

Days fly by for new assistant manager

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paving projects. After eight years with the road commission, Call decided to give private industry another try. This time, it was with a New Jersey-based management consulting firm.

"After three or four months, the travel was just much more than I ever expected," said Call, an Oakland County native.

A West Bloomfield Township custom home development company was Call's next stop. But after three years with the company, "the bottom fell out of the single home market." Call moved on to the city of Farmington Hills as senior engineer in early 1981.

A stranger to boredom, Call says all of his jobs have been interesting and challenging. Yet when he refers to his six years at Farmington Hills — as senior engineer, city engineer and now assistant city manager — Call talks about how time has flown.

have been able to bring out the public and private," he said.

His work in the single-home building industry proved helpful in his city engineering work simply because he had yet another perspective — from the builder and developer's points of view — on which to draw.

"This gave me a little better insight into what developers wanted to do. It also gave me insight on how I should review site plans. It helped me to be a bit more realistic because what looks good on paper in reality doesn't always work as you expect."

The fact that the economy was in a downswing when Call began working for the city provided him with an opportunity to get into the heart of the city and its staff.

Drawing on his interest and experience in management training, Call conducted seminars — in management and problem-solving — for city staff as well as the Michigan Municipal League.

The EARLY 1980s provided Call with an opportunity to get involved with city residents, who were clamoring for sewers and paving. As he

did with the county road commission, Call conducted informational meetings for residents — getting to them, their concerns and needs.

By 1982, Call began moving up the administrative ladder. He was made city engineer when Thomas Blasell was promoted to director of public services.

"I was fortunate in being in the position I was in. With the freedom and responsibility given me by Tom (Blasell) to run the engineering department, I was given a chance to learn about the city and what the residents want," said Call, a registered civil engineer.

As city engineer, Call attended the majority of city council meetings, getting to know council members and much of the political procedures that take place. "It gave council a better understanding of where engineering is coming from and they (council members) got to know me better."

In an attempt to keep pace with the burgeoning growth in the city

and accompanying problems, particularly traffic and roads, the city council — at Costick's suggestion — earlier this year appointed Call as assistant city manager.

"These (roads and development) demands, plus a lot of internal growth within the city . . . Bill and the city council could see that in order to more effectively run the city and attend to things that needed being attended to, an assistant city manager was needed," Call said.

AS A Farmington Hills resident, Call said he shares other residents' concerns about the booming growth and accompanying road problems. But he has a different perspective, as well.

"I'm cognizant of the community's needs and desires. But we will have to put up with the problems development brings and work it all out."

Working things out whether between developers and residents, the city and developers and residents, or

with other communities, is what Call loves.

"I have found that when you get the parties together and work out problems, it can show your time is well spent," he said. "It's a challenge to work with the different entities. I enjoy working with people and I enjoy helping solve problems."

Though his job is demanding and

time consuming, Call doesn't mind. The days go too fast, as far as he's concerned.

"It's interesting. No two days are the same. So it's a challenge to get the work done. But it's a pleasure to work at Farmington Hills. Everyone here seems so willing to pitch in and lend a hand. I don't think too many people are bored," he said.

Day trips offered

For those looking for a quick day trip before the holiday season, the Farmington/Clarencville Community Education program has two trips from which to choose.

A daylong trip to Frankenmuth on Saturday, Nov. 15, offers traditional, homestyle dinners at the Bavarian Inn, and shopping both in the downtown area and at Bronners — a store famous for its Christmas decorations. The bus leaves Clarencville at 9 a.m. and arrives back at 6 p.m., for a total cost of \$19.

Later in the month, area residents will have a chance to visit Chesaning, Mich., for an afternoon of shopping, dinner at the Heritage House and delight in the 5,000 candles used to dress the town for the holidays. The trip leaves Ten Mile Community School at 12:30 p.m. and returns at 9 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 29, for a cost of \$32.

Both prices include round-trip transportation and meals. Deadline for registration is Nov. 5. Those interested can register at the Ten Mile Community School office or call 474-5233 for more information.

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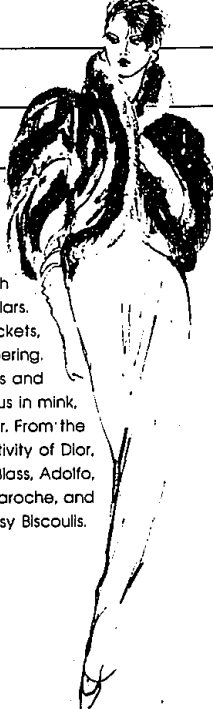
Sidewalk installation along Arundel from Gill to Longacre Elementary School is completed, according to city of Farmington officials.

The city council authorized payment of \$16,458 to project contractor Healy Construction Co. Oct. 20. The contractor also completed some work at the school on behalf of Farmington Public Schools, officials said.

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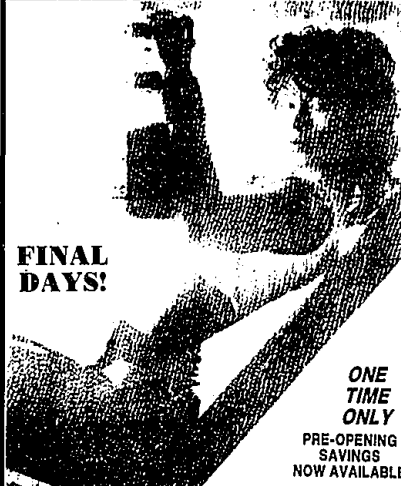
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