

Residents looks to 2000 and beyond

By Joanna Maliszowski
staff writer

ABOUT 150 Farmington and Farmington Hills residents are cheering the future with some hard thought, work and planning to ensure the community is top-notch as the 21st century dawns.

"We are trying to look ahead and identify what citizens feel ought to be the direction. We want to make Farmington Hills as desirable as possible by the year 2000," city manager William Costick said.

What that means, and how it might be accomplished, is the task facing 150 volunteers, divided among groups and charged with studying and gathering data on specific issues.

A steering committee with two members from each of the smaller task forces is charged with preparing the final Year 2000 plan by late 1989. The Year 2000 and Beyond is the theme of the 25th annual Farmington/Farmington Hills Founders Festival parade Saturday, July 15.

Meeting at least monthly since January, the steering committee task forces are deliberating on just what will make Farmington Hills the best it can be.

"They have been provided with as much background as the city has," Costick said. "They've toured public facilities, called in resource people to



This is the Farmington Hills Year 2000 Plan task force logo.

talk about needs, assess the current situation, consider future plans. They've really been on a mission of where we've been, where we are today and where we want to be."

THE LEISURE AND cultural activities task force, for example, is studying the community's lack of cultural facilities. The beautification and environmental preservation task force is studying ways to beautify the

city as well as building a pedestrian/bike path system. Other topics facing other task forces are, of course, solid waste disposal and traffic, Costick said.

"Initially, you start looking at it from the 'sky's the limit' standpoint," said Richard Lampi, community development coordinator, working with the steering committee.

The task forces began their work by scanning the past and understanding

the present. "Then you start looking at future impacts and trends. What's the preferred future? Then you get to a point where you are looking at an image (of the future)," Lampi said.

The task forces are charged with determining the goals and objectives for the future and the best possible strategies for accomplishing the goals.

"How are we going to realize that preferred future? Money is a question everybody has. We're trying to tell everyone don't get stuck on that," Lampi continued.

The final published document will be a plan of action, explaining how the community will reach its goals and priorities for the future. "How do we keep on track? The last thing we want to produce is a document we put on a shelf. We've learned enough to know we need to develop a followup," Lampi said.

THE IDEA for a year 2000 plan came from other communities, such as Southfield and Livonia, which completed similar plans.

By fall, Costick would like to have public forums for residents to hear what each task force has considered and has determined to be priorities for the community's future.

"Part of this is telling future leaders, 'Here is what we think are the

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