

Census counts when tax dollars are dealt

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each household throughout the country beginning last week.

Residents should have either the short or long version of the forms by April 1, and should mail them back as quickly as possible. Those who don't will be visited by a census enumerator.

Short counts could mean not only the loss of federal and state money grants to communities, but a reduction in representation in the U.S. House, state legislatures and other governmental units.

IN THE older, established community of Farmington, the population is expected to remain stable from the 11,022 count of 1980.

Although population declined in the early 1980s, Deadman said a resurgence of families into the city and an increase in single-family houses and condominium developments may turn that number around and keep it close to 11,000 during this year's count.

He said the demographics for his city would be most important, show-

ing median age and income levels, and indicating what services the city should be offering.

"It's very tough to say 'we've got X number' out there," he said. "There's a lot of empty nests in the community."

IN GROWING Farmington Hills, the 1980 census showing 50,056 will likely jump over 70,000, Lampi said.

A mid-decade head count taken in 1987 showed 68,020 people — already a 17-percent population in-

crease in the city before the end of the decade.

"Seventy-four thousand — that wouldn't surprise me," Lampi said. Traditionally, 1,000 people per year are added to the Hills' population, he said.

BOTH CITIES will begin to get preliminary figures by the end of the year; final figures and other demographic information will continue to be distributed over several years.

The Oakland County Planning Department will likely analyze infor-

mation for the local communities as it becomes available.

The Hills will monitor the census process from a pre-census evaluation — which it did to ensure census maps were accurate — through the count, and into a post-census check to make sure everyone was counted, Lampi said.

For example, he said some Farmington Hills residents with a Northville mailing address got census forms with "Farmington" addresses. He assures residents they will be

counted as residents of Farmington Hills.

ALSO IN both cities, the communities are divided into sections so individual areas can be reviewed and monitored with relation to needed services.

That will help the communities get federal dollars, which so often have strict qualifications, Deadman said.

"It's very useful information to help communities plan for the future," he said.

Farmington Hills stores face losing booze license

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violations themselves and the frequency and nature of police calls to those licensed establishments to request for service or police and law enforcement services," according to Costick.

The council's resolution will be sent to the LCC, which will review the findings and make a decision. It could hold another hearing, Nebus said.

Violation histories follow:
• Last Stop Party Store. Licensed in 1989 to sell beer and wine, the store has been charged with selling alcohol to nine minors on eight dates

since 1981. Management pleaded guilty or was convicted on six of the eight violations. One violation is pending and one was dismissed because a witness couldn't be located. Three of the eight minors were undercover police cadets.

• Grand Square Liquor Shoppe. Licensed in 1984 to sell beer and wine as well as hard liquor, the store has been charged with selling alcohol to three minors since 1986. Management pleaded guilty or was convicted in all three cases. One of the minors was an undercover police cadet. Owner Dawood Sorokli is awaiting a circuit court trial on charges of

selling obscene material (sexually explicit magazines) to a 15-year-old minor and to an undercover police officer June 8. He pleaded not guilty at his district court arraignment.

• Convenient Food Mart. Licensed in 1986 to sell beer and wine, the store has been charged with selling alcohol to five minors since 1987. Management pleaded guilty or was convicted in each case. Two of the minors were undercover police cadets.

The Last Stop Party Store also faces a \$1,000 fine and 30-day license suspension starting Friday in connection with the sale of alcohol to

an undercover cadet June 2.

IN THE vote to recommend non-renewal or revocation, councilman Larry Liebman abstained because he didn't attend the due-process hearings March 15.

Councilman Terry Sever abstained from voting on Convenient Food Mart and Last Stop Party Store because of his involvement in the city's undercover liquor law stings.

Councilman Aldo Vagnozzi abstained from voting on Grand Square Liquor Shoppe because of his friendship with the store's attorney.

A tough, new ordinance enacted Feb. 19 puts in writing the city coun-

cil's authority to recommend that a liquor license be revoked or not renewed because of sale of alcohol to minors.

The city's crackdown on liquor

law violations stem from a disappointment over what officials say is a poor record racked up by licensees in the city's undercover stings, which began in 1986.

Local students get lesson in letters

Farmington Public Schools students are seeking help from Dear Abby, but not in the traditional way. Instead, they're using a "Dear Abby Letter Writing Project" to improve writing skills as part of their language arts curriculum.

Participating elementary students write letters to a pseudo-Dear Abby, who is really a group of secondary students who answer the letters. Both the letter writers, and those who respond, get an exercise in writing improvement.

This year, more than 90 classrooms in grades kindergarten through 12 are participating, according to language arts coordinator, John Barrett.

The project, attempts to "give students a greater variety in their audiences" and "hopefully, improve their

attitudes toward writing," said Barrett.

Teacher and student reaction was positive in 1989, the first year of the program. Students "liked the help," and said it "made writing more fun."

"I liked having my sixth grade students receive advice from high school students," said one middle school teacher. "The responses were thoughtful and honest, and my class wants to continue the correspondence."

IN FACT, Barrett said, some of the relationships have continued with some keeping up a correspondence. One group of ninth graders took their fourth grade counterparts to lunch. Another group wrote original short stories to each other.

This year's program is under way, with elementary classes scheduled to write and submit their letters between March 16-30. Secondary classes

will respond between April 1-13. A total of 1,043 elementary and 1,311 secondary students are participating.

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