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Ecological fighter makes family her top priority

Shirley Richardson, of Farmington, is trying to build a concern for the environment within her community and within her home.
"If we the people in the world don't have a concern for the environment, I don't know who else will," she said.
"Ecology is a natural topic in 'our house.'"
As the new executive director of Keep Michigan Beautiful, she is busy making plans for Keep America Beautiful's national convention, June 24.
It is a part-time job that has turned into a full-time task.
However, she is careful to be home when her children return from school.
"My family always comes first," she said.
She is trying to instill a concern for the environment in her three children, Tami, 15, Misty, 13 and Mark, 10.
"As a wife and a mother, I'm self-sufficient but I'm also dependent on my family," she said.
She discussed the post with her husband, Mayor John Richardson, before taking on an added responsibility.
"I've discussed it with my husband because his responsibilities as mayor often include the environment. We decided that since it will be a part-time job after the national meeting, it shouldn't interfere."

THE KEEP AMERICA BEAUTIFUL NATIONAL convention, in Dearborn, is the first time the convention hasn't taken



SHIRLEY RICHARDSON

place in Washington, D.C. or New York.
The Michigan group, headed by Mrs. Richardson, asked the national group to have the convention in the state.
"No one had ever invited them out to a different state, before," Mrs. Richardson explained.
"We in Michigan have a great number of people who are active in the association," she said. "I feel we have a great deal to offer."
"I love the outdoors," Mrs. Richardson said. "I like family trips, skiing and boating."
She has a BA in physical education from the State College of Arizona. During her first year in Farmington, she taught children to swim.
She is on the board of directors of the Farmington Glen Aquatic Association.

SEE 18 past president of the Farmington Joyce Anthony, of the Farmington Beautification Commission and past president of the Southeast Michigan Veterinary Medical Association, said.
"I've cut back," she continued. She divides most of her time, now, between KCM and her family.
"I don't know what a bored feeling would be," she said. "I've never been bored."
"There's plenty in the community to become involved in, to become involved in," she explained.

WHEN HER HUSBAND decided to open his own veterinary practice, they drove through different communities in the state before deciding on Farmington.
"Every Thursday, on his day off, we'd drive through a different town," she recalled. "We've researched the growth rate of each area. We attended churches in the area to obtain a reading of the temperature of the community."
"Basically, we felt that if the church was friendly, the community would be friendly."
"We didn't know anyone in Farmington but we felt that the people were friendly."
As the new executive director of Keep Michigan Beautiful, she will maintain the programs which have been instituted by her predecessor.
"I'm mostly here to replace the person who had this position for 18-12 years," she explained.

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