Huron assessments rise $5.3 million

By MARY DRIER

Huron County's new Equalization reports are in — and the Western Thumb is adding a large portion of the $5.03 million assessment rise.

During the annual approval of the assessments rolls, County Equalization Director Sandra Drews recommended adding $5.03 million to assessments because "assessments were deficient in their assessments." County commissioners approved her recommendations.

"There were deficiencies in certain units compared to property study, and when they don't present me with a study of their own, it is expected that they come up with the value I prescribe," Drews said.

"Without a study of their own, I have nothing to base the lesser values on.

"They didn't meet the over-all projections."

The report is filed with the State Tax Commission for them to act on for the State Equalization Valuation figures later this month, probably to be adopted May 24.

Drews' recommended changes were for Fair Haven, Gore, Huron, Meade, Pointe aux Barques and Port Austin Townships.

The largest increase is Port Austin Township with additions of $1.7 million to residential values. Also, Drews recommended changes for Fair Haven Township for additions of $230,892 to residential.

Fair Haven Township Supervisor/Assessor Marvin Grotetzki said he realizes he didn't meet Drews projected figures.

"I had to come up with $7 million and I couldn't get it," said Grotetzki.

"I suppose some will say I didn't do a good assessment job, but I did what I thought was right by using figures I got from sales and prices of lake-front footage land values."

"I'm not going to fight the change, but I'm going to campaign long and hard for the June 2 sales tax amendment. That is the only way for homeowners to get a property tax break."

Grotetzki noted increased rates that people will pay for homes is a factor in the high assessment increase.

"People from the cities are paying high prices. It's been going wild up here. People are paying over $2,000 a foot for lake-front property."

Huron County's proposed SEV increased by $94.1 million in total and personal property from last year. This year's SEV is $856.9 million, which is up from last year's $768.8 million because of new construction and increased values, noted Drews.

However, the June 2 ballot issue on revamping property taxes could change the impact of assessments and taxes.

"If it comes on for the next year, there won't be much time to do re-sefiguring," Drews noted.

"Also if there are no tax bills levied because of having to go back and re-figure will that mean that the village, townships, and counties have to borrow money to be able to run their government? School districts are forced to do that in a lot of instances, to borrow money against tax anticipation until collections."

Please turn to Page 31

GrANDPARENT'S DAY AT USA Elementary School was a success. Grandmother Arlene Kunisch helps fourth-grader grandchild Brian Zurcha with a school project in Beth Kuhl's classroom.

By MARY DRIER

Blade & Progress
NEWS ROUND-UP

Tour includes Thumb stops

MSU's Extension Office will host a second Saginaw Bay Area Development Forum for community leaders and persons interested in tourism development. According to Dr. Mary Wahl, MSU District Extension Agent for Community and Economic Development of the Saginaw Bay Area, purpose of the tour is to provide an opportunity for community leaders from Huron, Tuscola, Saginaw, Bay, Arenac and Iosco Counties to learn how other similar areas have planned and secured funding for recreation and tourism development projects, both public and private development, as well as what the projects mean to the Saginaw Bay Area.

The tour includes: Bay City River front development, River Club facility, National Environmental Super-computer Center, EPA Research center and historic downtown preservation; development of Cass River in Tuscola County and plans for an Ag Heritage Park, the round barn in Gagetown, Pigeon Barn Shells, Huron County's Wilderness Arboretum, proposed Port Austin marina expansion and Port Austin Air Force Base conversion to recreational use.

Last Friday the group toured Saginaw River front development, the Saginaw Park system, CENEX's development; Arenac County's marina and golf course developments; discussion of Charlevoix Island development; Lesco Refuge and Scenic Byway on the Audibles River.

MICHIGAN

By the Numbers

Population, buying power

Homes in the Upper Thumb are below-average or average in household income, according to recent statistics. This comparison shows population, number of households and median household income (half homes are below and half above this figure). They include:

                      County  Population  Median HH Income
                      Huron  34,900  57,350  $25,136
                      Tuscola  66,700  19,000  25,564
                      Saginaw  110,700  78,211  29,301

Drain cleaning in Pigeon?

Jacob Drain may finally get a good cleaning this year, if the Pigeon Village Council approves the project next month.

At last week's meeting, Huron County Drain Commis-sioner Vern Rodi talked to Pigeon Village Council members Gary Omsinski and Cary Weinreich about the project. Pigeon Village Council will decide at next month's meeting whether or not to proceed with the project.

Schaub says construction would cost the village about $500,000 to complete.
Sugar Smascher set June 27-28 at Sebewaing

**By WALL SMYTHE**

The downtown Sebewaing Village Park this week will be bustling with activity, as Smascher's Festival continues in Sebewaing Park.

The festival will feature a variety of activities, including live entertainment, food vendors, and carnival rides. The festival will run from June 27th through June 28th, with the grand opening ceremony taking place on June 27th at 10:00 am.

This year's Smascher's Festival is expected to attract thousands of visitors to the downtown Sebewaing area, making it one of the biggest events in Sebewaing's history. The festival organizers have worked hard to ensure that everyone who attends will have a memorable experience.

For more information about Smascher's Festival, please visit the festival's official website at www.smaschersfestival.com. The festival is open to the public and free of charge. Visitors are encouraged to come out and enjoy the festivities.

**Huron's kiosks ready to tell tourism story**

**By JAMES RUTHERFORD**

In an effort to better engage visitors and promote tourism in Huron County, three new kiosks have been installed at popular locations in the county.

The kiosks are part of a larger initiative to improve tourism in the county by providing visitors with accurate and up-to-date information about local attractions and events. The kiosks are located at Lake Huron State Park, Port Huron State Park, and the Blue Water Bridge.

