

Hills Beautification Commission

'Watch for the good things that are happening'

By LORAIN McCLISH

Farmington Hills Beautification Commission members begin the fall season by asking residents to join with them in publicly recognizing the property owners who have made a special effort in making their surroundings more attractive.

"Watch for the good things that are happening," said Jean Telford, chairman of the commission. "Watch with us in seeing a new beautiful spot of

landscaping or the rejuvenation of an old building."

"We want our community to be aroused to seeing what we have here," said commissioner Dorothy Gordon.

"We want them to be aware of the plantings done by the state and how they've flourished; the work that all the garden clubs have done in some of our public buildings. Then we want help in looking, seeing, finding, recommending other sites for all of us to know so these can be singled out for recognition."

IN YEARS PAST the commission formed scouting and survey parties to recommend businesses and industries for a once-a-year award that was given in conjunction with the city's awards dinner.

"We're going off on our own now," said commissioner Merrill Buellteman, speaking of the change in format.

"We'll take recommendations (from the citizenry) then spotlight one site a month. But the important thing is that we want all of our residents to work with us."

"We encourage all participation," Mrs. Gordon said. "We want people to come forth with ideas, work with us year around, or work on a one-time project they think needs doing."

"The format is being changed to elicit more community involvement. The city has set a good example, in its buildings and landscaping, and it is up to the rest of us to follow."

MIKE DORNAN, assistant to the city manager, speaking from his desk in city hall with a view of a shaded park, adds to Mrs. Gordon's statement by going back to Farmington roots.

"We can thank the Quakers for so many of our tall trees here," he said. "Some were planted as far back as 1825. It is only right that we preserve and perpetuate."

The beautification commission does this annually with its tree sale. The sale is never intended to make a profit, "just encourage residents to plant new trees for a very low price," Mrs. Gordon said.

Meanwhile, Farmington Hills City Council "has consistently set policy, over and over, for saving trees, our flora and fauna," Dornan said. "Aesthetics are always a consideration whatever new is being built, rebuilt, rejuvenated."

City Clerk Floyd Cairns points to the area's first industrial park, south of Ten Mile Road and west of Halstead Road, which won an award for the best-

kept park of its kind in the state.

"A lot of people wouldn't know that if they never had occasion to go back there," he said.

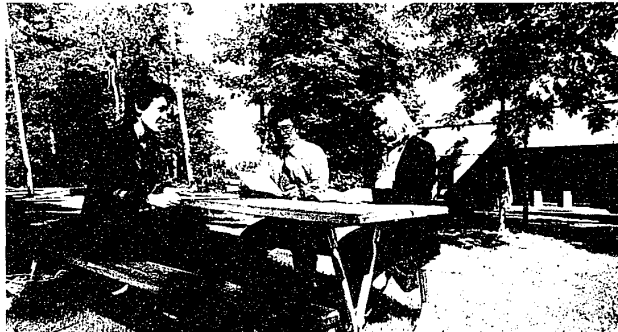
Another spot of beauty residents wouldn't know about if they didn't play golf is city-owned San Marino Golf Course. Purchased with an eye toward its beauty, it offers golfers a pastoral view of grazing horses and a running stream on the north side of the course on Halstead Road.

BOTH OF THE city officials point to the face-lift given to an old school on Ten Mile Road that was turned into the 47th District Court or the fire station that blends into its neighbors' ranch-styled homes on a four-acre plot on 12 Mile and Drake roads, as pleasing architecture devised by the city.

"Be aware of these beauty spots," Mrs. Gordon said. "Then help us maintain our beautiful surroundings."

All suggestions and input from residents will be received by the commissioners by calling the city offices, 474-5115, and leaving a name and number.

"We'll get back with you," Buellteman said.



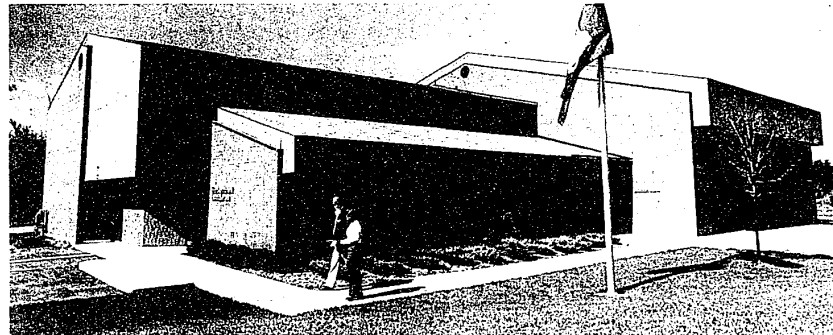
Jeff Farland, recreation superintendent for Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation Department, conducts a staff session out on the lawn with Natalie Sarcevic (at left) and Donna Watson. Placing picnic benches on the lawn at city hall has encouraged workers from nearby offices to conserve energy by bringing their lunch to work and eating picnic-style on the shaded grounds.



JEAN TELFORD

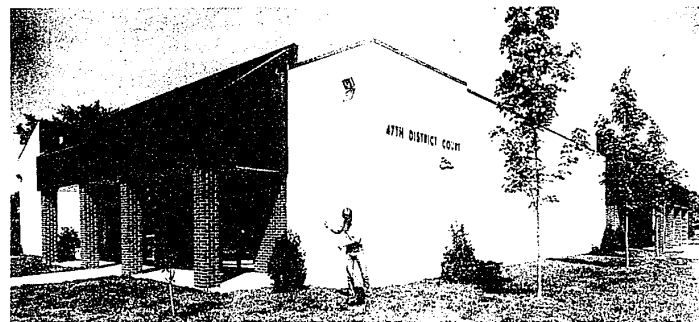


DOROTHY GORDON



Dick Daugherty, a fire truck salesman from Emery I of Florida, chats with Jean Cail, a city employee, outside the city's newest fire station, designed to blend into the landscape with its neighbors' homes.

Staff photos
by Randy Borst



Jeff Singler wields the rake in front of 47th District Court, converted into court use from an old school building. City fathers cite the new courthouse as a good example of what can be done with an old building for very little cost.



Maintenance never stops for members of the Department of Public Services (DPS) crew. In the foreground Tom Young, and in back Eric Man, follow a design they made to revamp a plot with wood chips on the DPS grounds.

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