

# Hills reinforces bid to land census money

By Jonno Maliszewski  
staff writer

Farmington Hills officials are still trying to schedule a meeting with Gov. James Blanchard to work out a solution to the city losing its anticipated \$1.3 million in additional state revenues resulting from increased population.

"We are still working with Connie Shorter of the governor's office to set up a meeting. We'll call her again this week," said Karen Birkholz, as-

stant to the city manager in Farmington Hills.

Farmington Hills joined forces with other communities — all of which have documented population increases as the result of a mid-decade census — that are faced with losing anticipated increases in state shared revenues for the last three years of the decade.

After documenting a more than 17 percent increase in population, Farmington Hills expected an increase in state shared revenues and

liquor licenses. But the additional state shared revenues — distributed on a population basis — were vetoed by Blanchard in his effort to balance the state budget.

In reaction to Blanchard's cuts, Farmington Hills and other community leaders in the same boat, formed a committee in early October to meet with Blanchard and budget officials and develop a solution. West Bloomfield Township is represented on the committee.

WHILE A meeting has not yet

been forthcoming, other efforts, particularly letters and resolutions, have been afoot.

The Farmington Hills City Council adopted a second resolution Oct. 12 requesting the state Legislature to reintroduce — and the governor approve — supplemental revenue sharing payments for the current and remaining budget years of the decade. The council sent their first resolution to the governor in August.

"The city of Farmington Hills undertook this census because our sub-

stantial population increase requires additional health and safety services, which depend on this state revenue sharing distribution and that our taxpayers would benefit from a fair tax revenue distribution based on current population numbers," according to the resolution.

Mayor Ben Marks also sent a letter addressed to the governor to accompany the city council's resolution. "We acted in good faith, spent in excess of \$50,000 to conduct a special census and certainly feel it is only fair and equitable that the state honor this request," Marks wrote.

According to city officials, state Sen. Jack Faxon, D-Farmington Hills and state Rep. Wilbur Brotherton, R-Farmington, have lent their support to the city's efforts to fight for its additional state shared revenues.

Most of the 39 communities that qualify for increased state shared revenues as the result of population increases would have used the additional money for capital improvements. In Farmington Hills, the money probably would be used to build a fire station, to buy fire equipment and for road improvements, Costick said.

CITY OFFICIALS are as uncertain about the possibility of receiving additional liquor licenses, another expected bonus from population increases. The city now has more than 30 licenses.

In 1987-88, Farmington Hills expects to receive \$3.4 million in state shared revenues, exclusive of the supplemental census revenues. State shared revenues represent 16 percent of the city's current \$21.4 million budget. Over the next three years, the city was expected to receive \$1.7 million additional state revenues, Birkholz said.

Public Act 245 of 1976 allows communities that believe they are experiencing an unusually high rate of growth to conduct a middecade census. The act is designed to allow these communities to receive credit — in the form of state shared revenues — for population increases. To qualify under this legislation, a city must have a 15 percent population increase.

# Halloween: time for precautions

By Casey Hans  
staff writer

Police agencies are beefing up patrols in preparation for the Halloween holiday this weekend.

In both Farmington and Farmington Hills, there will be additional officers on the streets to insure resident safety and fight vandalism.

Farmington Public Schools property will be off limits, and will be patrolled as such, according to law enforcement officials. Both cities began extra patrols at mid-week and will continue through Saturday night.

the street," said Farmington Public Safety Deputy Director Gary Goss. He said the city had experienced no problems during the past few years and Miller recommend parents carefully check their child's candy, and throw away anything that looks suspicious.

Goss said Farmington stopped checking candy because they could not guarantee the metal detector

would find metal objects at a better than 50 percent rate.

Parents who wish to have their children's candy screened can have it done at any of the Providence Hospitals, including the Novi Center at 10 Mile and Hagerty. Other Providence centers include the main hospital at 16001 Nine Mile in Southfield and the Millard Center at 1155 Millard Road.

Screening will be done by the hospital's radiology department to reveal hidden metal objects, but will not detect any chemical contamination, hospital officials said.

IF YOUNGSTERS in your neighborhood trick or treat this year, law enforcement officials and a variety of organizations are offering tips to both children and adults:

- Homeowners should keep their porch lights on to help light the way for youngsters.
- Motorists should exercise extra caution, particularly on residential streets.
- Trick or treaters should walk only on sidewalks and cross streets at corners.
- Costumes should never be flammable or cover a youngster's eyes. Reflective colors should be worn, with reflectors and fluorescent decals if necessary. Children should wear comfortable walking shoes to avoid trips and falls.
- Children should be accompanied by an adult and should trick or treat at homes where they know neighbors. All children should carry flashlights or light sticks.
- Trick or treating should be done during daylight hours, and preferably completed by 8 p.m.
- Alert children to watch for tricks in their treats. Parents should double check treats before children eat them. Give or accept only wrapped or packaged candy.

Devil's Night is this Friday and Halloween is Saturday. Farmington city officials have closed Raphael Street and the two city parks from 6 p.m. to 7 a.m. from Oct. 28 to Nov. 1, as they do each year.

"We will have a lot of people on

NEITHER POLICE agency will screen candy this year, but both Goss and Miller recommend parents carefully check their child's candy, and throw away anything that looks suspicious.

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