

Community Corner

This week's question:

What is your opinion of Bart Simpson as a role model for young people?

We asked this question at the Post Office in Canton.



"I don't think he's a good role model. I don't think kids should listen to what he says because of how he talks to his parents."

— Laura Tchorzynski
Canton



"No rules. He's like every American youth. He's screwed in the head, he doesn't like school. He's the perfect epitome of every American youth. He's not really a role model. He's just what every American kid is."

— Jason Kyczynski
Canton



"I think he's pretty stupid. I don't think kids should take after him. The show's funny, but all the shirts and everything is just a big waste of time."

— Mitch Dadas
Canton



"I think he's pretty cool. He's a good influence on kids. They probably admire him. He's got a good attitude. I like how he talks to people."

— Ken Wrobbel
Westland



"I think he's a jerk, basically. He doesn't seem like a good role model for kids, at least not for my nephews and nieces."

— Arlita Ibach
Canton



"Eat my shorts."
— Bart Simpson
Springfield

Sever: Hills budget proposal had fat to trim

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Farmington Hills councilman Terry Sever just couldn't support the city's 1990-91 \$27.6 million budget. "It was just my principle. I wasn't trying to make a big issue of it," he said after the city council's adoption of the budget and new tax rate June 11.

But he had some problems with the budget that's supported by 8.87 mills per \$1,000 of state equalized value of property. The tax rate includes a rolled-back operating tax of 8.2 mills plus 0.6-mill for storm drain improvements.

Drainage improvements will prevent a rerun of last June's flooding in the Kendallwood and Westbrook Manor subdivisions in the 13 Mile/

Farmington Road area and the Franklin Knolls subdivision in the Middlebelt/14 Mile area.

The new tax rate represents a 7.3 percent increase over last year's 8.83 mills. A mill represents \$1 per \$1,000 of state equalized value of property. SEV represents 50 percent of what property will sell for on the open market.

Sever said he believes that \$50,000 could have, and should have, been trimmed from the 1990-91 budget.

CUTS COULD have been made by holding some budget line items to the rate of inflation, which was about 4.8 percent. The budget could have been reduced by reimbursing the general fund \$148,000 from the parks and recreation millage fund

for the down payment on the Peltz property, south of I-696, west of Farmington Road.

"We should reimburse the general fund from the parks and recreation fund and lower the budget by that amount," Sever said. "The feeling was that we needed to get extra money (0.6-mill) for storm drain improvements, but we could have trimmed the budget."

Sever also opposed incorporating capital improvements at the city-owned San Marino Golf Course on Halsted Road into the budget rather than charging golfers, for example, a 25-cent surcharge.

"If they want a better facility, let them pay for it," Sever said.

The councilman, who opposed the city budget in his first year on council in 1985, also thought the city's sidewalk construction program should be delayed. He thought the city should consider including it as a parks and recreation function financed by the parks and recreation millage. If it's renewed by voters next year.

The new budget allows each city department to meet expanded demands. The \$27.6 million total represents a \$1.2 million cut in departments' spending requests.

WITHOUT AN operating tax increase, the budget will be balanced by relying on increased state equalized valuation. The city's 1990 SEV is projected at \$2.2 billion compared to \$1.9 billion last year.

About \$108 million of the increase is in new construction and \$112 million is in economic adjustments or increased values on property.

A taxpayer with a home valued at \$50,000 paid \$441.51 in city taxes based on 8.3 mills in 1989-90. At the new 8.8 mills in 1990-91, that same taxpayer whose home increased an average 7.8 percent in value to \$53,900, will pay \$478.15.

The new budget includes new positions: police patrol officer, code enforcement officer, building department office supervisor, equipment operator, police/school liaison officer, part-time police department records bureau clerk, and fire department hazardous materials specialist.

As in past years, increased costs for refuse disposal sting the budget. Costs are expected to increase 20 percent from \$1.8 million in 1989-90



Terry Sever

to \$2.1 million in the new budget year.

Refuse disposal represents 8 percent of the city's budget.

Hills attorney named to panel on state courts

Farmington Hills resident Paul Rosen, a partner in the Detroit law firm of Rosen & Lovell, has been appointed to Michigan's Commission on the Courts in the 21st Century by Rep. Lewis Dodak, Speaker of the state House.

Rosen is one of three public members appointed by the House; the balance of the commission's members were appointed by the Michigan Senate, the State Bar of Michigan, Gov. James Blanchard and the Michigan Supreme Court. Judge Barbara Mackenzie of the State Court of Appeals will chair the group.

The commission, created by Senate Concurrent Resolution 9, will study and make recommendations on court needs in the next century.

THE COMMISSION will explore such topics as:

- Trial court jurisdiction — including the need for specialized courts (juvenile court, recorder's court, etc.) versus one unified trial court.

- Appellate jurisdiction — including administrative appeals.

- Administration of justice — including the Judicial Tenure Commission and State Court Administrator.

- Accessibility of the courts to the public — including legal services

for the poor, court hours, fees and costs, and possible statutory reform.

Rosen, a plaintiff's attorney, is past president of the Michigan Trial Lawyers Association (MTLA) and a former board member of the National Lawyers Guild.

He has served on the insurance and underrepresentation committees of the State Bar of Michigan and is a member of the board of the State Bar's negligence section.

A member of the Detroit Bar Association and the State Bar of Michigan, Rosen was also admitted to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court in 1972.

In the 1960s, Rosen co-founded the People's Law Schools, sponsored by the MTLA. He and another lawyer argued the 1971 Supreme Court case of Palmer vs. Thompson, which dealt with the desegregation of swimming pools in Jackson, Miss.

He was also a member of the advisory panel that assisted in drafting Michigan's product liability legislation in 1978.



Paul Rosen
state appointee

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