

**Public invited to sessions on financial challenges
Dearborn faces, potential impact on everyday services**
*Four interactive meetings in October and November to explain
municipal financing issues*

The City of Dearborn is facing tough budget challenges, the same as all communities across Michigan.

Despite continued headlines about other Michigan cities cutting back on police and fire services, libraries, City Hall office hours, recreation and other typical municipal programs, it's hard for some people to believe that Dearborn is affected by the same budget pressures.

That's because Dearborn has been able to maintain the high level of service that residents have come to expect, even as resources have been strained over the past five years.

However, now that strain is increasing, dramatically affected by a slow economy, escalating health care costs, an inadequate state funding system and a flat tax base.

As City officials prepare to begin discussions regarding the 2007-2008 budget year, difficult decisions loom.

To understand the reasons behind the challenges facing all Michigan municipalities, and to help prepare residents to participate in budget discussions in the future, a series of public educational opportunities are scheduled.

These are being presented by the Dearborn Federation of Neighborhood Associations, the Dearborn Chamber of Commerce and the City of Dearborn.

All are designed to be interactive and to put residents in contact with financial experts, as well as the people who deliver the city services you use every day.

They are set for the following times:

- 6 p.m. Wednesday, October 11, Studio A in the Ford Community & Performing Arts Center. Topic: Municipal Finance Model.
- 6 p.m. Tuesday, October 17, Henry Ford Centennial Library. Topic: Michigan Municipal League's Perspective on State Ballot Proposals and the Impact on Cities.
- 6 p.m. Thursday, November 2, Henry Ford Centennial Library. Topic: Citizens' Research Council Presentation on the State of Michigan's Budget.
- 6 p.m. Thursday, November 16, Henry Ford Centennial Library. Tentative Topic: Wayne County Budget or School Financing Issues.

Light refreshments will be served.

For those unable to attend, the sessions will be broadcast at a later date on CDTV, the city of Dearborn's government channel. CDTV is Comcast Channel 12 and WOW Channel 10.

Residents should also be watching their local newspapers for coverage of this educational series.

For more information, call the Department of Public Information at 943-2285.