

# Low on totem pole

## Hills pays less per capita for fire, emergency services

By Joanno Maliszewski  
staff writer

Ask yourself if you'd like to pay \$43.72 for fire and emergency services. Or how about \$69.07. Or better yet, \$92.42.

Your neighbors in Rochester Hills, Livonia and Southfield, respectively, are paying that average amount for their fire and emergency services. In Novi, you would pay \$44.28. Bloomfield Township, \$119.06, and in Pontiac, \$134.90.

As a Farmington Hills resident,

you don't have to dig that deep into your pocketbook. Based on the city's 14,655 population, you paid \$28.58 for fire protection and emergency services in 1991. Farmington Hills has a combined system with full-time and part-time firefighters.

"We don't actually do it (pay per capita) that way. But it's just another way of looking at it," said Hills Chief Richard Marinucci. "I thought that was kind of impressive."

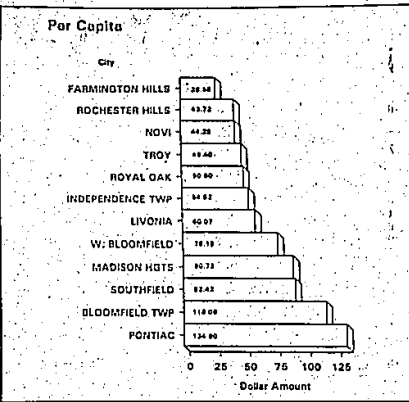
With the idea that particularly in these tough economic times, "we have to think of ways to do more

with less," Marinucci did a survey of 12 area fire departments — the 11 biggest in Oakland County, plus Livonia — and the services they offer and how much it costs.

OF THE 12 communities — Rochester Hills, Troy, Pontiac, West Bloomfield, Madison Heights, Independence Township, Bloomfield Township, Livonia, Southfield, Royal Oak and Novi — Farmington Hills has the third largest population. But the department's \$2.1 million budget was the third smallest.

In 1991, Farmington Hills had 3,993 alarms, which includes fire and medical emergencies. Based on the city's population, Farmington Hills not only had the lowest costs per capita for alarms but per incident, as well. The cost per incident in Farmington Hills was \$335.82, compared to \$1,132.92 for Rochester Hills (with a \$2.7 million budget), \$1,317.43 in Livonia (\$6.6 million budget), \$847.81 in Novi (\$1.4 million budget) or \$823.53 in Southfield (\$7 million budget).

"You're paying a little bit to get a lot," Marinucci said. "We had more programs and more inspections and other communities have more personnel."



# Fire statistics for 1991

Here are some interesting facts about the Farmington Hills Fire Department in 1991:

- Alarms increased by 37 over 1990 for a total 3,992.
- There were 301 actual fires, a decrease from 323 in 1990. A majority of alarms were emergency medical calls. Of the total, 2,050 were medical emergencies and 361 personal injury accidents.
- Average response time was reduced almost a half-minute to 5.51 minutes.
- July was the department's busiest month; February, the least busy. Mondays and Fridays are the busiest days, particularly 4-6 p.m.
- The 301 fires actually represents a decrease of 22 fires from 1990. Of the 301, 95 were structure fires, 80 vehicle fires, 52 open burns and 74 other fires. "While emergency incidents are increasing as well as the population of the city and overall activities, the number of fires continues to decline," according to fire chief Richard Marinucci.
- Total dollar loss resulting from fire took a nose dive. In 1991, dollar loss totaled \$1.7 million, compared to \$2.1 million in 1990 and \$1.2 million in 1991. The statistics work out to a per capita fire loss of \$15.13. That's, compared to a per capita loss of \$45.18 in 1990.

- The city experience 4.04 fires per thousand people, compared to 6.3 fires per thousand for the state.
- Forty-four of the fires had a fire loss greater than \$25,000. Eight people were injured by fire, none seriously. Firefighters suffered 21 injuries during emergencies and other department activities.
- Sixteen percent of the total medical emergencies the department responded to were to the city's five senior facilities. "This will continue over the next few years, I think that has to do with the aging of our community," Marinucci said.
- Out of 31 cases where automatic external defibrillators were used, six patients were revived and three completely recovered.
- The department offered 10 percent more programs over 1990. With a total of 340 public education programs, fire officials say they reached 16,623 people. The statistics don't include major programs such as the annual fire prevention open house and Memorial Day Parade.
- The department installed its 3,000th smoke detector in the community. A total of 385 detectors were installed in 254 homes, the most in the program's seven-year history.

Rochester Hills, with a 61,766 population has 13 full-time firefighters and 90 part-timers or volunteers. With a 310,000 population, Livonia has 96 full-time firefighters, compared to 16 full-time and 70 part-timer in Novi with a 32,990 population, or Southfield with 72,745 population and 108 full-time firefighters and 18 part-timers.

