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STARTING Friday to coincide with the high school graduation season, Farmington Hills police will intensify a 2-year-old crackdown on the sale of alcohol to minors.

Multi-enforcement will include sending into package liquor stores a cadet younger than 21 who will try to buy alcohol.

It will include increased inspections of SDD and SDM package liquor stores and increased patrols of such stores to determine if they're selling beer, wine or spirits to minors.

The undercover cadet will visit restaurants and bars with Class C (liquor by the glass) licenses in future weeks.

"We'll periodically conduct these operations during the year as we find them necessary," police Chief William Dwyer said.

Violators will be ticketed under city ordinance and reported to the state Liquor Control Commission for license review.

"Our enforcement actions parallel the community, which won't tolerate sale of alcohol to minors," Dwyer said.

Quote of the week

"I am sure that the citizens of Farmington may have been somewhat shocked, . . . as it indicates the city would need to raise its water and sewer rate by over 1,000 percent, or increase its property tax by 28 mills.

City manager Robert Deadman, in denouncing a SEMCOG estimate placing Farmington's cost for removing raw sewage and toxic pollutants from the Rouge at \$97 million. (See story this page).

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Rouge cleanup costs denounced



Farmington Department of Public Works employees help clean out the riverbed through Shiawassee Park during Rouge Rescue '87 last June.

For a related editorial comment, 18A

'Staggering' cleanup costs prompt county reaction, 9A

By Casey Hans
staff writer

There are less costly alternatives that would make a recent cost study on cleaning the Rouge River irrelevant for Farmington, the city manager said Monday.

A Southeast Michigan Council of Governments report estimates that Farmington would have the third highest cost of any community in either Oakland or Wayne counties for removing raw sewage and toxic pollutants from the Rouge. Only Dearborn and Detroit had higher projections; the cost for Farmington Hills ranked 14th on the list of 45 communities.

Farmington city manager Robert Deadman denounced news reports on the SEMCOG study Monday, and said there are viable alternatives that would cost the city much less than SEMCOG's estimated \$97 million.

He reacted strongly to the news reports that showed Farmington near the top of the list, but gave no details on alternatives.

"I am sure that the citizens of Farmington may have been somewhat shocked, . . . as it indicates the city would need to raise its water and sewer rate by over 1,000 percent, or increase its property tax by

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Disinterments present glimpse of deaths past

By Joanne Mallazewski
staff writer

The need to show loving care and the loss felt by earlier Farmington-area residents as they buried their dead, particularly infants and children, is evident in the decorative headstones and caskets in West Farmington Cemetery.

"There were a lot of deaths of infants and children. This (death) was something these people were aware of. They took advantage of the best funeralization available at the time," said Charles Martinez, contract archeologist with Wayne State University.

Martinez volunteered his services last week as Bob Rock of Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington, supervised the disinterment and reinterment of 24 graves in the historic West Farmington Cemetery, on the southeast corner of 12 Mile and Halsted, Farmington Hills.

The graves ranged from the earliest — a woman buried in 1855 — to the latest in 1981, with the majority of burials throughout the 1920s to 1970s. The West Farmington Cemetery, Martinez said, follows the Eu-

'What a culture or society says about its dead tells us so much about its culture, how it feels and thinks about itself.'

— Charles Martinez
archeologist

ropean custom of a churchyard cemetery. In 1835, the Farmington area's earliest Baptists built a church where the cemetery now stands.

"WHAT A culture or society says about its dead tells us so much about its culture, how it feels and thinks about itself," said Martinez, who worked with the Detroit Roman Catholic Archdiocese last summer in the reinterment of Solanus Casey. The Vatican is considering canonization of the priest, a porter at St. Bonaventure Monastery, Detroit.

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Chuck Martinez (above, left), a Wayne State University archaeologist, inspects the West Farmington Cemetery grave sites as part of a research paper he is preparing. At right, he takes a grave-digging measurement. Standing near the hole (far right) is worker Jim Wiegert. Inside, with shovel in hand, is Bob Rock, owner of Thayer-Rock Funeral Home in Farmington. At top center is Wiegert's partner, Jay Brendel.



Ballot shuffle Council errs, drops 2nd proposal

For a related editorial opinion, turn to 16A

By Joanne Mallazewski
staff writer

Opel

Just when Farmington Hills voters thought they had a year before facing two proposals to amend the 15-year-old city charter, there's been a change. Voters now will be faced with only one ballot proposal at the August primary this year.

The Farmington Hills City Council made a mistake a week ago when it agreed to put two proposals before voters in the November 1989 general election. The mistake was in the number of votes required by state law for the council to put the proposals on an election ballot. Having to start over, the city council changed its course and timing and will put only one of the two proposals on the Aug. 2 primary ballot.

Voters will be asked in August to amend the city charter and allow board and commission members to maintain their posts while seeking city council election. The current charter provision forces board and commission members to resign their posts when they file for city council election. The wording of the lone ballot proposal is expected to be presented to the council Monday, May 23.

A SECOND proposal to amend the charter to give the council authority by ordinance to establish a mayor-appointed compensation commission to establish council salaries has been put on the back burner for now.

"It was not discussed. There were no proposals put forth," councilman Aldo Vagnoni said. At the May 9 council meeting, members voted a simple 4-3 majority to ask voters to make two amendments to the city charter. But state statute requires a three-fifths majority of an elected body, or five affirmative votes, to put proposals on the election ballot.

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Trustees eye fall bond issue

By Casey Hans
staff writer

Farmington school district residents this fall will vote on a \$27 million bond issue that would pay for a new elementary school and early childhood center, plus more than \$20 million in building renovations.

Farmington school trustees gave their support to the idea Tuesday. It would not only take care of crowding on the west side of the district, but alleviate safety dangers in the district, including asbestos in floors and ceilings. The school board is expected to

approve bond application to the state by June 7, complete ballot wording by July 11, and schedule an election for Sept. 13.

Deputy superintendent Michael Flanagan called the proposal an "exciting journey for Farmington schools," and said the district must create a new school as effective for students in the year 2040 as those in 1990, the year the school would be completed.

"That's no small task," he added. "This is a challenge for the board. The legacy of boards is very often determined by the buildings

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