

# At least this year, city picks up tab on road dust control

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When it comes to gravel roads in Farmington Hills, the dust never settles — at least on the city council.

On Monday, council members agreed the \$47,475 job to control dust on gravel roads to Pollock Highway Products. The city will pick up the tab this time, but residents who live along gravel roads could go back to paying 80 percent of the cost next year through a special assessment.

A 3-3 deadlock at the city council meeting March 29 left the matter unsettled. In the past, residents have been assessed costs because the city considers the application of calcium chloride a road improvement, not maintenance. Not all council

members agree, which has prompted long debates.

Councilman Jerry Ellis, who missed the March 29 meeting due to a death in his family, fueled another discussion, saying he'd have voted to continue to tax residents who live on gravel roads. He said having all taxpayers pony up is unfair, especially a majority who live on paved streets that don't get the same attention.

"If it is maintenance, put it in line with the other roads that need work," Ellis said. "We have roads in this community that haven't been maintained in 16 to 20 years. I know because I live on one of them."

"If it had been up to me, it would be a special assessment district."

Residents who live on gravel roads say the special assessment

is unfair because they don't sign a petition or have a say.

Councilman Jon Grant said a majority of residents who live on gravel roads would rather pay the assessment in order to have regular dust control. He suggested the city is only hearing from a disgruntled minority.

Power Road resident Irene Kermack disagreed.

"We're talking about a number of individuals who are not a cohesive group ... I know a lot of people who live on paved roads who feel this assessment is unfair," she said.

Farmington Hills is the only city that charges for dust control. The policy dates back to when the city was Farmington Township.

Ironically, calcium chloride is used on icy roads at no additional charge to residents. Vicki Barnett, who favors doing away with the special assessment, told Howard Street resident Torikild Nielsen not to worry.

"Pray for snow tonight and you'll get your dust control free tomorrow," Barnett said.

## Save from page A1

put faith in those he has worked with for three decades.

"I was trusted by my mother, but having worked with this organization for 30 years, I know everyone plays a role," Joe Rebb said. "I was comfortable in knowing that Matt Parsons was doing everything possible until paramedics arrived. I knew the fire department would do everything possible."

Joe Rebb arrived after his mother was stabilized.

"I didn't rush off to the scene to cloud the situation," he said. "I let the right people do the job."

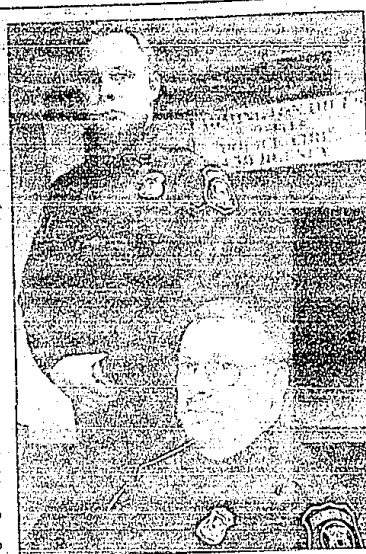
The lifesaving heroics of Parsons and the fire department only affirm Joe Rebb's belief in the city and its services, he said. "The two (police and fire) came together like a well-oiled machine," Rebb added.

Other factors contributed to the quick response. A woman from the school district just happened to be visiting Helen Rebb when she stopped breathing. The woman immediately phoned 911.

Parsons was on patrol in the 11 Mile area when the call came over.

For Parsons, it was the third time he's performed CPR. Others included a victim of a drug overdose and another who went into cardiac arrest.

"You just swing into action," Parsons said. "You just do what you have to do."



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL LEBERER  
Saved: Officer Matt Parsons (standing) helped save the mother of his co-worker, Sgt. Joe Rebb.

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**SOMETIMES THINGS WORK, SOMETIMES THEY DON'T**  
It happens in my office. A patient will have a knee or shoulder aspiration and feel fine for months; then the pain re-occurs. I aspirate the joint again, but this time instead of resolution, the patient returns in a few days feeling no better.

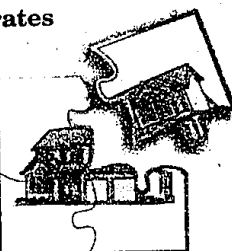
Why didn't the procedure work this time?  
It could be that I didn't get all the fluid out this time. Possibly the patient on leaving the office watched the knee again, which brought on another episode of inflammation. Another reason for failure is that the impairment of the knee or joint is so advanced that medical therapy will no longer work.

However, there are instances when none of these explanations suffice. Such an experience illustrates that despite the advances in our understanding about arthritis, there are gaps in our knowledge.

In practice, the doctor's response to the early return of the patient is to undertake the aspiration and injection again. My experience is that the repeat injection usually does the job and the patient returns to months of use of the involved knee or shoulder. Keep in mind that approach of trying again has its limits. Both you and your doctor must keep in mind that if usual therapy fails, the possible message is that re-evaluation of both cause and cure are in order.

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