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SPECIALS THIS WEEK ONLY

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Unit includes Formica marbled top, white cabinet bowl faucet \$13.00 extra

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Guaranteed

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December 8
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2/59^c
(LIMIT 10 PKG. PER FAMILY)

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Set of 22 pieces
REG. 16.95

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MON-FRI 7:00-5:30 SAT. 7:00-4:30

Expenses listed for transit plan

Farmington Hills City Council got a peek at what it would cost after the first year for a dial-a-ride transportation system (DART) in a report by Alex Motseff, administrative assistant to the Public Services Department.

Motseff recently met with officials from the Southeast Michigan Transportation Authority (SEMTA) to discuss the issue.

Motseff compared the Hills to a community like Waterford Township, which is setting up a DART system. The cost would be \$85,000 for capital and \$113,000 operating budget, said Motseff.

"As things stand now, if a community would like a DART system it should be prepared to pay a good price for it and keep in mind that a conventional bus or combination scheme may be of greater benefit," he said.

THE DART systems that obtain financial help are asked for a token \$1,000 commitment in the first year, with the balance of the operating costs covered by state and federal money, he said. After the first year, the only help available is approximately 10 per cent for operating costs from the state's half-cent gas tax revenue and possible the heavy maintenance on the vehicles if SEMTA's tentative plan materializes.

SEMTA has three priorities in its small vehicle program, said Motseff.

"The number one item is a comprehensive region-wide elderly and handicapped service program which will be geared toward moving the elderly and handicapped to essential lo-

cations, such as doctor's offices," he said.

According to SEMTA officials, a county-wide system would be the best cost-effective operation because only one manager and one dispatcher is needed, and people are not restricted to a local community.

The second priority category is for communities which have expressed a strong interest in a DART system by undertaking detailed, independent studies and committed money. Five communities fall into this category: Dearborn, Highland Park, Lincoln Park, Romulus and Taylor.

"Out of the 13 original small vehicle programs, six are dial-a-ride and one in Rochester is a rural transit demonstration with the balance being plans for the elderly and handicapped," he said.

"The DART systems throughout the state are new and performance data is still to be gathered and evaluated to single out the most efficient vehicle for specific needs."

OPERATING COST for a DART vehicle may range from \$20,000-\$25,000 with a life span of from two to three years.

If part-time labor is used on the DART vehicle, an operator can expect to recover approximately 25 per cent of operating costs from the fare box and 52 per cent on a large main line bus. A union wage can double operating costs," he said.

The priority one program is using the ratio of one DART vehicle per 10,000 elderly and handicapped, with a total of 12 vehicles slated to operate in Oakland County.

Dog days are over, winterize Fido

The Michigan Humane Society reminds pet owners to make certain dog and his house are prepared for winter, if the pet is left outdoors.

In most cases, the society states, it is perfectly all right for a dog to be kept outdoors during the winter months—if he is used to it. The average dog is able to acclimate himself to the weather, but on a gradual basis.

Naturally, a dog that is indoors most of the time shouldn't be put out for too long on a cold, winter day. And, conversely, a dog with a heavy, thick coat, is uncomfortable if made to stay indoors for long periods.

There is one requirement when dogs are left outdoors. The animal must have shelter at all times. Clean straw serves as an excellent bedding and insulation for a dog house. It should be changed frequently. Once straw becomes wet, it loses its insulation qualities.

The dog house should face south because prevailing winds are from the west and north. A piece of old carpeting makes a good flap for the doorway to prevent drafts.

Other things to remember for winter dog care are to feed pets more to provide extra energy during winter months. Such items as beef suet, meat or bacon drippings are good additions to the diet.

The water bowl should be checked frequently to make sure it doesn't freeze.

Dog owners should be alert for toxic

snow melting substances.

Although it may sound silly, the Humane Society suggests a sweater be put on the dog when walking him—it keeps him warm.

The Michigan Humane Society is offering a free pamphlet on "The Care of the Outdoor Dog."

It is available by writing to the society, 7401 Chrysler Drive, Detroit 48211.

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