"That's why I always try to really explain why I voted the way I did on a specific issue," he said.

That is important, especially on issues where the city stands to lose money, which hurts all of the taxpayers, Grant said. The city had been involved in zoning issues where it would have faced \$500,000 in legal fees and a huge

He took the baton: As Farmington Hills mayor, Jon Grant helped conduc-tor Karen Nixon (right) and Group du jour.

settlement had it acted differently, he said.

"It's our taxpayers who have to pay," he said. "They would have to pay that \$1.5 million."

Grant said he doesn't think the city will become like some other suburbs that have, like Detroit, been left as the population moves further away.

"We have maintained strict height limitations to keep the rural feeling." he said. "We haven't given tax abatements."

Grant, who is the city's representative on the 13-community, three-county Vision for Eight Mile Corridor committee, said Farmington Hills does not have as serious a problem as some other communities along Eight Mile, but it must reverse the trend of blight.

"We have to do something now," he said. "I think this is going to work. I was disappointed when (Oakind County Executive L. Brooks) Patterson pulled back

(support), but people seem to be coming around."
Redevelopment will continue to be one of the top issues for the city as it matures, he said.
Grant said other issues of concern include:
Brarks. The city's acquisition of property, including some 27 acres from the Sisters of Mercy, has provided citizens with a "good mix" of active and passive parks.
Cable TV. Since MetroVision is not nonprofit and it is the only not nonprofit and it is the only

provider in the city, competition should be encouraged, Grant said.

"Competition would be great,"

he said.

Few realized the problems that cities would have to contend with when cable companies came on the scene, Grant said. The same problems are likely to occur with companies, like Cellular One and Ameritech, that want to put up towers within the city that exceed the current height limits, he said.

"I wish we'd never allowed them in the first place," Grant

and.

A proposed 120KV power line that would run through the northern part of the city from east to weat will help ease power outages, but isn't the only problem the utility has in the city, Grant said:

"I live on the south side, and we have a power outage problem," he said. "And there are customer service problems as well."

# Grant tunes community into orchestra

Jon Grant isn't terribly active in sports and says his only real hobby is being a city councilman in Farmington Hills.

And although he doesn't claim to be a music critic, he couldn't help but notice that a group of classical musicians was getting the cold shoulder from music patrons in the city.

"I went to a Group du jour concert and they were excellent," Grant said. "I was shocked because there was hardly anyone there."

That was last November when

there."

That was last November when Grant was still mayor. Rather than shrug his shoulders and move on, Grant, whose wife Debra is active in the Farmington Arts Council, helped spread the word about the group. His company also is a sponsor.

Attendance improved and last month Mayor Nancy Bates an-nounced that Farmington and Farmington Hills were giving their name and support to the group, now called the Farmington Area Philharmonic.

Karen Nixon said Grant's help was invaluable.

"He really helped us get the word out," hie said.

The orchestra, which employs core group of about 75 muslelans who also play for the likes of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, the Michigan Opera Theatre and the Toledo Symphony, has performed twice this year and has three more

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