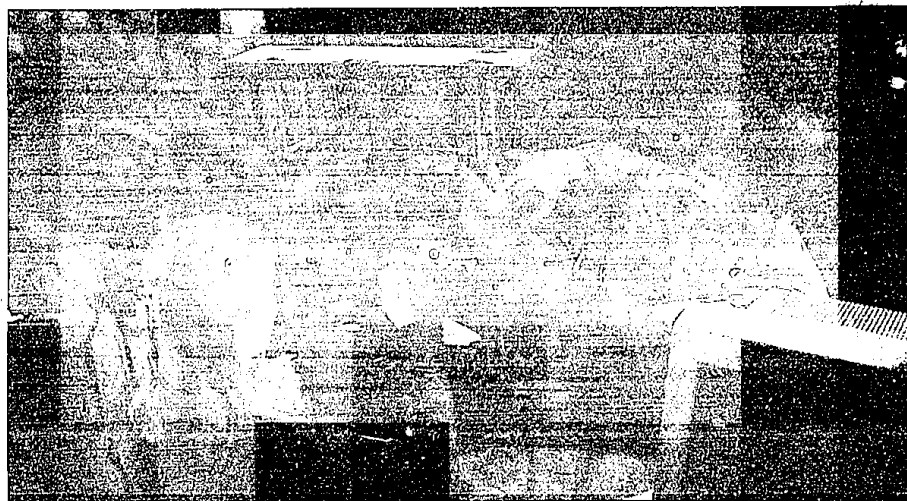


AT IT'S HERE LAST!



The future: Becky DePoter and Greg Peszek set up materials for compression stress testing in Farmington High School's materials testing lab. The class has grown from basic woodshop to a high-tech basic engineering program that helps meet the needs of the twenty-first century's jobs. The class developed under the direction of teacher Hershey Card. Farmington High is the first Michigan high school to have a chapter of the Technology Students Association.

2000: HIGH HOPES, HIGH TECH

With an eye on the economy on the eve of 2000, civic and educational leaders in the Farmingtons are proud of where things are and foresee a bright future.

"I think a lot of people are going to be very surprised to see how much we've accomplished" vis-a-vis the Year 2000 Plan created 10 years ago, said Hills Mayor Nancy Bates.

With expansion and remodeling of the Hills branch of the Farmington Community Library and the widening of Orchard Lake Road between 10 Mile and I-696 both set for 2000, Bates said Farmington Hills is "in very good condition."

Farmington Mayor Bill Hart-

With an eye on the economy on the eve of 2000, civic and educational leaders in the Farmingtons are proud of where things are and foresee a bright future.

ack, citing a "noticeable" community pride in that city's business and volunteer sectors, said municipal planning is critical and predicted that "the things that have been working for us in the near past will continue."

Farmington Public Schools Superintendent Bob Masfield, citing facility modernization, interactive teaching and growth in enrichment, said the next two years promise "a great deal" for children.

Judy Downey, director of the

Downtown Development Authority, is "excited" about 2000 due to the healthy economy and because "nearly all of our lease spaces (are) filled."

Plans for the new year include "a new event at holiday time," she said, and the instituting of an e-mail marketing program.

"Exciting" is how Carleigh Flaherty, Farmington Hills/Farmington Chamber of Commerce president, described downtown Farmington developments such as the city's purchase and remodeling of

the Civic Theater.

"The future is very bright" there, she said, while in the Hills, even the larger employers "are looking to grow."

John Anbut, chairman of the Hills' Economic Development Corp., predicted "slower... (but) still robust growth."

Both city managers said retention and expansion are critical. Steve Brock said the Hills needs "to escalate" its business-keeping efforts.

Farmington's Frank Lauhoff said while his city has "a great track record and solid ideas" for its future, the key is continuing redevelopment.

INTO THE MILLENNIUM



"It's like any other new year but the media has hyped it up. The computer problems ... yeah, there's going to be a few."

- Tim Fought



"I'm going to fill my bathtub with water for toilet flushing and get a couple of gallons of water for drinking."

- Noreen Quantz



"I'm not really concerned. I haven't stockpiled anything. We look at it as any other new year. I think it's a lot of people getting upset."

- Jim Pearce



"As we begin a new century, we are provided with a fresh opportunity to look at both the present and the future."

- Monsignor Walter Hurley

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Civic gala sells out

Farmington City Manager Frank Lauhoff Monday reported that all 550 tickets to the Saturday Jan. 8, 2000 "Civic Theatre Grand Re-Opening Gala" have sold out. That evening, 268 patrons will enjoy "The Philadelphia Story."



1999: A LOOK BACK AT FARMINGTON'S TOP STORIES

Lights on, lights off again pits city against utilities

Farmington Hills became "empowered," so to speak, during a 1999 brouhaha with DTE Energy over the many storm-related outages residents continue to face.

Fed up with the inconvenience, and in some cases, the imminent danger outages create, residents complained directly to representatives from DTE, at a city council meeting in August.

Apparently, those testimonials sparked some action. State Public Service Commission commissioners in late November said they would study the information they gathered, then sit down with DTE (formerly Detroit Edison) and try to resolve the issues.

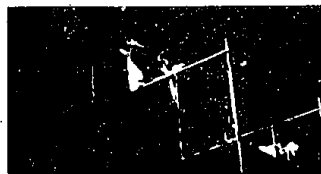


Hearing: The Michigan Public Services Commission couldn't give residents a promise that they wouldn't continue to endure electrical power outages.

Rebuilding the schools for the new millennium

The foundation for Farmington Public Schools becoming the "premier" school district of the 21st century took solid shape during the final year of the 20th century.

At the beginning of 1999, North Farmington High School faculty members voted to go to block scheduling in 1999-2000; Harrison faculty members and parents got together on embracing such a plan for 2000-2001. As the year ends, indications are the block is off to a good start at North. A number of elective high school courses were recently approved by the school board, to provide students with more block scheduling choices beginning with the second semester.



Rebuild: Students and faculty are inconvenienced in the short run for improved public schools in the near future under a multi-million dollar construction program.

Farmington buys historic Civic Theatre downtown

Probably no other event in Farmington's recent history approaches the magnitude of the city's purchase of the landmark Civic Theatre. Council members unanimously approved a \$316,500 purchase agreement this summer, so that the theater could remain viable well into the 21st century.

Longtime owner Greg Hohler actually approached city leaders in late 1998 to let them know he would be putting the theater up for sale. It didn't take long for the city to put in a bid. During the community visioning process that took place in '98, it was stated that the long-term economic health of downtown Farmington relied upon the Civic's viability.



New owners: More than \$400,000 in renovations will be completed in time for the Jan. 8 grand opening of the Civic Theatre now under the ownership of the city of Farmington.