that is an elector and attends the meeting has a vote. At these meetings important items like the budget and township salaries are to be approved.

That's fine in theory. But nowadays no one seems to show up at these meetings. Independence made a good effort last week to try and increase their attendance at this important meeting. But all that showed were approximately 70 people, many of them being family or members of several committees the new township board instituted when they first came to office in November.

I've objected to these meetings in the past, because a small interest group could control the voting power, and thusly, but unrightfully, decrease the salary of a particular public official that they were angry at. Laws have been instituted to prevent that problem now, but nothing says those present can't increase an official's salary.

And at Independence Saturday, we saw just that happen. Across the Board, elected officials were granted a 9.3 percent increase in pay.

Now I'm not implying that the current Independence board is not deserving of the raise. They've worked diligently and for the most part intelligently in tackling the township's problems since election in November.

However, times are tough. Factory workers everywhere are either being laid off or taking cuts in pay. The same situation exists in our schools. You as leaders should realize what's going on. It's a time for sacrifice, not salary increases.

Mike Wilcox

Enough to Make Me Puke

To The Editor:

If reading interior decorating articles is enough to make Mike Morrow "puke" he should try reading his own sometime.

Sincerely,
Vera S. Scott

letters

Appalled at Poll Responses

Letter to the Editor:

Rape and murder are shocking crimes; still I was appalled to learn that 96 percent of the responses to the **Reminder's** poll favored capital punishment. I too would like to keep our state safe, safe from the criminal -- and safe from the voter.

A check of the records would show that capital punishment does not deter crime. A check on history would show that violence begets nothing but more violence. One might be able to understand how an addict, a deranged, disturbed, distraught or even a threatened person could kill, but how "normal" human beings can plot to murder via the ballot system is beyond my comprehension. Would not the few coins we would save be "blood money" that would make hit men out of all of us.

As for the rapist, do the **Reminder** readers realize they would be getting rid of very few "hoodlums". For the most part they would be getting rid of their neighbors, the victim's father, step-father, brother, uncle or friend.

Yes let's get crime out of Michigan, off our streets and out of our neighborhoods, but please don't let them make killers out of all of us.

Sincerely,
Monnie Shaughnessy
Waterford

Ziebart Special to Benefit Bills Fund

Dear Mike,

On February 23, Tim Bills of Brandon Township passed away after a long illness. His family has been left with extraordinary medical bills and Ziebart of Waterford would like to help.

Monday, April 13 through Thursday, April 16 we will be running a special on Zeeglaze finish protection. Zeeglaze will be offered at \$39.00 off list price with all proceeds going to the Timothy A. Bills Memorial Fund. An appointment is necessary for Zeeglaze. Also, only checks or money orders will be accepted and they must be made out to the Timothy A. Bills Memorial Fund.

Mike, my husband and I would really appreciate any publicity you would be able to give us regarding this special promotion for Tim's family.

Sincerely,
Rose Schoenherr

News & Views from CHS

Senioritis



by Annette Weber

With only three months to freedom, Clarkston High School seniors, having spent close to 13 years bound in books, are beginning to show signs of enthusiasm -- commonly known as "senioritis".

As Spring appears and seniors see mercury climb, their grade-point averages tend to fall in accordance.

Colleges, institutes, and prospective employers warn that effects of "senioritis" are unattractive liabilities on a student's record. A notice indicating its negative possibilities appeared recently in one CHS hallway, but did little to cure the spring fever spreading throughout their senior population.

Seniors previously accepted into a university or job training program risk cancellation should grades suddenly drop. Likewise, students yet to apply increase the chance of refusal if among the annual group infected by "senioritis".

Obviously, some seniors are ignoring visions of future careers and, instead, blinded by the light -- sunlit summer beaches, cars, and parties.

However difficult it may be to break the heatwave through waves, seniors had better try. If sunglasses don't help to filter scenes of summer sunshine, something more drastic, like homework, may have to be attempted to thwart the fatalities of "senioritis".

Looking farther into the future, after summer moves south, will cause more students to increase their motivation and make better use of their last semester in captivity.

Most teachers agree that "senioritis" symptoms appear along with the first signs of spring or shortly afterward.

