

Refunds, credits OK'd in surplus special assessment funds

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Showing its holiday spirit, the Farmington Hills City Council authorized either refunds or credits of surplus money to prop-

erty owners in 11 special assessment districts. Council members voted 7-0 Nov. 22 to approve the resolution for the refunds/credits. "This is great," said Councilwoman Vicki Barnett. "We never gave money back before" in her

four previous years on the council because "we'd never been able to."

City Manager Steve Brock, Finance Director/ Treasurer Charles D. Rosch and Controller Nancy A. Piwowar told the council that construction has been completed in the 11 districts and the construction surplus of nearly \$341,000 is not needed.

The Farmington Hills city charter directs that any special assessment district surplus be returned if it exceeds 5 percent of the original cost assessed the property holder.

Property owners, who will be notified by mail, will receive a

refund based on the per-unit refund amount multiplied by the number of units they were assessed.

Refunds/credits will range from \$440 per unit to over \$2,000, Rosch said.

It will take a month to process the refunds, which will go to those property owners who have paid off their special assessments.

Those owners will receive their checks once the city's finance department has received a signed affidavit from the property owner certifying that status and the city's assessing office has verified owners of record

through the Oakland County Clerk's office.

Owners who are still paying off their special assessment district balances will have the credit applied to their last scheduled installment. Annual principal installments will remain the same until the entire outstanding balance, minus the reduction for the refund, is paid off.

The surplus was due in part to lower-than-anticipated construction costs, Rosch said. The 11 special assessment districts date from the late 1980s-early 1990s, he said.

Bonds have been sold for these projects and \$434,000 in bonds

were still to be paid as of Nov. 1, with the final payment scheduled for April 1, 2000.

However, sufficient cash flow has been projected to meet the payments, meaning the construction money could be released to property owners of record as of Nov. 22, 1999 - the date of last Monday's council meeting.

The 11 districts, their surpluses and the per-unit refund amounts:

District No. 218, Meadowbrook Heights road improvement, \$58,901.10 surplus and \$969.57 per unit;

No. 221, Salem/Village Lane water main, \$16,390.83; and \$2,048.85;

No. 224, Rollcrest Road sanitary sewer, \$6,663.76; and \$832.97;

No. 228, Alycekey water main, \$17,124.63 and \$1,358.02;

No. 231, Alycekey/Patricia water main, \$36,519.47 and \$849.29;

No. 235, Greening Street (Burbank to 13 Mile) road improvement, \$18,345.91 and \$688.10;

No. 236, Greening Street (12 Mile to Barlow) road improvement, \$15,771.20 and \$647.42;

No. 239, Greening Street (Barlow to Burbank) road improvement, \$21,261.66 and \$689.87;

No. 242, Glen Orchard road improvement, \$47,410.79 and \$439.60;

No. 282, Indianbrook road improvement, \$35,932.30 and \$678.48;

No. 288, Glen Oaks road improvement, \$66,661.83 and \$854.42.

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Jaycees ask for nominees

The Farmington Area Jaycees are now accepting applications for Citizen of the Year Award recipients. Nominees can be anyone who has contributed meritorious service to the community either as a volunteer or in connection with their business. There are no limitations to a nominee's age, sex, residency, race or religion. But this person must have accomplished their deeds in the Farmington/Farmington Hills area.

In sizing up potential Citizens of the Year, remember that the past award winners are excluded from consideration. Government officials may be nominated for their volunteer achievements only. Do not hesitate to nominate past nominees who were not winners but who are still very active in the community.

A nomination form can be obtained by calling June Farrell at 624-0341. Copies are accepted. Mail the completed form to 45738 Lakeview Court, Apt. 16103, Novi MI 48377 no later than Dec. 13.

Meeting cancelled

Following the practice of the last several years, the Farmington Hills City Council has canceled its Dec. 27 meeting, which falls between Christmas and New Year's Day.

HILLS COUNCIL

The move accommodates holiday festivities, vacations and other activities of administrative staff and council members.

The month's two meetings will be Dec. 13 and 20.

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