Cities consider county money uses

Farmington and Farmington Hills may spend the \$132,640 they expect to receive from Oakland County for county-related road improvements and for implementing the new E-9-1-1 emergency telephone system.

City managers are reviewing poten-

tial uses for recommendation to their city councils.

In an unexpected gesture, Oakland County commissioners recently ap-proved \$10,556 for Farmington and \$202,084 for Farmington Hills. Each city must develop a plan involving the county before the money is released. There is a good chance the money

will be distributed before the year's end, but there is no deadline for aubmitting project ideas or obtaining the cash, said Oakiand County Commissioner John McDonald, R-Farmington Hills.

McDonald appeared at the Farmington Hills City Council meeting Monday night to present information and answer disbursement questions.

CITY MANAGER Robert Deadman of Farmington said the money could be used for local funding of the county-wide E-9-1-1 program or engineering costs for widening Orchard Lake Road. "Of course, the council could hawmany other fideas," he added.

Farmington City Council has not discussed plans in detail, as county-level tegal determinations were not made

when the council last met.

The Farmington Hills City Council
passed a resolution Monday suggesting
its share be used on 1988-87 special
projects for primary county road improvements.

The resolution requested the city be able to "draw upon and use such funds" to "reduce congestion, improve convenience and increase safety throughout the city on all major roads."

A TOTAL of \$2.8 million will be distributed to local communities for programs in lieu of returning the money to individual property owners. Commissioners intended to refund the money to residential property owners but were advised this was a legal irr assibility.

The money has been held in esery we since the 1982 housing recession. The Michigan Tax Commission then required the assessed value of residential properties in Oakland County be increased by 8 percent.

Oakland County joined four other Michigan counties challenging the tax commission because they felt they

Food Processor

were overtaxing property owners. Al-though the tax commission won an ap-peal by Oakland County to the Michi-gan Supreme Court, the county board voted to return the money because of voice to return the money because of its previous stand on the issue, accord-ing to McDonald.

ing to McDonald.

THE CITY of Troy wants the \$2.8 million to be pooled at the county level and used for a countywide road Improvement. The Farmington City Council will consider this option.

Farmington Hills City Manager William Costick believes the community would be best served with the mosey handled locally and disagreed with the Troy plan in a report presented to the council Monday.

Farmington Hills and other communities recently requested the county 'beed up' list contribution to the triparty road 'Improvement program from \$500,000 to \$1 million-plus. Costick is concerned that "the county would view this (the Troy plan) as a disincentive, and perhaps a way of avoiding an increased contribution from the county general fund to this effort."

Snow, ice removal policy reviewed

By Joanno Maliazowski otos writer

'Farmington Hills officials will be re-minding subdivision associations of their responsibilities for snow and ice removal on sidewalks abutting neigh-borhoots.

removal on sidewalks abutting neigh-borhoods,
Officials' decision to notify associa-tions has come on the heets of the city council's adoption more than a week ago of the city's first snow and ice re-moval ordinance.

Theginaling Nov. 19, Farmington Hills property owners or occupants will be required to remove snow and ice on sidewalks abutting their property with-

nance covers all sucwaits in the city.
Failure to comply will result in a
maximum \$500 fine. Each day, the
property owner or occupant is in violation of the ordinance is considered an
additional violation and fine. City officials may also have sidewaits cleared
at a property owner's expense or occupant's expense.

Council's decision to adopt an ordinance came as a result of complaints and inquiries about snow and ice-covered sidewalks. Some property owners have also complained about others who have not been cleaning sidewalks.

CITY MANAGER William Costick told council city staff would be sending notices to subdivision associations that have sidewalks completely or only par-tially circling the neighborhood.

subdivisions along Drake Road, for example, between 12 and 13 Mile, have sidewalks along the roadway. The sidewalks are not necessarily directly abuting an individual's property but are in areas that the association regularly maintains. In these situations, "sidewalks are a subdivision problem, not an individual's problem," Costick sald.

Because the newly adopted ordi-ance puts the responsibility of snow

and ice removal on property owners or occupants, council may have to amend the ordinance to include subdivision associations, council members maintained. Council did not make a decision, however, whether they would consider amending the ordinance.

City staff will also prepare notices that warn property owners and occupants that they are in violation of the snow and ice removal ordinance. The notices will be placed on a property owner's or occupants' door when sidewalks have not been cleaned, Costlek said. "It's going to be a publir relations too!," he said, adding the notices will inform residents of the new ordinance.

MSU slates a pigeon show

Oakland County can enter pigeons in the 1985 Michigan State Pigeon Show Saturday, Nov. 30, at Michigan State University, Judging begins at 10

a m.

"The event is open to 4-H members and any other school students who want to see how their pigeons compare with those of other participants," said Sam Varghese, MSU Cooperative Extension Service poultry specialist and show coordinator.

Almost any kind of pigeon can be entered. There will be four classes for every breed, including old

cock, old hen, young cock and young hen. Trophles for first, second and third places in every class and best of breed will be nwareded.

It will cost students 50 cents per bird to enter, entries will be accepted at the door.

The show is sponsored by the MSU Department of Animal Selence and the Mid-Michigan Pigeon Fanciers' Association.

Details of the show and registration requirements can be obtained by writing Mike Rice, 14027 Center, Bath, Mich. 46908, or by telephoning Varghese at \$17-355-8408.







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