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# Hills moves on public safety upgrade

 By BILL COUTANT  
 STAFF WRITER

Farmington Hills officials are wasting no time in preparation for the improvements for the police and fire departments thanks to the passage Nov. 7 of a public safety tax.

Both the police and fire departments plan to have tested and narrowed the field of prospective firefighters and police officers to the number of hires by the July 1, 1996 target date.

"That's when the millage will actually be levied for the first time," said City Manager Bill Costick.

In the first year of the 10-year tax, the fire department will add four new full-time firefighters, begin building the fifth fire station, make recommendations for new fire equipment and buy a new fire engine.

The police department will add two additional patrol cars to each ship, add eight new patrol offi-

**Both the police and fire departments plan to have tested and narrowed the field of prospective firefighters and police officers to the number of hires by the July 1, 1996 target date.**

cers, one new traffic officer and one civilian dispatcher.

"We currently have one sergeant supervising 18 people," said Police Chief Bill Dwyer.

Dwyer, Costick and Fire Chief Richard Marinucci made a presentation on the proposed plans at the city council's regular Monday meeting.

The tax will provide about \$2.7 million a year. In the first year, construction will begin on a new, centrally located fire station on city property near the city complex. The \$1.5 million station will eventually be manned 24 hours a day to help the department improve its response time.

Four new firefighters will be hired from within the ranks of the department's paid-on-call volunteers. The department has already trained those firefighters who would be eligible and it has promoted from its volunteer force in the past.

The police department will be using two promotional lists for its new officers. One list will include its qualified cadets and the other will include police officers from other departments who apply in Farmington Hills.

Dwyer said the department will make an effort to recruit Farmington Hills residents if possible for the positions.

The council approved a committee that will solicit proposals from Farmington Hills architectural firms to build the new fire station.

The station will be in the 16,000-18,000 square foot range and cost about \$1.5 million.

The committee will include two city council members, two representatives from the fire administration, one representative from the city manager's office and Public Services Director Tom Biasell. Councilmen Terry Sever and Jon Grant will be the council representatives with Councilwoman Nancy Bates as alternate.

Costick said he would like to see the architect hired by January so that construction can begin as soon as money for the project is available next summer. He added that public safety tax money will not take the place of money already budgeted for police and fire in the general budget.

## Techno from page 1A

net access. A new student software package, SASI, will also be piloted in secondary buildings starting in January.

■ Connect all secondary classrooms, including Boys and Girls Republic and Alternative Academy, by wiring for voice and data. Highmeadow Common Campus and Hillside will also be included. Telephones will be put into each classroom. Bids are expected to go out in January with completion by the end of the summer.

■ Remaining elementary schools would be wired and connected. Bids and installation would take place during the 1996-97 school year.

Other Oakland County districts are upgrading their technological capabilities. Rochester Community School District is asking voters to approve a \$110 million bond Monday, \$10.5 million of which would go towards technology.

"It probably puts us among the top," Maxfield said. "The dis-

tricts which we compare ourselves with have either done it or are well into it."

Proponents see technology, particularly the Internet, as a powerful learning tool. On the Internet, students will be able to connect to others from around the world.

Kids can take field trips via computer to the Louvre in Paris or contact a professor at MIT, Maxfield said.

"Not only will they get information they could not access in libraries, they can see for themselves how information is processed," he said. "It also makes them authors of their own information."

Technology's potential is not limited to students, either. Maxfield sees teachers using it for such things as staff development.

"The E-mail piece will allow a third grade teacher at Wooddale to say, 'I'm doing something on Farmington history'... and get people talking," Maxfield said.

A computer technician position will be created. Money would

come from existing funds budgeted for contract equipment repairs. Also, the district figures 20 percent of the equipment would need to be replaced annually at an estimated cost of \$740,000.

Cost breakdown for the entire project is: \$417,000 for wide area network and e-mail; \$250,000 for 70 additional computers for office personnel and administration; \$1.6 million for cabling; and \$1.2 million for classroom computers.

Some of \$2.47 million costs projected during the 1996-97 school could be offset with a \$800,000 allocation from the district technology access committee.

The district has hired two consultants, MicroAge Corp. and Childs Consulting Associates, for the project.

"Our hunch is the software becomes obsolete with reckless abandon," Maxfield said. "The wiring is going to have, by all estimates, a much longer shelf life."

"The heart of this is wiring the buildings."

## Media from page 1A

"I'm not trying to control the media," he said. "I am going to control the players."

Judge Harris declined comment when asked why he instituted the gag order, that doesn't allow prosecutors, defense attorneys, police or any witnesses to talk about the case to the public or media.

The order could be changed Dec. 14, when Judge Parker will decide if Koga will be bound over for trial in Oakland County Circuit Court.

Miyamoto said she was surprised that television cameras could be used in circuit court and said if that is the case, she plans to send a crew to cover it at some point.

"In Japan, that (television court coverage) hasn't happened yet," she said from her New York City office.

Miyamoto said Koga's name has not been broadcast in Japan because that country's media does not as a practice broadcast

or publish names of the accused early on in court proceedings.

"It's really a protection for the individual," she said. "But it's also for the family. We don't want to jeopardize anyone's rights."

She said any TV broadcast of court proceedings would not include shots of the accused and probably would not include her name.

Asahi TV distributes news from the United States to Japanese networks.

SIGNS OF THE SEASON



### UPCOMING EVENTS

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30 -

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30

Monte Nagler Photography Exhibit in the Mall-within-the Plaza

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2

12:00 PM - 2:00 PM

 5<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL HOLIDAY WALK THROUGH

•Bloomfield Plaza Mug Giveaway (While Supplies Last)

•Reception and Book Signing by Photographer Monte Nagler

in the Mall-within-the Plaza

•Strolling Musicians, Michigan Opera Theatre

•In-Store Informal Modeling

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9

12:00 PM - 2:00 PM

•Strolling Musicians, Flamenco Guitarists

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16

12:00 PM - 2:00 PM

•Strolling Musicians, The Living Christmas Card

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23

12:00 PM - 2:00 PM

•Strolling Musicians, The Olde English Carolers

OPEN SUNDAYS • 12:00 PM - 5:00 PM

•During the Holiday Season

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