In 1991, Farmington Hills conducted 3,313 inspections, compared to 249 in Rochester Hills and about 1,500 in Livonia and Novi. It's unknown how many inspections were conducted in Southfield.

While 255 programs were conducted by the Rochester Hills fire department, 15 were conducted by the Livonia department, and 340 by Farmington Hills. It's unknown how many programs were conducted in Southfield and Novi.

"We're getting a lot of production out of our personnel," Marinucci said.

# It's love at first sight

## for Botsford volunteers

Wedding bells will be ringing for 62-year-old Bill Lauffer and 70-year-old Lucille Feisel, who are both Botsford General Hospital volunteers.

At 2 p.m. on Tuesday, May 5, the couple will be married by Botsford Hospital Chaplain Kurt Stutz in front of hospital staff, and more than 300 volunteers.

The ceremony will take place in the chapel of the Farmington Hills hospital. A reception will follow the ceremony in the wedding dining room.

Gerson Cooper, Botsford Hospital president and CEO, will be Lauffer's best man, and Feisel's sons, Dan and Bob, will give her away. Other members of the wedding party will include Feisel's daughter, Wendy Brown, matron of honor, granddaughter, Christine Feisel, junior bridesmaid, and grandsons, Tommy and Bobby Feisel, ringbearers.

In addition, volunteer Betty Zimmerman will play the keyboard while Ann Heink, Zimmerman's daughter, will sing.

The couple met on Oct. 10, 1991, when Feisel offered to drive Lauffer

to Botsford General Hospital's Adult Volunteer Banquet. It was the first night out for Lauffer since a serious automobile accident that required hospitalization. Both agreed that it was "love at first sight."

FEISEL, a resident of Redford Township, is the volunteer chairperson in Botsford Hospital's ERG department and works twice a week. Since 1989, she has volunteered 1,197 hours. She also continues to work part-time as a manager of the Northland Hotel Book shop.

Lauffer retired from the Detroit Free Press when he was 84. While there, he worked on topography and advertising layout. In July, 1991, he was involved in an automobile accident which kept him in the hospital for six weeks.

After undergoing rehabilitation, he was able to return to his volunteer work at Botsford Hospital.

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**REPORT OF CONDITION**

Consolidating domestic subsidiaries of the Metropolitan, N. A. of Farmington Hills in the state of Michigan, as the close of business on March 31, 1991, published in response to call made by Comptroller of the Currency, under title 12, United States Code, Section 141. Charter Number 15019 Comptroller of the Currency Central District.

Statement of Resources and Liabilities

ASSETS	Thousands of dollars
Cash and balances due from depository institutions	2,922
Noninterest-bearing balances and currency and coin	987
Interest-bearing balances	10,494
Securities	2,650
Federal funds sold	0
Securities purchased under agreements to resell	0
Loans and lease financing receivables	41,600
Loans and leases, net of unearned income	0
LESS: Allowance for loan and lease losses	382
LESS: Allowance for unearned income, allowance and reserve	0
Assets held in trading accounts	10,818
Premises and fixed assets (including capitalized leases)	1,531
Other real estate owned	0
Investments in unconsolidated subsidiaries and associated companies	0
Customers' liability to this bank on acceptances outstanding	0
Intangible assets	0
Other assets	613
Total assets	59,876
Loans deferred pursuant to U.S.C. (113k)	59,876
<b>LIABILITIES</b>	
Deposits	
Demand	0
Noninterest-bearing	13,205
Interest-bearing	10,791
Federal funds purchased	0
Securities sold under agreements to repurchase	0
Demand notes issued to the U.S. Treasury	0
Other borrowed money	0
Mortgage indebtedness and obligations under capitalized leases	0
Bank's liability on acceptances received and outstanding	0
Subordinated notes and debentures	0
Other liabilities	247
Total liabilities	54,241
Loans held in preferred stock and related surplus	0
<b>EQUITY CAPITAL</b>	
Perpetual preferred stock and related surplus	0
Common stock	0
Surplus	521
Undivided profits and capital reserves	4,392
LESS: Non-voting shares and non-marketable equity securities	0
Total equity capital	5,313
Loans deferred pursuant to U.S.C. (113k)	5,313
Total equity capital and loans deferred pursuant to U.S.C. (113k)	5,313
Total liabilities, limited-life preferred stock, equity capital and loans deferred pursuant to U.S.C. (113k)	59,876

We, the undersigned directors, attest to the correctness of this statement of resources and liabilities. We declare that it has been examined by us, and in the best of our knowledge and belief, has been prepared in conformance with the instructions and is true and correct.

Directors: I, Michael McLean, Name, Vice-President & Cashier, Title.

of the above-named bank do hereby declare that this Report of Condition is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: April 28, 1992

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