

# Outgoing mayor: Life in Hills good, getting better

BY BILL COUTANT  
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Hills did a little boasting, honored some of its best employees and set the stage for another challenging year at its Jan. 10 regular meeting.

Outgoing Mayor Nancy Bates noted the city's accomplishments in 1993, which included a purchase agreement for property at the Mercy Center, improvements at the Founders Sports Park, the

city's 20th birthday celebration and the new fountain that commemorated the event, the Farmington Area Philharmonic finding a permanent home in Farmington and Farmington Hills, the creation of a committee and a commission that will deal with the needs of families, youth and children and infrastructure improvements including sidewalks, roads and the beginnings of a massive storm drain project.

"For the most part, life here is good and it's going to get better," Bates said.

Part of the reason for the city's good reputation is its employees, said Bates. City manager Bill Costick echoed that sentiment as he presented 59 employees with service awards, five staff members with outstanding employee awards, the Employee of the Year Award, the Firefighter of the Year

Award and the Police Officer of the Year Award.

Dorothy E. Gullen of the planning and community development department's planning division was named 1993 Employee of the Year. She began as a clerk/typist and earned a reputation over the years of being generous and showing initiative in her job and dealings with people.

"She is one of the first employees to come to work," Costick said.

Also honored were five Outstanding Employees nominated by their peers. They are: Darlene E. Fittell, Assessing Division; Richard A. Lampi, Community Development Division; Michael W. Lasley, Purchasing Division; Maggie Lortides, Senior Adult Division; Kevin P. McCarthy, Engineering Division.

The city's Public Safety Officers of the Year — Norman R. Kilmer, executive lieutenant with the police department, and Dennis J. Hughes, fire department inspector — were honored.

The Police Officer of the Year is selected by the Farmington Hills Citizens and Awards Board. The Firefighter of the Year is an annual selection made by Farmington Hills Fire Department personnel.

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The trip will cost \$1,500 a person. Organizers said 85 students can make the trip with three or four being added if additional money is raised.

Ideally, Logan said they need to raise \$100,000 to defray costs and help those students who cannot afford such an endeavor.

While they've tried to tap corporate donors and business people, others have taken up the cause.

A man in Ferndale called Logan and asked to donate \$200 for the band's tuba players. "He said, 'I played tuba in high school and I want to help out the tuba players,'" Logan said.

Instead of money, a composer also donated a tune to the band,

"Lady Liberty March," which includes part of the French national anthem.

Logan said the band will begin rehearsing material in February once the school's musical is completed.

Students are starting to get excited. Some are taking French lessons.

The band's itinerary in France includes performing at the Utah and Omaha Beach Memorial.

For information on the Farmington Hills High Marching Band fund drive, call 471-4516. Donations can be sent to: Farmington Hills, 23666 Orchard Lake, Farmington 48336. Farmington Hills is helping the band with the fund drive.

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