Undoubtedly, they disagree with many seniors in thinking that classroom studies, not suntan lotion, would be most useful to the brain's capable 10 percent during the final months of school.

On a final note, one teacher suggested that "habitrails" might be the most effective means of control for "senioritis". Approaching the end of their high school educations, seniors may need to be tunneled in the right direction.

(*Editor's Note: "Habitrails" are training devices commonly used to divert hamsters into more purposeful activity. To our knowledge a human equivalent has not been developed. But the suggestion is an interesting one.)

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Clothes Tree Moves to Waterfall Plaza

Some longtime Clarkston clothiers are leaving town. But fortunately they're not going too far.

Ann and Russell Morgan, proprietors of the Clothes Tree, will be hanging up their shingle down at the Waterfall Plaza just south of Andersonville Road on Dixie Highway as of April 1. The move comes after eight years of doing business in the Clarkston area at their old location on south Ortonville Road.

Ann Morgan says the move to the new shopping center will allow them to double their floor space and provide an increased selection for their patrons. The Clothes Tree

offers outfitting for women, especially, says Morgan, the "working woman".

Mrs. Morgan says the move was prompted by the need to expand the business.

"This little business has been fantastic," she says. "I couldn't have asked for any more."

April will be a busy month in the Morgan's personal life too as they prepare for their daughter's April 25 wedding.

The Morgans have lived in Clarkston for ten years and plan to remain township residents.

"We're not moving ourselves," says Ann Morgan. "Just the business."

Students Part of Survey

Clarkston High School and the Northwest Oakland Vocational Education Center in Clarkston will be surveying 381 former students for their opinions concerning the vocational programs in which they were enrolled last year.

Marvin Hess at Clarkston High School and Neil Sage from the Northwest Oakland Vocational Education Center will be asking the graduates and former students to report what they are doing at the present time and how well they feel the school served their needs. The annual survey, conducted in cooperation with the Michigan Department of Education, provides information for planning more effective local and state educational programs.

Contacts with the former students will be by mail between March 15 and April 1. Hess and Sage are asking the former students to answer and return the survey forms promptly. They are also asking relatives of the former students to assist them in locating the former students. The identity of those who answer the survey will be kept confidential.

Holly Hosts G.E.D.

Registrations are now being taken at the Holly Community Education Center from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for the G.E.D. Test. Test dates are April 7 and 8, from 6:15 to 9:30 p.m. Testing will take place at the Holly Community Education Center, 111 College Street, Holly.

The test will cover English, Social Studies, Science, Literature, and Mathematics. A fee for the testing will be charged. For more information, contact the Holly Community Education office at 634-7341.

The next test dates are May 5 and 6, from 6:15 to 9:30 p.m.

"Bus Stop" Opens

The cast has been announced for William Inge's comedy, "Bus Stop" which will open a four week run on Thursday, March 26 at 8:30 p.m. (through Sunday, April 19) on the campus of Oakland University near Rochester.

All the action of "Bus Stop" takes place in a roadside diner west of Kansas City, where the passengers of a bus take refuge until a blizzard blows over. Chief among these travelers is a pretty but brassy night club singer. Cyd Quilling has been cast as the singer who calls herself Cherie. Miss Quilling, a resident of Minneapolis, appeared in two Meadow Brook hits last season, "A Summer Remembered" and "You Can't Take It With You".

Opening week performances of "Bus Stop", which will run through Sunday, April 19, are scheduled at 8:30 p.m. on Thursday and Friday, 2 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. on Saturday and 6:30 p.m. on Sunday. Performances will be offered during the following three weeks at 8:30 p.m. Tuesdays through Friday, 6 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. on Saturdays, 6:30 p.m. on Sundays and 2 p.m. Wednesdays.

Tickets for "Bus Stop" may be purchased by calling the box office, 377-3300.

danny paris tv & appliance

LEFT OVER SALE



We have just completed our fiscal year end inventory and have hundreds of leftover items which we are greatly reducing to make room for new merchandise. Many are one or two-of-a-kind. Some are floor sample and listed below are just a few.

