

1971 building surge improves farmington economic picture

By Wilbur V. Brotherton
Mayor of the City of Farmington



The year 1970 did not provide the strong economic growth that the City of Farmington has experienced in past years because several factors such as high interest rates, tight supply of mortgage money and spiralling construction costs curtailed the issuance of building permits to a new low for the past decade.

This moderate growth in 1970 has made a dramatic change in the early months of 1971. We found building permits to be at a much higher rate and we anticipate 1971 will show a substantial increase in our economic growth.

THE CITY OF Farmington has initiated two major capital improvement programs that will involve expenditures exceeding \$500,000 for 1971.

The 1971 major road improvement program involving the concrete paving of Shiawassee from Farmington Road to Grand River and Gill Road from Grand River to Freedom Drive with necessary integral curbs and drainage will cost \$300,000 to be paid from the city's Gas &

Weight tax revenues over a 15 year period.

The construction of storm drainage to provide a storm outlet for the properties on the west side of Farmington Road from Freedom Road to Alta Loma Drive and to relieve storm drainage outlet for the Alta Loma Subdivision is estimated to cost \$200,000 to be paid on a special assessment basis over a ten year program.

THE CITY IS in receipt of a \$1 million medical complex to be located at the corner of Shiawassee and Orchard Lake Road. This 25,000 square foot building is scheduled for immediate construction with occupancy in early 1972. These facilities are designed to house 22 physicians and provide 24-hour medical service in all phases of pediatrics.

There has been a resurgence of redevelopment of existing older buildings in the downtown area. The city will receive a proposal to make substantial alterations to the former bank building at the main corner of Grand River and Farmington Road to make this

building a viable part of our Central Business District (CBD).

A new concept of a mini-mall will replace this deteriorating building and will be a great attraction to local shoppers looking for diversified merchandise in a very attractive atmosphere. This resurgence in the downtown area is a vote of confidence to the strong economic climate in the Central Business District. We anticipate additional upgrading and improvements to the

Central Business District in the near future to strengthen our economic base and make it more attractive to shop in Farmington.

"LIVELIHOOD DAY" is a very basic part of our annual "Michigan Week" and one that certainly deserves recognition in pointing out the great economic assets and opportunities that are provided to the citizens of Michigan.

Michigan has a great tradition for providing jobs,

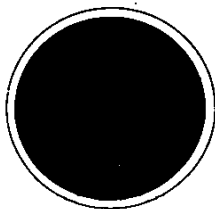
manpower and products to win wars and produce millions of automobiles for necessary transportation throughout the country and the world. Michigan has reversed its economic doldrums in the late 50s and early 60s and is riding on the crest of great economic growth and stability.

The Farmington area is typical of the growth of Michigan having doubled its population in the past decade and increased assessed valuation by more than 300%. The community has prospered from this growth and matured into a fine place to live.

Therefore, on behalf of the city council I would like to urge our citizens to participate in "Livelihood Day," Wednesday, May 19, 1971, to exemplify why Farmington and Michigan will continue to grow and prosper in the future.

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