City sets paving program

When it comes to the read repair program in the city of Farmington, patchwork is good. City Manager Frank Lauhoff regards the fourth-year program as something that will keep the city's foundation strong well into the 21st century.

That's what this paving program is all about, Lauhoff ould. It's about awing the good portions of the street before you lose the base and you have to replace the entire street.

At the city council's next regular meeting, 8 p.m. Monday, bids for the 1998 road improvement package will be up for approval. Lauhoff outlined six areas are geted for the work, which are

Lauhoff outlined six areas targeted for the work, which are paid for by a 1.6-mill property tax.

The projects carry a price tag of about \$450,000-\$500,000. If the bids are awarded next week, coinstruction would follow soon thereafter and likely be concluded by the end of July.

"Residents in the affects areas will receive letters from the city just before construction starts," Lauhoff said.

The program began in 1995.

arts, Launon said. The program began in 1995

E 'In an older community ... it's of utmost Importance that we maintain our infrastruc-

> Frank Lauhoff -Farmington city manger

close tabs on the wear and tear of roads in Farmington and fix them—before they get to the point of no return.

Since problem areas are determined in advance, and because money is already being collected to refurbish them, the program helps expedite road repairs required the sometimes time-consuming approval of special assessment districts. And under that system, pointed out Lunboff, "You didn't do the street unless 51 percent of progrety owners said yes."

Lauhoff also noted that the program is a huge bargain for

residents. The city will collect about \$8 million over the next two decades, designated for road repairs. A 1994 study indicated—that, had the city opted to fix every road during that particular year, the price would have been about \$20 million.
"In an older community, where we're concerned about appearance and redevelopment, it's of utmost importance that we maintain our infrastructure," Lauhoff said.
This year's projects mostly involve taking out deteriorated concrete and replacing it. Projects on tap include:

Heritage Lane, west Oracle where the proper include:

jects on tap include:

Heritage Lane, west of Drake between Nine Mile-10 Mile roads. Lauhoff said the stretch will be completely replaced, with a new asphals surface and concrete curbs.

Mooney, north from Grand River to Shiawassee. New concrete will be put down on the east side of the roadway.

Partial replacement of a section of Shiawassee, approximately 300 feet west of Farmington Road.

Improvements to three streets in the Farmington Meadows and Tall Oaks subdivisions,

City of Farmington paving projects for 1998 Heritage Lane, west of Drake Road between Nine and Ten Mila roads; complete replacement Mooney, north from Grand River to Shlawassee: partial replacement 8. Shiawasace, west of Farmington Road; partial replacement 4. Birchwood, between Maplenut and Annewood; partley replacement 5. Maplenut; in its entirety 8, Tall Oaks, between Birchwood and partial replacement

east of Farmington Road between Eight Mile and Nine Mile roads: Birchwood, between Maplenut and Annewood; Maplenut, in its entirety; Tall Oaks, between Birchwood and

Lauhoff said other streets in Farmington Meadows and Tall Oaks are slated for work in the 1999 paving program. Because one side of the roads will be closed during construc-tion, and there isn't room for on-

street parking, Lauhoff asked that homeowners exercise patience.

muthere.
"But, because of this program,
we're able to bid these things
early and construction will begin
early in the season," he said.

Complaints swirl over dust control costs

Hills council OKs program to cover unpaved roads

Farmington Hills residents who like to live on a dirt road, which controls dust during warm aren't afraid to kick up dust with the city, especially over having to pay for the surface treatments.

The city puts calcium chloride

This year's bill for four appli-cations of calcium chloride is \$39,462, which is divided among residents through a flat rate of 18 cents per foot based on a sub-division or road's average frontage.

A couple of who lives on an unpaved portion of Power Road said the assessment is unfair. Farmington Observer %

unpaved portion of Fower nowal and the assessment is unfair. "Infill developments and dust control always brings the Kernickys out," said Irens Kernicky, referring to the couple's opposition to a proposed development on the natural beauty road. Farmington Hills City Council members are split on the issue. At Monday's meeting, the city council approved the assessment in a 5-2 vot. Council members Vicki Barnett and Nancy Bates dissented.

Bates and Barnett added a

caveat, making the city pick up 20 percent of the costs as it does for some road repaying projects. Before, residents had to pay the entire cost.

entire cost.

Bates, in particular, is against the special assessment. Last year, the dust control program assessment passed by a slim 4-3 margin. "We're gaining," said Bates before the issue was dis-

cussed.

She tried to sway her colleagues again but to no avail.

Some people profer to live on a road that is curved and paved; others like to live in a rural area, Bate and "... This is clearly road maintenance, like fixing a potholo or aweeping a street. There shouldn't be an extra cost for it.

Added Barnett: "I think it's an unfair tax on dirt road or gravel road residents."

Dust control provides a direct benefit for residents on dirt

roads, which mainly keeps particles from spewing into their homes, Councilman Terry Sewer added. Councilman Jerry Ellis had no reservations, though. The citizens in this community who have paved roads have paved for those improvements. The citizens who have graveled roads should likewise pay for improvements of these roads, Ellis said.

The city pays nearly an aver-

Ellis said.

The city pays nearly an average of \$9.769 a year to maintain gravel roads; Those residents contribute \$2,100 a year for improvements. Paved roads cost \$4,700 per mile a year to keep; those residents pay \$11,238 for improvements, Ellis said.

"As you can see, residents who live on improved roads pay five to six times as much for those improved roads." Ellis said.
"This (dirt road covering) is a small improvement on these road and a temporary improvement.

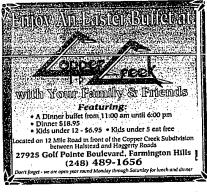
"It is fair and equitable to have a special assessment for this."

County: meeting planned

at city hall

The Public Services Committee of the Oakland County Board of Commissioners will be holding its regular meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 28, at the Farmington Hills Council Chamber, located at 31555 Eleven Mile

This is a new initiative, under the leadership of Com-mittee Chairperson David L. Moffitt (R-Farmington Hills), is designed to increase citien participation in Oakland county government. Public Services Committee reviews and makes recommendations to the Board of Commissioners on all social service, law enforcement and community mental health programs and policies.





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· Easter Sunday (4/12) 930 am & 11 am

Orchard United Methodist Church namphon, R.A. (Between 13-14 Mile) * (248) 606-1 Regular Sunday Worship Services 9:30 K 11 a.m.

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