

Banks Council puts police and parks levies on September ballot

With unprecedented speed, the Banks City Council, July 8, approved placing a levy on the September ballot for the maintenance and improvement of city parks.

At their June meeting, council had referred the levy proposal to the Parks Committee. However, due to lack of a quorum, the committee has been unable to meet and July 17 is the filing deadline for the September election. Driven by councilor Kirk Andrews' conviction that the measure should be on the September ballot, council determined the

wording of the majority of the ballot measure. Andrews said that having both the police levy and a parks levy on the ballot could increase voter turnout. Fifty percent of registered voters must vote in the election in order for either levy to pass.

Voters will be asked to approve a five-year parks levy at 75 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value. For a property with an assessed value of \$100,000, the additional tax would be \$75 per year. The levy would raise approximately \$45,000 per year or

\$232,500 over the five-year period of the levy. The city currently spends about \$30,000 per year for water and maintenance for parks. The levy would create additional funds for park improvements, which have not been determined, but the Parks committee would oversee any expenditure from the park budget according to Mayor Bob Orlowski.

Council also approved bal-

lot language for a police department operating levy. An identical levy failed to pass in May election because of low voter turnout. The proposed

levy would be a continuation of the existing police levy that will expire at the end of fiscal year 2003-2004, at the same rate of \$1.80 per thousand.

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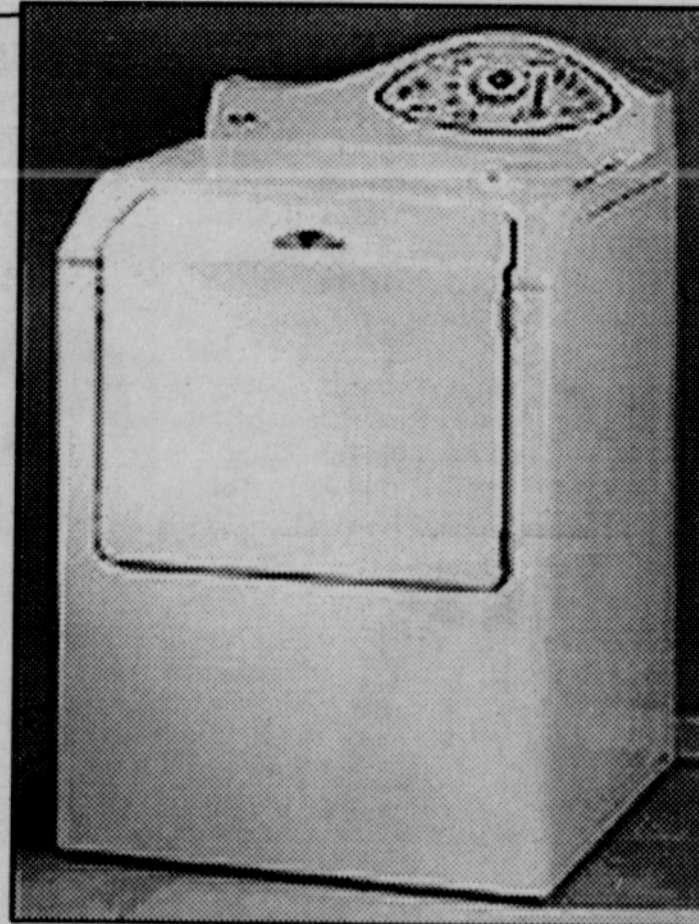
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