

Seasoned residents remember 1956 in Farmington area

Although children can view 22-years-ago as ancient history, for older members of the Farmington community, 1956 seems like yesterday.

When they first moved to the city, the bustling subdivisions and well-trafficked roads were far-removed aspects of the city.

Farmington was country where farmers hauled their grain to the town mill.

Farms sprouted on the landscapes instead of subdivisions. Ten Mile was an unpaved road and residents lifted an eyebrow at the infrequent car that passed through Twelve Mile.

"Twenty two years ago, I loved it," sighed Nelson Gauthar, 63, of Farmington Hills.

Gauthar was a resident of northeast Detroit 23 years ago when he decided the city was too crowded for him. He moved to the open spaces of the farmlands.

"I USED TO DRIVE out to Farmington," he said, remembering how he discovered the community. "I used to go to the park for a picnic. There were all farms here."

"I came here to get away from it everything. Now, it's getting too crowded here," he said.

Out on Ten Mile, 22 years ago, hardly a car stirred up its unpaved splendor.

Shoppers contented themselves with a smaller selection of stores, Gauthar remembers.

A supermarket stood in the spot now occupied by the Federal's store in downtown Farmington, he remembered.

But a few old favorites were around, adds Marinus Van Ameyde, a 25-year resident of the area.

Hinkles Fabrics and the Farmington Bakery were serving the community then, he said.

But the best place in town for dinner has since disappeared. Himmelsbach's was the place to eat, according to Van Ameyde.

Farmington residents will remember Van Ameyde as a school superintendent. He remembers Farmington when it had fewer subdivisions.

"I remember going to a retirement dinner for a teacher who lived on Grand River and Seven

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