

**By Joanna Malleszowski**  
staff writer

An article, titled "Half of cities running in red, survey reveals," in the Tuesday, July 1, edition of The News, shows that Farmington Hills spent more money than it took in 1985-86 and was forced to use surplus funds to balance its budget.

"The difference was between the adopted budget and the actual — operating revenues vs. operating expenditures of \$310,140," Farmington Hills Finance Director and Treasurer Charles Rosch said.

THE NLC issued a survey in January 1986 to determine cities' financial experiences, based on general fund information, said Doug Peterson, NLC political analyst.

Peterson confirmed that using surplus funds to balance a city's operating budget — as Farmington Hills did in 1985-86 — is not irresponsible.

"Inherently, there is nothing bad with doing it. There doesn't appear to be any cause for alarm," Peterson

**ALTHOUGH CITIES** may currently have the ability to use surplus funds to balance budgets, continued federal cuts will definitely begin having dramatic effects on cities, Petersen said.

In the city's recently adopted \$19.5 million 1986-87 budget — based on 9.8 mills — administrators budgeted \$100,000 in revenue sharing. In addition, administrators also appropriated \$481,180 from reserves to balance the projected budget.

**TROM'S** 

Two highly qualified naturalists will lead the exploration of Isle Royale's forest. Tour leader Shelly Meston has spent four summers researching the effects of acid rain on the island's vegetation. Living Science senior interpreter Terri Brewer has five years' experience presenting hands-on science programs to students. Together, they provide the knowledge and experience to ensure a rewarding trip.

Four days and nights will be spent on Isle Royale, hiking the island's trails and studying its plants and animals, its glacial history and man's

The trip is from Sunday, Aug. 17, through Sunday, Aug. 24. The cost is \$300 per hiker and includes all meals, tents, stoves and water filters, as well as transportation from Novi. Space is limited to 15 people; early registration is recommended.

To register or for more details, call 348-1985.

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The four-part survey was designed to gauge revenue sharing and determine cities' financial conditions. The survey's purpose was also to call attention to cities' financial experiences in light of cuts in federal funding and whether tax reforms would affect municipal borrowing, Peterson said.

Saying that the NLC is lobbying

Petersen also confirmed that a purpose in surveying the financial


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