LOOK FOR THE SPECIAL TAGS

Sale Ends Saturday, April 4, 1981

CONSOLE COLOR TV

1 RCA 25" pecon cabinet color console \$461.00. One only and what a super buy. Our cost was \$460.00 and Danny said let's make a buck.

2 Good old Sony. When we took on this line last summer they told us that their white 26" remote console was one of their best selling models. Well, it may be in New York or L.A. but in our area it just didn't happen. If you can use a very modern very beautiful contemporary TV you're in luck. \$895.00. Their list price is \$1199.95 so at \$895.00 we know they'll move.

3 Selected models from Zenith, General Electric, Quasar and Magnavox have also been reduced. Look for the special tags in the store.

REFRIGERATORS

1 We've sold lots of Admiral 15 cu. ft. all no-frost refrigerators for \$489.95. Now we've down to our last 4 - 2 in white and 2 in almond. So out they go for only \$390.00 each.

2 Last January Dean LaRue, our refrigerator buyer, suggested that we try just two of Hotpoints new low priced 18 cu. ft. no-frost top mount. Well, we still have just two, and they are both in white. They didn't sell at \$479, \$449, \$429, or \$399. But at only \$375.00 each, they sure should find a new home.

MICROWAVE OVENS

1 Several times each year we sell all the microwave ovens from our classroom in our store. Pat Jeffreys, our microwave consultant has used these ovens in her cooking classes so they really have very limited use. We sell them at a substantially reduced price and they include all our famous brands such as Amana, Litton, Magic Chef, Sharp, Hotpoint and Quasar. If you really want to save dough on a micro, one of these models will do the trick.

RADIOS

1 Our brand new super duper radio department is now open. You will find the kind of selection and service that you have come to expect from Danny Paris in our new radio section. We have radios from \$4.99 to \$449.00 on stock with knowledgeable salespeople to help you and our outstanding service department if you should need them. For example you can buy a Magnavox AM-FM clock radio for only \$25.00. This is not some brand you have never heard of but a Magnavox. Or how about a Toshiba AM-FM-Stereo Radio with cassette recorder and tone control for only \$88.00. We have a radio for every need and they are all sale priced for this special event.

GAS & ELECTRIC RANGES

1 Who would ever dream that we would be overstocked with ALMOND ranges? Yes, it is the most popular color and yes, it will go with everything. But for some reason we have several extra 30" Magic Chef gas and electric models in stock. Both have lift up tops for easy cleaning, removable oven doors and door seals. At \$250.00 they won't last long.

2 GAS-SELF CLEANING -- \$421.00 and believe it or not these are not damaged but factory fresh in a carton and they are made by Caloric, the originator of the gas self cleaner. While only or we will special order you another color for \$549.95.

FREEZERS

1 Did you know that a 20 cu. ft. chest freezer will hold 711 pounds of frozen food? Did you know that we have 4 of these famous Hotpoint freezers in stock? These are not for apartments or mobile homes but if you want to buy a lot of frozen food, or you have a really big garden, this is the perfect freezer for you. Oh, the price? \$335.00 puts it in your home.

VIDEO CASSETTE RECORDERS

1 Our best selling video recording is a sorry we can't mention the name here. Anyway, it originally sold in our store for \$1099.95. We then were able to reduce the price to \$949.95 due to a volume purchase. This is still our best selling model but we find we now have five on display. If you would like one of these display models, it can be yours for \$765.00. And even at that price you can enroll in our famous \$50,000 home video library.

2 The Video Disc Revolution is here at Danny Paris. Four people will get to own Magnavox Video Disc Recorders for the unheard of price of \$537.50 (that's \$537.50 not \$775.00).

DISHWASHERS

1. Coffee is the color, Caloric is the brand. Convertible is the style and \$258.00 is the price. Need we say more?

PORTABLE COLOR

1 We were shocked when we not all done counting and found that we had 23 RCA 13" remote controls available. This has been our most popular bedroom TV and I guess that we got carried away the last time we ordered. They have been selling for \$399.00 but until these are gone or the sale ends you can take \$50.00 OFF that price.

2 19" REMOTE CONTROL with One Year Parts and Labor Warranty and two year picture tube warranty and walnut grained cabinet and REMOTE CONTROL. One only Toshiba for \$377.00.

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