

Measure returns to the ballot

By Jackie Barry

Of the Emerald

Springfield voters will get another chance to decide the fate of an urban renewal measure in Tuesday's special election.

The measure suffered defeat in a March 28 election by a 252-voter margin of 18 percent of the voters, said Springfield Mayor Rich Gorman who hopes increased voter turnout will turn the tables for the fate of the measure.

If approved, the measure will create a 1,130-acre urban renewal district in the Booth-Kelly, North Springfield and McKenzie/Gateway sections of Springfield.

The measure also will allow the city to make infrastructure

improvements, such as sewers and streets, to those areas.

More than 100 public projects would be possible if the plan receives voter approval, Gorman said.

The city will sell bonds to pay for the projects and will pay off the bonds with tax increment funds. When a municipality creates an urban renewal district, it freezes the assessed value of property. Property owners who make improvements beyond this assessed value pay taxes into a special tax increment fund.

Gorman said several

developers have expressed interest in commercial development in the area and, "They want infrastructure."

He said creation of the district could mean 3,000 to 4,000 permanent jobs for the area.

Opponents of the measure have reportedly called the measure "overwritten and inflexible," and have said the city didn't involve citizens in the economic development planning.

City officials say citizens received ample opportunity to participate.

Et al.

MISCELLANEOUS

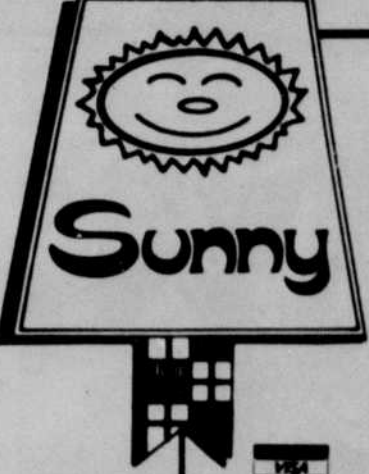
The Department of East Asian Languages is sponsoring a Japan Film Mini-series. The Yasujiro Ozu film, Tokyo Story, will be shown this evening in IMC studio B at 7 p.m.

Pablo Antonio Cuadra poetry reading in Spanish and English will be held today at 2:30 p.m. in the Fir Room, 167 EMU.

The Newman center's visiting group will leave the Newman center, 1850 Emerald, at 3:50 p.m. for the Ivorena Care Center and will return at 5:30 p.m.

Spring cleaning workshops sponsored by the lifestyle planning program. Join peer health advisors for brown bag lunches on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 12:30-1:30 p.m. in EMU Century Room A.

Deadline for submitting Et als to the Emerald front desk, 300 EMU, is noon the day before publication. Et als are run only once. Events with a donation or admission charge will not be considered. Events occurring nearest the publication date and campus events will be given priority.



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