



CPL. GORDON ROSS, of the Farmington Township, (oops) Farmington Hills police

changes the name on one of the city squad cars. (Evert photo)

Expressways Jam

Continued from Page 1A

He feels the problem would be helped if better connections between the industrial park and I-696 were completed.

The first connection would be the completion of a ramp connecting I-96 to I-696, allowing northbound traffic to head east.

Tupper feels this would help traffic which now heads north from the park up Halstead Road, much of which is actually trying to get onto

I-696 to head east — a maneuver he feels the problem would be helped if better connections between the industrial park and I-696 were completed.

Eventually a second ramp which would allow westbound drivers on I-696 to go south onto Grand Road is planned, but Tupper said highway department officials aren't promising completion of that ramp soon.

When the interchange ramps are completed, a long-term goal of Farm-

ington, Hills officials would also be at least partially realized — a second way to get off I-696 in Farmington.

Township officials have been pressuring the state highway department for several years for an exit near Drake Road.

A committee of the Farmington Chamber of Commerce, headed by Margaret Jalava, has been formed and is currently negotiating with state officials to speed up the construction of the I-696 interchange ramps.

A petition was circulated during a recent chamber session which has been sent to Lansing, asking for the completion of at least the northbound ramp before the end of the year, rather than in two years, as it is presently scheduled.

But the best that can be hoped for is completion by the fall.

For the remainder of the summer, Farmington will be a nice place to visit, if you can figure out how to get off the expressway.

First 'Hills' Budget Includes Tax Increase

By DAN McCOSH

FARMINGTON
How much does a new city cost?

July 23, the Farmington Hills council will scrutinize the first city budget at a public hearing after, tentatively approving the budget totals at a recent meeting.

A \$3.2 million budget is being considered which includes:

- A property tax increase estimated at approximately 0.8 mills.
- Funding for the Farmington Area Library, formerly excluded from the township budget.
- Funding for an emergency medical service, not yet approved by the city council.
- New employees and department heads, along with a shuffling between departments.

Acting City Finance Director Charles Rosch said comparison with this year's \$2.48 million township budget was difficult, because of the reorganization.

The city budget up for adoption represents an overall increase of approximately 20 per cent over last year's township budget.

This does not mean a 20 per cent increase in a resident's tax bill, however, since the city taxes are one of the smallest portions of the total bill.

A home assessed at \$15,000 would see approximately a \$12 increase in the annual tax bill.

The city council dropped the "collection fee" for the first time in several years in the new budget.

This fee, which yielded approximately the same amount of income to the

township as a 0.5 mill tax, was frequently criticized as a "hidden tax" levied by the township board.

The new city tax rate also includes 1.5 mills formerly levied directly for the library.

This is an "in and out" fund, since the city appropriates \$426,000 for the library in the budget.

The old township levy included two mills for police and fire (voted), 1.2 mills operating, 1.5 for the library and an equivalent of 0.5 mills for the "collection fee."

The budget total includes approximately \$133,000 for the medical rescue unit, which the council indicated would not be likely to be started this year.

This leaves approximately \$178,000 in "new money" for the new city, according to Rosch.

The extra is accounted for in personnel, including a four-man staff for the city manager's office; two new patrolmen for the police department and two men for the public services department.

Also, the city budget runs into a contract wage increase during the last three months of the new fiscal year.

The budget runs from July 1, 1973 to June 30, 1974.

The biggest change this brings to the residents is now they will be getting two tax bills a year: one in August and the other in December, instead of the single township collection.

Not included in the budget are two hefty figures: approximately \$360,000 surplus carried over from capital expenditures from the township, and about \$700,000 in new money for road repair.

The surplus is slated for a capital improvement fund, Rosch said. The road money will have its own fund, when the allocation is made by the state.

ENTRY FORM FARMINGTON FOUNDERS FESTIVAL YOUTH PHYSICAL FITNESS COMPETITION Sponsored by the U.S. Marine Corps

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Parent's signature _____
Date signed _____

All applications must be postmarked by July 19, and sent to the Farmington Chamber of Commerce, 23715 Farmington Rd., Farmington, Mich. 48024.

PHYSICALLY FIT? Find out during the Founders Festival at the Marine Corp fitness event set for Thursday, July 26 at 9 a.m. at the city park. The event is open to both boys and girls in four different age groups. A sequence of five events (situps, pushups, pullups, standing broad jump and shuttle run) is planned. There are awards for everyone and the event is free.

Pine Shelves

Assembling components for a home entertainment center often calls for a shelf system of western pine boards on 2 by 4-inch supports.

the farmington entrepreneur Observer

DAN McCOSH, Editor
30251 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia, Mich. 48150
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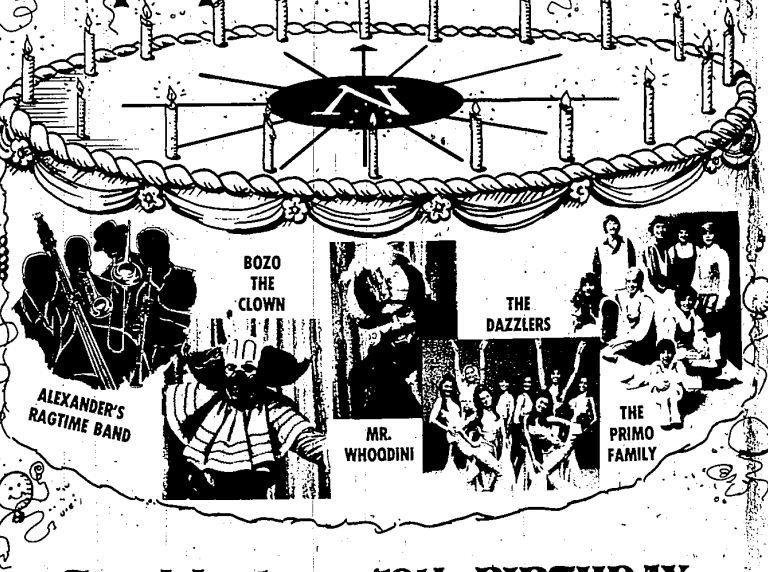
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