

How spending compares among Hills council members

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THE FOLLOWING YEAR (1981-82), Soronen, Wolf and Williams attended the NLC 1982 Congressional Conference in Washington. Soronen spent \$157 while Wolf spent \$1,002 and Williams spent \$765. The entire cost to the city for the conference totaled \$2,555.

But Wolf says he believes that was the conference he spent more days at than the other two council members.

With the Atlanta conference, 1981-82 was the year of greatest council expenditures.

Although Soronen, with a total expense sheet of \$1,750 for the year, attended more workshops and conferences in 1981-82 than any other council member, Wolf came in with a higher total of \$2,552. Alkateeb followed with a total of \$1,377 for attending two major conferences and a \$41.50 charge to the Farmington Chamber of Commerce.

The Michigan Municipal League's conference in Detroit that year came in as a total of \$1,263 expense. Soronen (an MML trustee), Wolf, Alkateeb and Dolan attended. But at that conference,

Dolan spent \$76 compared to Soronen's \$187, Wolf's \$563 and Alkateeb's \$538.

"As a board member, I have to go to the meetings," Soronen said. "Many of these things, I am on the board of directors or the board of trustees. As a board member, my presence is almost mandatory."

SORONEN ALSO admits that "sometimes you just don't know the value until you've attended. Attending SEMCOG meetings, for example, helps the city because council members have the chance to talk with officials from

other cities," Soronen said. "I hope to think at least statewide or regionally. I've put Farmington Hills on the map. You make yourself someone to be reckoned with (at the various conferences)."

Also during 1981-82, Soronen, Wolf, Alkateeb and Dolan attended the NLC's Congress of Cities. While Soronen and Dolan kept their charges at or below \$225 each, Wolf charged \$745 and Alkateeb \$800.

With a total of \$6,260 spent, 1982-83 rates as the second year of greatest council expenditures in the five-year period.

With total annual expenditures of \$3,157 of 1982-83, Wolf again came in as the largest spender although he attended more conferences and workshops than the other council members. Soronen followed with \$1,279. Williams was next with \$611, then Dolan with \$582.

In the 1983-84 budget year, at least through March 1984, expenditures so far have totaled \$1,938. Soronen, who has again attended more of the functions, spent \$651, followed by Williams with \$459 and Wolf at \$435. Dolan has

spent \$151, followed by Anzlov's \$143 and Dudley's \$66. All council expenses are paid out of the city's general fund, said Assistant City Manager William Costick.

"We budget a figure," he said. "They (council members) try to stay within that figure."

But Costick said that in the recent recession years, the amount budgeted has consistently been reduced. For 1984-85, city administrators budgeted \$2,500 for council expenses.

Costick outlines budget priorities

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And the issues confronting city governments change from year to year, Costick said.

"You really learn once you are on the job."

"THE BUSINESS of city managing has changed drastically. It used to be routine things — streets, parks, sewers, etc. But there's been drastic changes in planning, budgeting and personnel.

"Local government and the ways they view the world and the way they operate have changed. Responsibility has been thrust on cities."

The best example, he said, is cable TV. When Costick started his career in 1966, cities did not have to worry about telecommunications. They simply weren't involved in the complex business of franchising a cable service as they are today.

Other changes stem from changes in the law. The capital improvement pro-

gram is the result of a state requirement.

And data processing systems — such as the kind a recent management audit suggested the city should buy — is a sign not of changing times in government but of an increased work load and level of responsibility in government.

"IT'S SOMETHING we need if we're going to be able to keep up with our current levels of service. It is going to be a major issue before us in the next year."

In addition to the technical side of running a city government, Costick says he is "most particularly interested in the overall image of the community."

He hopes that with the cooperation of area businesses, the community's appearance, especially along the major roads, will be improved.

"We have diversity," he said, referring to the mix of business and residential areas. "A community needs to sustain itself to have a good quality of life, safety and appearance."

NBD names vice president

National Bank of Detroit has announced the appointment of James E. Lubinski of Farmington Hills to assistant vice president in its systems development division.

Adrian names honor students

Adrian College students were named to the dean's list for the 1983-84 second semester. To achieve this honor, a student must maintain a 3.50 grade point average on the basis of at least 12 credit hours.

Those from the area are: Lawrence Vayko and Mary Judge.



James Lubinski

cable connection

By Lark Samouelian special writer

Yes, producing a television show is somewhat time consuming, as 400 workshop graduates have been told.

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people trained are involved with production. Therefore, for the 75 percent who have not completed their original goals, we are sponsoring Phase II to help you write your script. These shall be small group sessions first to meet on Tuesday.

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Therefore, conquer the "So Easy to Forget Syndrome" and provide yourself with insurance toward a future with cable by seeking our help.

COMMUNITY ACCESS PROGRAM SCHEDULE

- June 16
 - 6 p.m. — Duel of Knowledge #17 Harrison vs. Farmington.
 - 6:30 p.m. — Judo Tournament.
 - 7-8 p.m. — Mercy Talent Show with Special Children.
- June 19
 - 6-8 p.m. — Bentley Concert Choir 25th annual reunion.
- June 20
 - 6-6:30 p.m. — People, Place and Ideas #2.

- 6:30-7 p.m. — Think tornado history.
 - 7-7:30 p.m. — Hobbies, model railroad.
 - 7:30-8:30 p.m. — Bubble! Over (religious music show).
- June 21
- 6 p.m. — Groundwater Presentation.

Albion names honor students

Albion College recently named Farmington and Farmington Hills students to its dean's list for the spring semester.

Students must maintain at least a 3.5 grade point average while carrying a

full schedule of classes to earn a spot on the roster.

Those from the area are: Cynthia Jump, Sheri Miller, Mary Egan, Sara Cline, John Letich, Gregory Lemanski and Kristen Witte.



"I'm Jason Roberts. And I'm alcoholic. There was a world out there that thought of me as a big success, but I thought only losers became alcoholics. Then I found out alcoholism is a disease. My wife convinced me that drinking, for me, was like committing suicide. I got into a program to stop drinking, and I don't drink anymore. Now I really know what success is all about. Not just with my career, but with my wife, my children and my life."

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Something to Think About

BOB ROCK DIRECTOR

EXPRESSING SYMPATHY TO FAMILY

Many people worry about what to say to the family or closest friend of a person who has died. They often feel the need to say something positive and uplifting, to find a reason for the death. This is unnecessary and, on occasion, inappropriate — as with the death of a child or young person.

Sometimes death simply cannot be rationalized. It is fine to want to console the family, but not if the sentiments expressed are false and artificial. In many cases the best consolation is to simply hold the bereaved's hand and share your own deepest feelings and emotions.

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by Allen DuQuet

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