

Community Corner

This week's question:
Should the police be able to stop motorists simply for not using their seat belts?

We asked this question at the Dunkin' Donut shop on Orchard Lake Road in northern Farmington Hills.



"I'd go for that. . . I believe in wearing seat belts."
— Jack O'Leary
Highland Twp



"Yes, they should. Seat belts are the law. They do make a difference."
— Susan Willis
Bloomfield Hills



"It might be a good thing, but there's a problem: Those seat belts don't work right. It's the manufacturer's fault."
— Joe Sakofski III
Farmington Hills



"I don't agree. Seat belts now. . . what's next?"
— Betty Cathoy
Romulus



"Seat belts already are a law. So why do they have to pass another law to enforce it?"
— James Cathoy
Romulus



"We wear our seat belts religiously, so I've never given it much thought."
— Jack Water
West Bloomfield

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New budget would dip into city reserves

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and will hold a public hearing May 10 at 8 p.m. to hear any comment from taxpayers. A budget for the new fiscal year, which begins July 1, must be adopted by the first city council meeting in June.

A joint meeting of the Farmington and Farmington Hills city councils is scheduled for Tuesday, May 12, at 7 p.m. In the Hills council chambers to discuss joint budget concerns of the two communities.

In the proposed budget, General Fund revenues show an increase of less than one percent,

due mainly to new construction. Valuation on existing property is frozen at last year's rates. The proposed General Fund budget is \$4.76 million, with the majority of it coming from local property taxes.

Topping expenses for the city is the public safety department at 31 percent, followed by general government at 22 percent and the Public Services Department at 18 percent.

Other proposed budgets include \$1.2 million for the Highway Fund, \$1.7 for the Debt Service Fund, \$290,500 for the Capital Fund and \$1.65 million for the Water and Sewer Fund. The overall \$9.6 million budget is up about

three percent over last year's approved budget figures.

The current tax rate of 10.65 mills for operations and 3.62 for debt retirement would continue into the new year. That equates to about \$1.025 in property taxes for a house valued at \$150,000.

OTHER BUDGET highlights include:

- Revenues are expected to be leaner with the property tax freeze in place, declining income on city investments because of lower interest rates, and a decrease in city fees associated with development.
- Overall garbage disposal costs are ex-

pected to increase by 12 percent, and collection by four percent. Wholesale water and sewer rates are also scheduled to increase in July.

- The cost of the recycling program will go down this year, with user fees proposed to be lowered \$5. Each single family home would pay \$51, and each condominium home would pay \$47.
- Replacement of capital equipment would be limited to public safety patrol cars and public services trucks. Money for roadwork including the remainder of the Orchard Lake Road widening and the repair and overlay of Drake and Freedom roads is proposed.

Doctor-to-be merited for scouting

John Armen Hovanesian, who will receive a doctor of medicine degree this spring from the University of Michigan, has been given scouting's Award of Merit at a recent awards banquet of the Clinton Valley Coun-

cil's Ottawa District.

The district Award of Merit is a Council Award given to volunteers for service to scouting, and it was presented to Hovanesian by Christopher Johnston, Committee Chairman of Troop 179 in Farmington Hills, the largest troop in the district, for which Hovanesian also serves as an assistant scoutmaster with Charles Williams III, scoutmaster.

In presenting the award, Johnston noted some of Hovanesian's efforts, which include working with high school-aged scouts in Troop 179, who he has organized a basketball league and other programs.

On the district and council levels, his diverse interests include creating

district-wide scout activities, raising funds through the Friends of Scouting campaign, promoting drug abuse and child abuse education programs and working with a scouting service fraternity called the Order of the Arrow.

Michigan for his active work in scouting while a medical school sophomore.

As a Phi Beta Kappa undergraduate, he earned his BS in honors chemistry also from U of M, graduating Summa Cum Laude in three years. He also had a Summa Cum Laude diploma from Farmington High School in 1985.

Hovanesian of Farmington Hills will be getting his MD degree, and will intern at Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak and later specialize in Ophthalmology with a residency at the Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit.

He is the son of Joseph and Juheann Hovanesian of Farmington Hills.



John Armen Hovanesian

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