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ception of the city's Commission on Children, Youth and Families a priority. During her tenure, the commission has helped with a volunteer center to match volunteers with agencies that need them, organized the annual Family Night during the winter and Family Day in the Park in summer, and has been an advocate for a proposed teen center program focusing on middle-school age children that would provide recreation at three or more centers around the city.

**'I hope to spend the rest of my days in Farmington Hills working on issues that affect children and families.'**

Nancy Bates

"We want to be a family-friendly community," she said. "All kids aren't jocks."

Bates also supports a proposed public safety tax that would increase the city tax rate by 1 mill and would pay for increased police patrol officers and a new, centrally located fire station that would be manned 24-hours a day.

"I've been in budget session for the last six years and had to say no to our police and fire departments," she said. "This is the right way and the right time. I think voters will be more inclined to support this rather than a tax increase because it's dedicated."

Bates said the city council did the best it could for residents concerning the controversial Timbercrest development at 12 Mile and Middlebelt.

"We sought input and we negotiated for no 24-hour supermarket and no free-standing restaurant," she said. "But I feel that not all the participation was constructive."

colleagues, was the subject of an unsuccessful recall campaign. The council tried for further protections from unwanted development through a proposed tax to buy land or buy down zoning that voters turned down. A current review of the master plan will provide the council with recommendations on future development.

"We want to protect residents, but I don't think I want to live in a country where the government has that kind of power (to deny property rights)," she said.

Blight control and redevelopment will be issues for the city in the near future, she said. The city has begun work on Grand River and is planning to make improvements on Eight Mile, two areas in need of improvement.

"I think council's ahead on this one," she said. "We don't want to let blight affect our property values."

Traffic problems are another issue residents continue to complain about, she said.

"So much of our traffic is pass through," she said.

Bates and her husband Charles have five grown children.



SHARON LA MEYER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**Hello, governor:** For years, Nancy Bates has greeted the portrait of former Gov. George Romney on her to work in state Rep. Jan Dolan's office in Lansing. Bates seeks re-election to the Farmington Hills Council.

## Bates, like Romney, backs volunteerism

BY BILL COUTANT  
STAFF WRITER

Every morning at work, Nancy Bates gets off the elevator in the Capitol building in Lansing where she works for Rep. Jan Dolan and bids good morning to the governor.

No. Gov. John Engler doesn't greet her. A painting of the late former Gov. George Romney does.

"I had not known him when he was governor, but I knew he was active in promoting volunteerism and I thought he might like to come here (to Farmington Hills) and talk about it," Bates said.

Romney, who championed volunteerism as a more effective way to solve social ills than to rely on government, came to Farmington Hills several times to promote his cause. Bates, who had pushed for the same type of volunteer center that the governor envisioned, was glad she had asked.

**'I had not known him when he was governor, but I know he was active in promoting volunteerism and I thought he might like to come here (to Farmington Hills) and talk about it.'**

Nancy Bates

"He was a leader who cared about people," she said. "He was a very moral man."

Bates, an alumna of Indiana University and John Wesley College in Owensso, had been involved

friendly community."

But, like the late governor, Bates does not see helping families as simply dispensing warm milk and cookies. It is a social infrastructure and economic priority.

"I'm absolutely persuaded that we will not solve problems in Washington or Lansing," she said. "We'll solve them a family at a time."

She often equates her view with spending money on a grand rail at the top of a hill rather than paying for ambulances at the bottom.

"It costs about \$29,000 a year (for a prisoner) in Jackson (Southern Michigan Prison)," she said.

in family centered activities long before she met the governor. Bates chaired a committee on unmet needs of children and won city council approval of a city Commission on Children, Youth and Families.

Bates, who along with her husband Charles have five grown children, has a goal of making Farmington Hills "a family

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**THE ADVANTAGES OF ASPIRIN - THE SAFETY OF SALICYLATES**

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To date, none of the 23 drugs offered in American drugstores to treat arthritis, or of the 45 or more drugs promoted in European pharmacies, has proved more effective for pain than coated aspirin or related salicylates.

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