

# Opinion

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O&E Monday, February 25, 1985

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## Callers have ideas for fixing downtown

The week's Oral Quarrel question asked readers: What ideas do you have to fix up the downtown Farmington area around the Grand River/Farmington Road intersection?

A really good restaurant such as you can find in Plymouth, Northville and Birmingham will bring shoppers to an area, whereas the fast-food restaurants can be found anywhere and will not attract potential customers. Also in the downtown shopping area there is a great need for public restrooms.

Yes, the first thing we can do is eliminate the discount stores and if we can't eliminate them at least not let anymore in. I think we missed the boat, we could have been like Plymouth or Northville.

### oral quarrel

more flowers. Keep it a neighborly shopping area.

Downtown Farmington needs more unique shops and eateries to attract more business people, shoppers and browsers. No more discount shops. We also have to unite around a central theme, to decorate our streets and storefronts. Why not return to our roots and incorporate a charming turn-of-the-century motif? Similar projects have worked for our neighboring cities of Plymouth and Northville.

Please do something with the drab, dirty stone building just east of city hall. It is the first thing

someone sees traveling east on Grand River as they enter our otherwise lovely city.

I won't shop downtown anymore. I think it is a shame the way new owners of downtown center force the small businesses to leave by raising the rent. The small businesses carried quality merchandise and they were dedicated to serving their customers. These have been replaced by discount chain stores which attract low-level clientele. I have heard stories of the crime that is occurring there now. Hinkle's Drygood Store drew many shoppers to the area.

A more pulled-together appear-

ance. Few mini-indoor malls, perhaps the old Farmer Jack containing one-of-a-kind shops and restaurants. Convenient parking and no more discount chain stores.

The city of Farmington should not try to duplicate the type of stores found at the local malls or the 14 Mile/Orchard Lake commercial strip. We have an historical heritage in our older homes, especially those around Grand River and Farmington Road. Our downtown should attempt to reflect the historical richness of our area much like what has been done in Northville and Plymouth.

Farmington should take a lesson

from downtown Plymouth and also Traverse City where door fronts are renovated with character and imagination. Farmington could be quaint but it certainly isn't. Mr. Deadman's suggestion to look at the area before it gets sick is ridiculous. It has been sick for a long time.

I would like to see some restrooms in the downtown area.

The planners should look at Plymouth and Birmingham. They use their city parks for quality arts and craft shows which draw people and they have good places to eat. You might also look at Gaylord where the business people turned a homely town into a very attractive business area.

Farmington doesn't need any more low-quality discount stores

and we don't need to tear down houses and ruin the unique quality of the town. Parking is not the major problem. It's good places to shop and some places that attract people to meet around lunch and dinner.

Dress up the east end of the A&P building next to the new fashion clothing store by putting a canopy over the walks so people can walk through there and plant some flowers and shrubs in that grassed-in area.

Not so much as to fix up the area, it's to have a place where someone could go that shops within the Farmington center all the time to a restroom. It's aggravating when you have to go and no one lets you in. It would be so much help to the elderly people because I have talked to many and they say that is one thing they would like in the center.

## local programming on cable TV

### COMMUNITY ACCESS PROGRAMMING SCHEDULE Monday, Feb. 25

- 12 noon — Farmington and Harrison basketball game.
- 1:10 p.m. — Kid's TV.
- 1:30 p.m. — Life Style with Diana Martina.
- 2 p.m. — Your Image. Cosmetology.
- 6 p.m. — Farmington and Harrison basketball game.
- 7:10 p.m. — Kid's TV.
- 7:30 p.m. — Life Style with Diana Martina.
- 8 p.m. — Your Image. Cosmetology.

### Tuesday, Feb. 26

- 12 noon — S. Farmington baseball program F.
- 12:30 p.m. — Removing the Silly Putty from Your Rainbow Connection. Hypnosis seminar.
- 1:30 p.m. — Cablegram. Understanding your cable bill.
- 2 p.m. — Insight.
- 6 p.m. S. Farmington baseball program F.
- 6:30 p.m. — Removing the Silly Putty from Your Rainbow Connection. Hypnosis seminar.
- 7:30 p.m. — Cablegram. Understanding your bill.
- 8 p.m. — Insight.

### Wednesday, Feb. 27

- 12 noon — Oakland County Parks & Rec. Snowmobile safety.

- 12:30 p.m. — Farmington and Harrison basketball game.
- 1:40 p.m. — Pet care fair.
- 2 p.m. — Shores of Your Mind.
- 2:30 p.m. — Hooked on aerobics.
- 6 p.m. — Oakland County Parks & Rec. Snowmobile safety.
- 6:30 p.m. — Farmington and Harrison basketball game.
- 7:40 p.m. — Pet care fair.
- 8 p.m. — Shores of Your Mind.
- 8:30 p.m. — Hooked on aerobics.

### Thursday, Feb. 28

- 12 noon — Health talks.
- 12:30 p.m. — Tough Love. Substance abuse.
- 1 p.m. — Return to learning. Continuing education.
- 1:30 p.m. — Cooking with class.
- 2 p.m. — Insight.
- 6 p.m. — Health talks.
- 6:30 p.m. — Tough Love. Substance abuse.
- 7 p.m. — Return to learning. Continuing education.
- 7:30 p.m. — Cooking with class.
- 8 p.m. — Insight.

### Friday, March 1

- Viewer's Choice from 4 to 9 p.m. Call 553-7300 and request a rerun of your favorite shows.

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