

Plan from page A1

"partly because of the Farmington Road (renovation) and 47th District Court" project.

The plan, modified every year, was drafted in a joint effort between the city administration and planning commission - primarily through the subcommittee of Commissioners William Burke, James Pogue and Leo Ratliff.

"This is a basic document for budgeting for capital improvements," Burke said, during his presentation to the planning panel. "It's a guideline (toward) applying for state and federal grants. Without that kind of planning, you miss out where other communities make out."

The purpose of the plan is to aid future development under guidelines established by the Master Plan, outlining "planned projects for ... improvements that affect the city's ability to provide services" to the public, stated Marty Sterling-Hamilton, planning commission chair, in the report's introduction.

Following the meeting, Sterling-Hamilton said the document reinforces Farmington's fiscally responsible, proactive stance. "The city of Farmington plans in the future for their expenses."

Concurring was Richards, noting that "the fact you do planning is crucial for receiving funding." It's a significant planning document.

"The city of Farmington apparently is doing a good enough job

of mapping out those future needs, because most of the projects in the six-year plan are funded by grants and other outside revenue sources. Out of \$10.5 million in projects, nearly \$17.4 million will not require funding out of the city budget.

Following are some of the highlights of the plan:

■ The widening and reconstruction of Farmington Road from Eight Mile to Grand River, to add a fifth lane. Cost, \$7,425,000.

■ A new roof for the Department of Public Services building on Nine Mile. Cost, \$150,000.

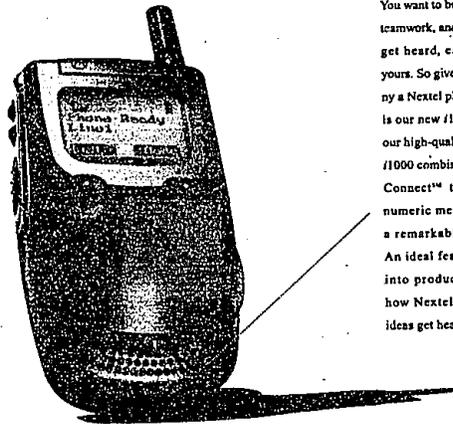
■ Expansion to 47th District Court, jointly funded with the city of Farmington Hills. Out of the total project cost of \$7 million, about one-seventh would be funded by Farmington, according to the plan.

■ Refurbished city parking facilities at Shawwassee Park, the Downtown Farmington Center, Grand River-Thomas Street and the municipal building. Cost, \$125,000.

■ Purchase of a dump and plow truck during fiscal year 1999-2000 (\$68,000); backhoe, \$62,000, during fiscal year 2000-2001; front-end loader, \$45,000, during fiscal year 2002-2003.

■ A heating system for the Warner Mansion during fiscal year 1999-2000. Cost, \$35,000.

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County exec wants taxes to pay for water, sewer upgrades

BY PAT MURPHY
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For almost two years, County Executive L. Brooks Patterson has been predicting higher property taxes to pay for court-mandated water and sewer improvements.

In an urgent message to Republican county commissioners, Patterson Tuesday said he wasn't kidding.

"We told you the sky was falling," Patterson said during GOP caucus. "Well, it really is."

The executive said property owners in 16 communities that make up the Evergreen-Farmington Sewer Disposal District are looking at higher taxes for sewers and water - similar to those assessed residents in the Twelve Towns drainage district.

County officials were advised of the problem in general terms last Friday by federal environmental officials, Patterson said. While specifics are not available yet, he felt compelled to warn people in those communities

about the serious financial burdens ahead.

The Evergreen-Farmington district includes Auburn Hills, Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms, Birmingham, Bloomfield Township, Bloomfield Hills, Farmington, Farmington Hills, Franklin, Keego Harbor, Lathrup Village, Orchard Lake, Southfield, Troy and West Bloomfield.

But residents in other communities face similar tax hikes, the executive said, as do tax payers in other parts of Michigan and the country as the courts address mounting environmental problems.

His reminder is important at this time, the executive said, because commissioners are still defining how communities can spend portions of the county's "Infrastructure Fund," created by a reduction in county property taxes.

Some communities wanted to spend their portion on projects such as bike paths, Patterson said. "But every community is facing serious water and sewer problems," he said.

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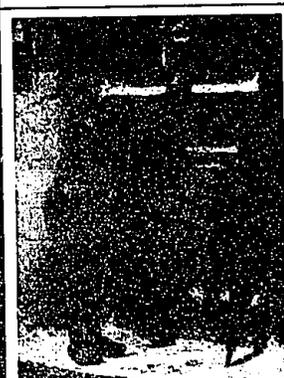
Friday, March 19th at 6:30 p.m.
Saturday, March 20th at 11:00 a.m.
Sunday, March 21st at Noon

FREE VALET PARKING ALL SALE DATES

Exhibition Hours:

Friday, March 12th	9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
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Monday, March 15th	9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Tuesday, March 16th	9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Wednesday, March 17th	9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Thursday, March 18th	9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

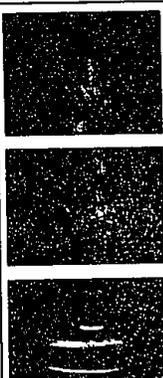
Free Parking Wednesday Evening Exhibition



Henry Mosler, (American 1841-1920), oil on canvas mounted on board, 35" x 27", Sun. #2006



Aubusson semi-antique wood tapestry, 5' x 7', Friday #0079 "One of three Aubussons, lots #0079-0081"



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