## Farmington and Trenton officials exchange a day

Officials in Trenton started a Down-town Development Authority a couple of years ago and wanted to see how an established district worked. So they called Farmington. And when Mayor's Exchange Day arrived Tuesday, May 18, officials from Farmington and Trenton met – first in Farmington, and then Thursday, May 20 in Trenton.

"It was very informative," said Farm-ington City Manager Frank Lauhoff. "There isn't a lot of contact with Oak-land County and the downriver commu-

"Trenton is a beautiful city. It has a lot of comparable neighborhoods to Farmington and they have a waterfront, which we wish we had."

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The Michigan Municipal League began the Mayor's Exchange program in the 1950s as a means of encouraging officials in communities to meet and

exchange ideas and information. One-hundred-ninety-seven communities participate in the program. The five Grosse Pointes exchange amongst themselves. That's why there's an odd number of communities, Lauhoff said.

Trenton officials began their tour of Farmington with a welcoming reception at city hall, followed by a tour of the facility, the downtown Fhrmington library branch, pump station, retention library branch, pump station, retention hasin, as well as a tour of a business in the DDA to show how a building was reused. Officials also visited the public safety training center and the Cov. Warner Mansion.

"We all learn new ideas. We share information," said Farmington Mayor Mary Bush, as she welcomed Farmington and Trenton officials to a luncheon at Marce's.

at Marco's.

"We're very happy to have all the folks from Trenton with us," Bush continued, offering Trenton Mayor Wayne Sieloff momentos of Farmington, including a key to the city and an afghan of

Schools, as well as the 47th District Court, Oakland Community College, Farmington Community Library, chamber of commerce. Downtown Development Authority, the city's historic and beautification commissions, as well as the Southwestern Oakland Cable Commission attended the luncheon. Farmington officials learned that Trenton was a village in the 1860s dedicated to ship building, '16's an old community. There is a lot of history,' soid Terrence Jarvis, Trenton city administrator.

The town was named Truex after a

The town was named Trunx after a settler. As time evolved, so did the name and eventually it became Tren-

Farmington is about half the size of Trenton. Farmington has a population of 10,000, Trenton, 20,000. Trenton is seven square miles, Farmington half of

that.
The same is true about each community's state equalized property value—Trenton's is at \$750 million, Farmington about half.

In Trenton, however, industry accounts for about 40 percent of the total SEV — McLouth Steel, remains and operates about 10 percent of the city's SEV, and residential about 50 percent.



Gathering: Farmington Mayor Mary Bush and City Manager Frank Lauhoff greet Trenton Mayor Mark Sieloff at the annual Mayor's Exchange program in Farmington City Hall.

In Farmington, industry accounts for only 15 percent, while commercial com-prises 35 percent and the rest is resi-dential.

In Trenton, Farmington officials toured the DDA district and the water-front, as well as 500-acre Elizabeth

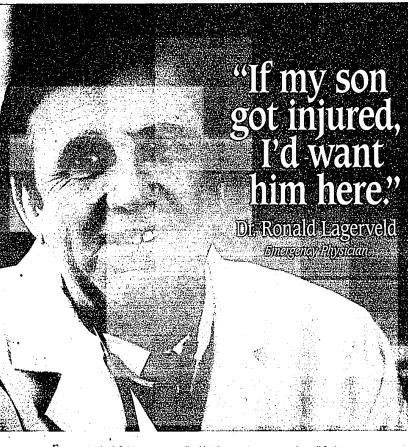


Farmington Observer



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