

Hills wary of future of block grant money

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Farmington Hills officials expect to receive more than \$300,000 — a 15-percent reduction over last year — in federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) money in 1988-89. But greater reductions in federal money may be waiting in the wings.

"This year, they (the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development) told us to expect cuts of 15-30 percent," said Richard Lampi, Farmington Hills community development manager.

The approximately \$300,056 the city expects to receive in CDBG money could be trimmed by another 15 percent — \$50,000 — if Congress decides to make deeper cuts or decides to defer payments, Lampi said. Until final word comes through sometime in April, city officials are keeping their fingers

crossed and making preliminary plans on how to spend the federal dollars. A public hearing to receive residents' comments on how the money should be spent is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 17, in the city council chambers, 31555 11 Mile.

THE FEDERAL department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) establishes guidelines and requirements for cities' use of CDBG

money, which must be used predominantly to benefit low and moderate income residents.

In 1986-87, Farmington Hills areas considered eligible to benefit from the federal dollars include 10 census blocks in the southeast area of the city in sections 26, 33, 34, 35, and 36.

City officials have allocated the estimated total CDBG funds into administration, housing rehabilitation program and capital improvements. In addition

to the \$309,000, another \$30,000 will be added from repayment of low-interest loans awarded through the housing rehabilitation program, for a grand estimated total of \$339,000.

City officials plan to allocate \$50,000 (15 percent) for administration, \$130,056 (38 percent) for housing rehabilitation and \$159,000 (47 percent) for capital improvements.

Administration includes the payment of salaries, supplies and legal notices. The housing rehabilitation program — maintained at the current level of funding — provides low-interest loans, deferred loans and grants to low- and moderate-income families to repair and rehabilitate their houses. Loan and grant eligibility is based on family in-

come. Repayment of the loans is used to continue the program.

THE CAPITAL improvement projects include projects such as construction of needed storm drains and sidewalks.

Specific capital improvements suggested by city officials include: Regal Orchards paving (sections 26 and 35); drainage and road improvements on Dresden, Scotton and List (section 36); drainage improvements on Cass, Kirby and Edmonston (section 33); drainage and road improvements on Averhill and Hamilton (section 36) and on Osms (section 34); local street improvements Grayling (section 36) and Radcliffe (section 35).



School bus slowed

Fourteen children were aboard, but none were injured when a southbound school bus wound up in a ditch on the west side of Northwestern Highway, northwest of Middlebelt Road,

on a recent snowy morning in Farmington Hills. Another Farmington Public Schools bus was sent to pick up the children. The bus was later towed free.

Instrument swap slated

A swap meet for those buying or selling used musical instruments will be Wednesday, Feb. 5, at the East Middle School Cafeteria, 25000 Middlebelt, Farmington Hills.

This is the fourth year the Farmington Public Schools is hosting the event, open to anyone wishing to buy or sell a band or orchestra instrument, metro-

nomes, music stands and stereo equipment.

Those not selling equipment at the sale can submit their names to a list which district music coordinator Paul Barber will keep on file, he said.

All band instruments, plus record players, tape recorders and other musical equipment are swapped during the sale, he added.



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