cent of our operating budget, the said. The largest portion is the \$1,803,755 paid to DWSD and Oakland County. Farmington has some expenditures tied to the Farmington Evergreen sewer system and part of the city's water distribution area involves Oakland County, Pastue said.

The city's portion includes \$3.09,129 in construction costs, \$150,000 of which will be dedicated to replacing water main along Farmington Road, between Shiawassee and Grand River this summer.

"Some funds are also available for future capital outlay, Pastue said.

The city tacks on \$510,575 for the cost of billing, accounting, engineering and administration and \$585,047 for system maintenance, as well as the cost of ling surance (\$57.1354) and

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CHAMBER

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reas youth is paramount.
"Because if they don't do
well the cities don't do well,"
she said.
Robert Maxfield, superintendent of Farmington Public
Schools, told the audience
that President Bush's No
Child Left Behind mandate
aims to have every child proficient in math and language
arts by 2014.
Maxfield said while that's
an honorable goal, not every
student belongs in a college
setting and it is important for
some pupils to know there are
skilled trades that pay just as
well as a position that
requires a college degree.
He noted in Germany, companies take an active role in
helping students learn skilled

panies take an active role in helping students learn skilled

trades.
While more than 75 percent
of high school grads register



Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, April 17, 2003

for college in the U.S., 35 percent of public education students in Germany go on to
higher education, he said.
He urged businesses in the
community to think of ways
they could help make positive
strides toward helping children interested in trades.
Other community leaders
also spoke, including representatives from Walsh
College, S.E. Davis &
Associates, Botsford Hospital,
Amerisure, New Plan Excel
Reality Trust,
DaimlerChrysler Services
North America and
Metrobank, Jeffrey
Kaczmarek, senior vice president, Business & Community
Services, with Michigan
Economic Development
Corporation, provided the
luncheon keynote address.
While be spoke to the issue
of what MEDC can do to help
businesses succeed in local
communities, business leaders spoke about challenges
shead and changes in market
conditions.
Bossford Hospital President
and CEO Gerson Cooper said
shortfalls in health care payments has forced the hospital
to cut programs, but Dustafort
ermains committed to stay
autonomous while putting its
budget in the black.

remains committed to stay autonomous while putting its budget in the black.
"Our mission is to become one with the community," he said.
Sylvia Vogt of Hills-based Bosch Corp. said the communi-

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Business and community leaders met in Dana Corporation's spacious auditorium during the morning session.

nity needs to embrace change more easily. Vehicles in 2010 will be made up 40 percent electronic devices, and her company will need skilled personnel to design and test those products. "We must have the right people with the right skills," she said. Robert Heinrich, president and CEO of Metrobank, said small banks are facing chal-lenges in regulation and tech-

nology to stay afloat. Internet banking, he said, is gaining acceptance and as security improves, more peo-ple will be handling transac-tions in that medium. After the morning com-ments, attendees split up into group study sessions on quali-ty of life, health care, educa-tion, and economic develop-ment.

ment. One goal discussed by the Quality of Life group was hav-

rited to attendees, sato Flaharty. "We'll take these action items and investigate their feasibility and see where to go next," she said.

ing more central locations, gathering spots where neighbors could meet, refax and get to know each other. One woman suggested schools should become 24-hour, seven-days-a-week community centers where parents feel welcome to learn more with their children. In economic development, representatives said cities need to be more lenient with their rules and regulations. A lengthy lists of goals and objectives was collected by the chamber and will be distributed to attendees, said Flaharts:

"Well luck these action

ing, engineering and administration and \$585.047 for eystem maintenance, as well as the tost of insurance (\$57,135) and paying off existing debt (\$11,757.5). Under Pasture's proposal, the water rate per 1,000 gallons would increase by 12.6-percent, from \$2.53 last year to \$2.85 on 140; 1,2003; the sewer rate per 1,000 gallons increases by 5.36 percent, from \$3.17 to \$3.34.

DWSD assessment for its long-term combined sewer overflow project, a quarterly flat-rate charge, jumps from \$5.66 to \$6.23. That covers the cost of keeping storm water from flowing into sanitary sewer lines in heavy rains.

They have similar issues all throughout southeast Michigan, Pastue said of the charge. "It's for compliance with their combined sewer overflow issues."

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