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too long, eliminating any chance for pedestrians to walk behind those stores to the area of Orchard Street.

Greenspace committee member Marty Stirling-Hamilton, a resident and planning commission member, put it bluntly: "We just strongly felt we need to blow a hole in the middle of that mall."

Opening up some kind of walkway would allow a new development behind it, such as a city park, stores, an apartment or condominium complex or a performing arts center.

Making the entire downtown more attractive to pedestrians was another target. That could be accomplished, according to the Parking/Traffic/Pedestrian group, by reducing the number of driveways into the Downtown Center Mall, and making sure the few remaining — such as the drive in front of Shoe Carnival — were more useful by making them wider.

The group also suggested making all parking in town the same — as compared to the current "confusing" combination of parallel, perpendicular and angle.

Better defined walkways

would also make it easier for walkers to get across Grand River and Farmington roads.

A loop or ring road will divert through-traffic and allow the city to eliminate left turns from Grand River onto southbound Farmington Road.

Tim Zajaros of the Business/Restaurant group said his task force urged the city to "increase density through vertical expansion."

How? Put a new retail/office building at Grove and Grand River, across Grove Street from the Dress Barn. Bring in, say, a William Sonoma and a Matt Prentice restaurant and build one or two levels of underground parking below it. The group even suggested the building's design — saying it should mirror the look of the Village Mall as kind of the second bookend.

Many more ideas were proposed — more downtown playscapes or parks, a city trolley to carry around shoppers, setting up electronic kiosks around town and hiring a PR person for Founders Festival.

The final report will cover most of these ideas, but don't

expect to see these ideas implemented all at once, or even any time soon.

City Manager Frank Lauhoff noted that this isn't an action plan — only a shared community vision. It will be added to the city's master plan and the Farmington Downtown Development Authority's strategic plan to help map out a future.

Most of these ideas — especially those involving new buildings or enticing new businesses to town — require private involvement and partnerships, Lauhoff said. That means city officials will try to persuade or work with private developers or land owners to see if they can help the community's vision converge with the business vision.

"It's a product that we will use at the right opportunity," Lauhoff said Monday. "This way, we know ahead of time when we sit down with these folks what

the community wants."

City Councilwoman JoAnne McShane said the council would likely turn over the report to a task force, which would in turn present it to the people who chair the city's boards and commissions, so those residents would understand the viewpoint



On the road: Pam Healy of Farmington Hills and her daughter Christina, 6, cross Grove Street to complete their shopping in downtown Farmington. Ideas in a city visioning would make the city easier on pedestrians.

## Bauman heads district PR

Diane Bauman, a 12-year veteran of the school publications and community relations fields, was officially promoted recently to supervisor of school/community relations for Farmington Public Schools.

The school board unanimously approved the appointment of Bauman, who has been the district's publications specialist since January 1996.

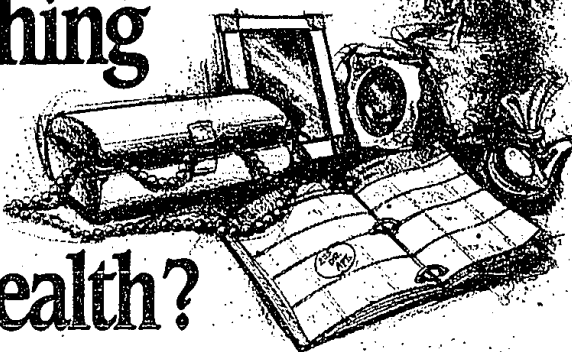
Prior to joining the district, she served as publications specialist for the Farmington school district from 1986-1994 and was community relations specialist for Plymouth-Canton Community Schools from 1994-96.

Bauman holds a journalism degree from Central Michigan University and a master's in advertising/public relations from Michigan State.

She was accredited in public relations by the National Public Relations Society of America in 1995 and has been active in the Michigan School Public Relations Association since 1996.

Also since 1996 she has been vice president of publications for Women in Communications of Detroit.

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Reaching Out To The People Of Our Community  
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## Senior adult trips hosted by city

The City of Farmington Hills senior adult division has several trips, big and small, planned for the upcoming months.

The trips are available to senior citizens ages 55 and over. They include: a grand mystery trip May 29-31; Casino Niagara June 11-12; Freedom Festival fireworks June 24; majestic Canadian Rockies June 28 through July 8; Grand Traverse dinner train July 20; and the Huron County Playhouse on

Aug. 21.

Also scheduled: the beautiful eastern Canadian province of Nova Scotia Aug. 25 through Sept. 2; Ireland Oct. 7-12; Stratford, Ontario, Shakespeare Festival Oct. 9; Spain and Portugal Oct. 14-29; and Beijing, China, Nov. 7-15.

For more information on any of these trips, stop by the Farmington Hills senior center at 28600 11 Mile, Gate 4, Door C; or call 473-1830.

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