

### New Dues Structure

LOCAL UNIT	1970	1972	PER CENT INCREASE
<b>OAKLAND COUNTY</b>			
* Farmington	\$360	\$594	65
* Farmington Township	600	1,100	83
Quakerstown	100	110	10
WoodCreek Farms	100	110	10
Lathrup Village	180	198	10
Southfield	1,240	2,772	120
Southfield Township	400	440	10
Beverly Hills	360	594	65
Bingham Farms	100	110	10
Franklin Village	100	198	98
<b>WAYNE COUNTY</b>			
Garden City	\$1,440	\$1,782	24
* Livonia	2,520	4,752	88.6
* Plymouth	360	594	65
* Plymouth Township	200	440	120
Redford Township	1,400	1,540	10
Westland	3,240	3,564	10
*Members			

# SEMCOG Hikes Suburbs Dues

By KATHY MORAN

Local government units in Observerland belonging to the Southeastern Michigan Council of Governments will feel hikes in their current dues ranging from 10 to 120 per cent as a result of a new funding plan passed by the General Assembly on Saturday.

A 10 per cent across-the-board increase was part of the new financing package that was approved. The increases beyond 10 per cent will occur in areas that experienced big population increases since 1960.

The membership dues schedule is based strictly on population, and SEMCOG members have paid all dues up to and including 1971 on the basis of their 1960 census figures.

Areas of great growth in the last 10 years will be the hardest hit under the new plan.

**HARDEST HIT** from Observerland will be Plymouth Township, whose population has jumped from 8,364 to 17,497 and whose dues will increase from \$200 to \$440—over 120 per cent.

Livonia, whose population is at 110,109, will pay \$4,752 in dues for the 1971-72 fiscal year—an 88.6 per cent increase over 1970 dues of \$2,520.

Both Plymouth and Farmington will have to pay 65 per cent increases when their dues go from \$300 to \$495.

Also experiencing a large growth in population was Farmington Township whose growth is reflected in an 83 per cent dues hike. Formerly the township paid \$100 yearly, but it will pay \$180 under the new plan.

The financing plan was designed to guarantee SEMCOG a stable income from members and to encourage local units of government to join the organization.

The six counties belonging to SEMCOG will guarantee local funding of \$387,000. Each county will pay dues equal to 60 per cent of its total assessed valuation.

In Observerland this would mean that Oakland County would pay \$81,567 and Wayne County would pay \$199,516. Other counties belonging to SEMCOG are Macomb, Monroe, St. Clair and Washtenaw.

But a "built-in incentive" was included in the plan where counties would get a rebate for each of the local units under its jurisdiction that are members or join SEMCOG. Thus, the counties would be encouraged to get local units to become members.

**BECAUSE** of the number of government units that currently are in SEMCOG, Wayne County will pay \$129,100 for 1971-72 and Oakland County will pay \$99,500.

If all eligible units join SEMCOG, Wayne County's dues would be \$87,588 yearly and Oakland County's would be \$56,628.

Should non-member units such as Southfield, Garden City, Westland and Redford Township become SEMCOG members, more of the financial burden would be taken off the counties.

Under the new schedule Southfield would pay \$2,772 yearly if it joined. Garden City \$1,782, Westland \$1,554, and Redford Township \$1,450. Five villages within Farmington Township and South-

field Township are eligible for separate memberships. In Farmington they are: Quakerstown, \$110; and Wood Creek Farms, \$110.

In Southfield they are: Franklin Village, \$108; Bingham Farms, \$198; and Beverly Hills, \$594.

If any of these areas joined SEMCOG, its dues would be equal to the county dues as well as the county dues.

The figures on Observerland school district dues and populations were not immediately available.

**SINCE** SEMCOG is primarily a regional coordinating and planning organization, it is both to its advantage as well as to the local unit's advantage to have a representative membership. Currently only 102 of the more than 400 eligible units are members. Eligible units include all cities, villages, townships and school districts in the six county region.

Membership fees make up 26.2 per cent of the projected budget for 1971-72 that was also adopted by the assembly.

The largest portion of revenue for the \$1.7 million budget comes from federal grants—expected 39.4 per cent. State grants are expected to make up 27.2 per cent and private donations the final 7.2 per cent.

Percentage-wise, the membership portion is assuming a larger share of the projected budget than in 1970. At that time membership fees constituted only 18.6 per cent and federal and state grants had larger portions or 43.5 per cent and 30.7 per cent respectively.

**ADMINISTRATIVE** costs lead expenditures at 32.6 per cent followed by the planning division at 23.2 per cent.


The rest of the expenditures are divided among the social services division, general government division,

education, public safety division and data systems office. Also at the assembly, changes in the by-laws were made including one that would give county boards of commissioners the authority to fill seats in the 25-seat SEMCOG Executive Committee when there is not a sufficient number of local units of each category to join.

Either one-third of the units of a bloc (cities and villages) or one-third of the total population in the bloc, must be members before that bloc can assume a seat on the Executive Committee.

Currently eight seats are vacant including one in Oakland County. Wayne County does not have a vacancy on the committee.

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**The Green Thumb**  
By GEORGE ABRAHAM

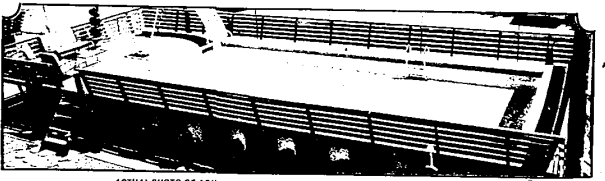


Onion troubles: It's more common than you think. They may be set in late summer, fall, or spring. Then there's shallots, related to onions, but perennial. Ours have never produced seed, but you can start new plants from small bulbs which are broken up into smaller ones. These small bulbs are the sets used for planting. Leeks look like green onions, except leaves are flat, plants are thicker and do not form bulbs. They are used for flavoring, or boil and serve with white sauce.

**FREE:** If you can't grow good onions, better study my bulletin, "How to Grow 400 Kinds of Onions." My guide is filled with tips on growing this fine vegetable. Just send me a self-addressed, stamped envelope (8 cents) for your copy.

**GREEN THUMB CLINIC:** A reader writes: "Each summer we set out some chives zinnia plants. They grow well, but around July they start to get brown spots, and plants begin to wilt. What's wrong?"  
Answer: Chances are your plants have a fungus disease known as alternaria blight. Start spraying your plants before the disease strikes. Mix up one tablespoon of Zineb to a gallon of water and spray your plants. Prevention is more effective than eradication.  
Some varieties such as State Fair are more disease resistant and should be grown, mainly for their resistance to alternaria. Slate Fair comes in mixed colors, with flowers six inches across. Some types such as Pompano and Came Again are quite resistant also. Still time to sow seed directly in the ground and have flowering plants by late summer.

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