The kiosks are equipped with interactive displays andmaps, along with information about local restaurants, accommodations, and activities. Visitors can also access online booking tools for hotels and attractions.

The kiosks are open 24 hours a day and are staffed with local volunteers who are available to answer any questions visitors may have.

For more information about the kiosks and the tourism initiative, please visit the Huron County Tourism website at www.huroncountymi.com.
LEGAL NOTICES

PIGEON VILLAGE COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

May 4, 1983

The meeting of the Village Board of Trustees was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by First Vice Presiding Commissioner, Roger T. Bostick. Commissioner John A. Steuer, Second Vice Presiding Commissioner, and Commissioners T. H. E. O. and John R. Allen were also present.

VILLAGE OF CASEVILLE ZONING VARIANCE PUBLIC HEARING

June 28, 1983

Public hearing to consider the issuance of a Zoning Variance for a property located at 1001 State St., Section 24, Caseville Twp., Greenville County, Michigan. The public hearing is being held pursuant to Section 64.891 of the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act, 1970, to determine whether the issuance of a variance would be in the public interest.

MINUTES OF CASEVILLE VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING

July 5, 1983

At 7:00 p.m., Mayor James E. thompson, Presiding, called the meeting to order. Present were: Mayor thompson, First Vice President Commissioner John A. Steuer, Second Vice President Commissioner T. H. E. O., Commissioner John R. Allen, and Councilmen Charles D. Scott and Robert B. Wright.

SPECIAL ELECTION NOTICE TO WINSOR TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS

August 15, 1983

Notice is hereby given that a Special Election will be held in Winsor Township, County of Kent, State of Michigan on August 15, 1983, at the Elberta Village Hall, Elberta, Michigan.

SPECIAL ELECTION NOTICE TO OLIVER TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS

November 8, 1983

Notice is hereby given that a Special Election will be held in Oliver Township, County of Kent, State of Michigan on November 8, 1983, at the Elberta Village Hall, Elberta, Michigan.

SPECIAL ELECTION NOTICE TO MCKINNEY TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS

November 8, 1983

Notice is hereby given that a Special Election will be held in McKinney Township, County of Kent, State of Michigan on November 8, 1983, at the Elberta Village Hall, Elberta, Michigan.

UNIONVILLE VILLAGE COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING

April 26, 1983

The meeting on Tuesday, April 26, 1983, was held at the Village Hall, Unionville Township, Michigan. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Donald B. Smith. Present were: Mayor Smith, First Vice Mayor Thomas J. Kucharczyk, Second Vice Mayor Robert J. Mathews, Commissioner Robert J. Pajak, Commissioner John F. O’Connell, and Commissioner Donald B. Smith.

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SPECIAL ELECTION NOTICE TO BROOKFIELD TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS

October 30, 1983

Notice is hereby given that a Special Election will be held in Brookfield Township, County of Kent, State of Michigan on October 30, 1983, at the Elberta Village Hall, Elberta, Michigan.

ORDINANCE NO. 9:3.1 CONSUMERS POWER COMPANY GRANT

AN ORDINANCE granting to CONSUMERS POWER COMPANY, a Michigan corporation, for the right to construct, maintain, operate and operate, upon, along and across public streets, spaces and places, and on and within the public domain in the Village of Caseville, County of Huron, State of Michigan, certain lines of pipe and conduits along and across certain public streets and spaces for the purpose of conveying gas to the said Village of Caseville and the said Consumers Power Company, or any of them, for the purpose of furnishing gas for the Village of Caseville.

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Track... CASEVILLE'S JENSEN BREAKS RECORDS

Soybean farmer breaks track record. During the track meet this past weekend in the City of Caseville, Jensen High School student, Casey Jensen, set a new record in the 400 meter dash. The event was a thrilling race with Jensen breaking the previous record by 0.01 seconds.

For the boys, Bob Himes won first in the long jump (19’1”) with Chris Oglesby winning the 100 dash (11.3). For the girls, Cassie Oglesby was first in the 100 dash (13.0). Tiana Oglesby won the high jump (5’7”) and the 300 hurdles (45.4). She also won the 4X100 relay (50.8), helping the Caseville team set a new record of 4:56.6.

For the boys, Shane won first in the 300 hurdles (45.4) and the 4X100 relay (50.8). Shane also won the 100 dash (11.3). Shane's team set a new record of 4:56.6 in the 4X100 relay.

Tennis... SECOND FINISH FOR LAKER TEAM

The Laker Tennis Team placed 2nd out of 16 teams in the Blue Water Invitational on May 9, with Port Huron Northern placing 1st. The Laker team was represented by Alex Seifert, David Warrington, and Jack Papers, who placed second in doubles.

Western Thumb Spurs

The Western Thumb Spurs held their annual meeting on May 10. The meeting was attended by over 50 members and featured guest speaker, Bob Green, who discussed the history and future of the organization.

At the meeting, the new officers were elected, with John Smith being re-elected as President. The financial report was presented by Mary Green, who reported a healthy surplus for the organization.

The Western Thumb Spurs also announced plans for their upcoming events, including a charity rodeo and a benefit concert. Members were encouraged to participate and bring friends.

Low Back, Hip, and Leg Pain

Dr. Robert White, a leading expert in pain management, will be speaking at an upcoming seminar on May 12. The seminar will cover the latest treatments for back, hip, and leg pain, including new minimally invasive procedures. Dr. White will be joined by guest speakers from around the country. The seminar is free and open to the public, and reservations are required.

The Laker Fine Arts Department Presents

"An Evening of Dinner and Dancing With The Laker High School Jazz Band"

Thursday, May 20

5:30 to 8:15 p.m.
At Laker High School

$5.00 per person at the door

This event includes dinner and entertainment provided by individual and group performances from throughout the Elton-Inkpen-Pigeon Bay Port School District.