## Ex-top cop takes on city's clashes

Much like his predecessor, Frank Lauhoff went from being the city's top cop to the city manager's seat. The similarities end there.

Lauhoff is facing a different beill game than perhaps Robert Deadman did 20 years ago. Lauhoff inherited the job as Farmington city manager at time when government sits on a foundation of Jell-O.

Alonz with being the Shell

foundation of self-U.
Along with being the Shell
Answerman, the job has become a
juggling act of interests. An antitax fervor clashes with increased
demands for services and government-instituted regulations and

mandates.
Lauhoff's first 12-months in-Lauhoff's first 12-months included brush fires such as the clock debate and the special assessment for downtown to four-alarm blazes when the state Legislature abolished property (ax for schools and revenue sharing.

Ho's prealed over the city's transition. He picked Gary Goss to succeed him as director of public safety and Kevin Gushman as



the new director of public services to replace Earl Billing who retired in November.

Here's what Lauhoff has to any about:

If the relationship with council:

If uses it's what I expected. I'm very happy because of the coperation I have received. What you read in the newspapers) where in other cities there is crisis. I think it's dust as a lathere, Everyone is interested in what the other person's thoughts are on a issue.

If the debate that led to the excapping of a proposed clock tower in front of the historic Masonic Temple on the corner of Grand River and Farmington where it was a compared to the corner of Grand River and Farmington that it what I learned a jou open at a city government by involving people. You don't operate a city government by a single board. I learned that right away.

If Going with people from within as both the director of Public Safety (Gary Goss): "I think each person brings his own perspective to the job. Sitting in the No. 2 position for awhile gives them an opportunity to try out their own ideas.

These people were able to step right in."

"Trying to find a middle ground in keeping the downtown's historic feel yet allowing for new businesses to develop: "That's the challenge. Certainly if you tear down major parts of downtown to build strip malls you lose that atmosphere. Today, there's a knowledge that this is important. "Sometimes if you really mean to save downtowns, you give up some parking. Maybe you give up some parking. Maybe you give up some parking. Maybe you need to give up proximity. It's all a balonce."

The recurring and seemingly

ance."

The recurring and seemingly inescapable issue of parking downtown: "The DDA (Down-Inescapable Issue of parking downtown: "The DDA (Downtown Development Authority) is extremely concerned and continually looking to find new parking. They're aware it's an issue and that it's important to downtown businesses.
"For all the businesses that are down here and the parking spaces that exist, it's difficult to define the problem. I've heard very few compleints from the people who shop or visit the theater."

## Quake from page 1A

way for 14 hours. But he considers himself lucky, especially in light of the damage and loss of life.

"We had power back on within about an hour and a half," he said. "We didn't even go to work yesterday (Monday)."

When he did return, Farley said the lower floor of his building was not nearly as shaken as had been the upper floor. Engineers made sure it was safe before NBC employees went back on the job, he said.

Farley's mother, Mary Anne,

said.

Farley's mother, Mary Anne, who lives in the Wood Creek Farms subdivision east of Middlebelt between 12 and 13 Mile, said relief from worry came quickly when her son called Mon-

Mile, said relief from worry came quickly when her son called Monday morning.

"I had tried, but couldn't get through earlier," she said. "He called me at about a quarter of 8 (a.m.) and said ho was OK."

Mary Anne, who has three other grown children, said at though she worries about her son living in L.A., it's his choice.

"I don't want to interfere in his decision," she said.

And she's proud of his accomplishments at the network, where he's already credited in the production of "The Black Widow Murders," a made-for-TV movie, and has other productions being released this year.

Christopher Farley said he's noticed a gallows humor since an earle, dreamlike acceptance of the quake and its oftershocks has set in. "There were lines of people in the grown since" he

"There were lines of people in front of the grocery store," he said. "But the mood was somber. There's water dripping. It's just

eerie."
Farley said people were supportive of each other.
"People help talk it out," he
said.

Christopher Farley

We had power back one within about an hour and a half. We didn't even go to work yesterday (Monday).'

Christopher Farley

Beyond dreaming the golden dream, Los Angelenos use denial as a coping mechanism, he sold. "There are a lot of people living here," he sold. "Why do we stay? I think part of it is with so many bad things — the fires, riote, earthquakes — you are in denial as a way to live through it."

## Waiting from page 1A

city services could be reduced. He said he will do the research and provide the city council with options.

The level of services in Farmington is higher than in most cities he said.

ington is higher than in most cities, he said.
"Farmington City Council feels very strong about those services," he added.
Lauhoff sees an antacid in this budgetary indigestion, though. He believes it's a chance to get residents involved.
To that end, the city hasn't here nuccessful.

dents involved.

To that end, the city hasn't been successful.

Council meetings — except for those during the clock debate last vyear — ere often poorly attended.

Only a smattering of people turned up for an informational hearing on a special assessment

being laid on downtown business owners.

At \$80,000, hooking up city hall to cablecast council meetings is not an option.

Instead, the city has elected to produce a quarterly newsletter costing \$4,000-\$5,000. Lauhoff said a goof for the upcoming year is to get more business owners and subdivisions involved.

He would also like to use cable TV and newspapers to let residents know what's going on. And, he added, things must be explained in a less complicated way.

Residents have to meet government halfway.

"I think there is a duty of the resident to become informed," he said.

Some ongoing projects for

Some ongoing projects for

Farmington in the upcoming year

Farmington in the upcoming year include:

Revising the city's fence ordinance to make it more comprehensive and easier for residents to be granted approval. Officials are working with city attorney John Donnhue and expect the ordinance to be completed in the next two months.

Moperation of a new fire engine the city bought last year for \$225,000, Lauhoff said similar fire apparatus only lasts 20 to 30 years. This new one is expected to last 40 years or most last 20 to 30 years. This new one is expected to last 40 years or most fire the proper senting the Farmington public safety officers. The city and the Farmington Police Officers

Association, represented by the Police Officers Association of

Michigen, are moving toward arbitration. The city reached an agreement with the Farmington Command Officers Association last year which called for smaller wage increases in exchange for improved pension benefits.

Maintain mutual programs with the City of Farmington Hills, such as the one for senior citizens and parks and recreation.

Complete streetscape improvements — sidewalks and pedestrian lighting — south on Farmington Road to Siocum Street and east on Grand River to Maple. The work is part of the Farmington Downtown Development Authority's capital improvement plan.

## **POLICE/FIRE CALLS**

Listed below are some of the Farmington-area police incidents fire calls and court cases report-

ed during the past week.

Firefighters from Station 4 in Farmington Hills turned off the water and removed water from the office lobby at Nissan Research a sprinkler pipe in the ceiling had

broken, spilling water onto the floor. A floor alarm alerted the fire

department.
Farmington Hills firefighters from Station 1 extinguished a fi at the Independence Green Apa

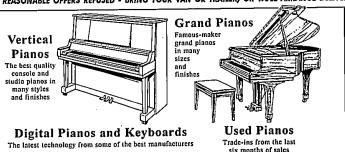
ments on Jefferson in Farmington Hills at 7:49 p.m. Jan. 13. Upon arriving firefighters found light smoke coming from a door to one of the apartment units.

FIRES

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### HOMELINE: 953-2020

Open houses and new developments in your area.

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- FAX LINE: 1-800-967-5904

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