

City tailors projects to CD budget

The landscaping of Grand River has been put aside for want of funds as Farmington pared \$500 from its 1977 Community Development Block Grant program.

"We were expecting between \$30,000 to \$45,000 in community development funds," explained City Mgr. Robert Deadman.

"We received \$40,000. Last year, we received \$30,000. So you can't say we're disappointed."

Programs such as the Grand River landscaping project are developed and put up for approval by residents and the city council before the community development funds arrive.

Most of the programs were thrown out

as the council identified its priorities," Deadman said.

"The Grand River landscaping project is one of these. It lasted this long, though," he said. "I'm surprised."

Originally, about \$2,000 of community development funds was slated to pay for the landscaping. The improvements would be restricted to the public right of way and would have included the planting of trees.

"It's a dead project, now," Deadman said.

Additional cutbacks were made in the funding of the high priority street and road repair program. The project to repair roads in Warner Farms subdivision and Be-

lar was cut from \$30,000 to \$17,500 to fit in with the amount the city actually received in community development funds.

"The cut will reduce the scope of the program," Deadman admitted.

The program to improve facilities in Shawsheen Park was originally estimated to be funded with \$10,000. After arrival of the funds, the park program was budgeted at \$5,000.

"We still want to construct an outdoor basketball playing surface to alleviate the confusion being experienced on the tennis courts," Deadman said.

Presently, the tennis courts, outfitted with basketball hoops are being double dory in the park.

The \$5,000 will also replace some of the play equipment in the park.

The funds for the Community Housing


Repair Grant and Loans programs, the senior citizens' telephone reassurance service and additional downtown parking remained unchanged.

Farmington's share of community development funds are passed on to it by Oakland County.

The county receives its funds from the federal government. Money is given according to population.

"The grant isn't designed for a smaller city. The federal government had larger cities in mind," Deadman said. "Each city develops its own grant program to help low- and middle-income neighborhoods through neighborhood housing, neighborhood senior citizens' facilities and neighborhood recreational facilities. It's designed to have an impact on the smaller segments of a larger city."

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Spartan stompers

Ronald McDonough (left) and Robert Marquardt, both of Farmington Hills, have joined the Michigan State University Spartan Marching Band. McDonough is a 1976 graduate of Harrison High School. He is a freshman majoring in electrical engineering. Marquardt, a 1975 Harrison graduate, presently is a sophomore.

Hills slated to receive less HUD money on its own

Although an increase in the population has caused Farmington Hills to be considered separately from Oakland County for Community Development Block Grant funds, it will receive less money on its own.

Hills administrators were expecting to receive \$200,000 from Oakland County's share of community development funds. Instead, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) awarded the city \$150,000 separate from county funds.

HUD is now using 1973 census figures to determine eligibility for the funds.

In 1970, when the funding program began, Farmington Hills had a population of 48,700. It needed a population of 500,000 to qualify for its own funds.

That population was reached in 1973, the time of the last census.

From its \$150,000, the Hills will fund its homeowneers loans and grants programs. It will also need to find a way to finance the remainder of its Waldron Drain program, according to City Mgr. George Majors.

There will be no more county funds, said Majors.

The community development fund hearing, scheduled for Oct. 25, has been postponed until sometime in February, according to administrative assistant Michael Dorman.

Administrators are disappointed by the amount they received but they don't be-

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