

ON THE AGENDA

Below are highlights from the agendas of meetings this week. All meetings are open to the public.

Farmington City Council
City Council Chambers, 474-5500
8 p.m. Monday, Aug. 7

- Agenda items include:
- Letter from Farmington Public Schools Superintendent Robert Maxfield endorsing zero tolerance.
 - Letter from Common Ground CEO Tony Rothchild regarding request for \$1,000 grant from city.
 - Consideration of request to transfer SDD liquor license.
 - Consideration of amend outdoor sales requests and procedures.
 - Maintenance agreement for Farmington Road.
 - Notice of Michigan Municipal League Award to city for road improvements plan.
 - Oakland County personal property assessment.
 - Consider purchase of pickup truck.
 - Contractor payment No. 1 for 1995 Sidewalk Program.
 - Consider professional services agreement for Human Resource Information System software.
 - Consider purchase of car washing service.

Tax from page 1A

generate about \$2.6 million a year.

Fire runs way up

Fire Chief Rich Marinucci said the number of runs firefighters make has increased from 1,967 in 1982 to a projection of more than 5,000 for this year. But personnel and equipment needs haven't kept pace with the increase.

"Medical runs have been a big part of the increase," Marinucci said. "But it's been fire and everything else as well."

The fire department is already one of the lowest budgeted departments in the area at about \$2.6 million a year. That cost reflects a mostly volunteer department.

But the increased runs mean paid-on-call volunteer firefighters are now making multiple runs, which can become a conflict with their regular full-time jobs, harmful to morale and alertness.

The tax would provide for a fifth fire station, centrally located next to the city complex at 11 Mile and Orchard Lake.

That station would be staffed 24 hours a day, Marinucci said, alleviating the work load of the other four stations and allowing



Rich Marinucci
fire chief

the department to keep expensive, seldom-used equipment, such as a ladder truck, at the central station.

The central location would also shorten response time, especially in the center of the city and to I-596.

Under the present funding, only Troy spends less per capita on its fire department. And Troy's de-



Bill Dwyer
police chief

partment does not provide EMS service. The increase would leave only Troy and Rochester Hills, which is also considering a public safety millage, below it. Novi, Canton, Livonia, Redford, West Bloomfield and Southfield would still outspend Farmington Hills.

"We haven't had a lot of complaints about our service, so we think our type of department

(combination volunteer and professional) works well," Marinucci said. "But we have to be able to keep up. We thought we'd hit a plateau in 1991, but we're expecting an increase in runs until the year 2000."

More patrol positions

Hills Police Chief Bill Dwyer said the tax increase would result in an increase in patrol positions.

"The major thrust will be to put more police officers out on the street," Dwyer said.

There will be some improvements in computer interfacing and technology for the police, as well as the fire department, but the bulk of the police funding increase would put patrol officers on the road.

Dwyer cited the increase in crime in the city from 1993 to 1994 of 6.2 percent total, the increase in service calls (5.3 percent) and the increase in all police activities of 9.6 percent as justification for the need for more officers.

"We still have a good response time for serious crimes," Dwyer said. "But if there is a vandalism or other less serious crime, it may be an hour or two before we can get an officer out there."

Dwyer said of more concern is the lessening of uncommitted patrol time and other police activities that have led to fewer arrests over the past two years.

Like the fire department, Hills police expect runs to increase dramatically, from 31,498 in 1994 to 41,467 by 2001. Farmington Hills residents pay \$126 per capita for police protection, well below Southfield (\$172), Birmingham (\$182) and Troy (\$206). The increase would push the cost up to \$143 per capita, still below those communities.

The millage would provide for 14 new patrol officers, one sergeant, one dispatch supervisor, one crime analyst and one cadet over the next five years along with two new patrol cars and other equipment.

Costick said he and both chiefs plan to speak to the council of homeowners and every civic group and agency they can to explain the need for an increase. The city, at 9.145 mills, has one of the lowest tax rates in the area. Northville (17.36), Southfield (16.4181) and Farmington (13.91) are among those with a higher rate.

"I think that we can easily justify the need," Costick said.

Aircraft models to be displayed

An exhibit of model fighter aircraft from World War II will be on display during August in the downtown branch of the Farmington Community Library, 2350 Liberty St.

The models were built by Farmington Hills resident William Shack, a retired Ford Motor Company automotive stylist who has devoted many years to this hobby.

Included are models of the Flying Tiger, the Tokyo Raider and planes used in the battles of Midway, Coral Sea, Pearl Harbor and the Battle of Britain. Models are constructed to 1/48 scale and are identified by name, battle and pilot.

Summer library hours are 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday-Thursday, and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday-Saturday. The library is closed Sundays during the summer. For more information, call 474-7770.

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