

City Grew In 1972, Says Mayor Wilbur Brotherton

By WILBUR BROTHERTON

FARMINGTON The year 1972, the community experienced its largest growth year in new construction. Many of the construction projects that began in 1971 have now been completed. These construction projects have a value of over \$12 million.

Some of the completed projects include Drakeville Apartments and shopping center, Chatham Hills Apartments and the Chatham Hills residential development. The combination of the residential unit development and the apartment unit construction has provided approximately 800 new residential units in the city.

The downtown shopping district has seen extensive improvement this past year. Office buildings have been remodeled, providing for modern office facilities. The old National Bank Building was remodeled to provide its specialty stores.

The Dairy Maid building was purchased to provide additional parking in the downtown district.

THE AESTHETICS of the downtown shopping district have been improved with the dedication of a new fountain rest area. This fountain was constructed by the downtown center corp. at a cost of nearly \$20,000.

Upon completion, the fountain was dedicated to the city.

National Bank of Detroit added to the beautification of the downtown district by the construction of flower planters along Farmington Rd.

These improvements should inspire even further redevelopment of the downtown business district.

Public improvement included much-needed repair of old Grand River from Gill Rd. to Halstead. The State Highway Dept. completed the temporary repair of Grand River until the summer of 1973. At that time, Grand River will be widened to five lanes from Gill Rd. to Halstead, and further repairs and resurfacing will be provided for the remainder of Grand River within the city.

The public parking lot expansion was completed on the north side of Grand River. The improvement now provides 27 additional off-street parking spaces in the downtown business district. This additional off-street parking will allow for the removal of some parking from Grand River during peak traffic periods, thereby improving safety on Grand River.

THE DEPARTMENT of Public Services initiated the

first phase of a five-year water-meter replacement program which will provide each resident of the city with an outside water meter reading device.

The devices will allow meter readers to accurately record water use without entering the residences of our city, thereby eliminating estimating bills for those who are not home and the inconvenience of letting the meter reader enter your home to read the meter.

The Department of Public Safety implemented several new programs the past year. Project Theft Guard was instituted in conjunction with the Soroptimist Club.

This program made, etching devices available to residents to mark identifiable personal property. It was the intent of the program to deter house burglaries by making stolen personal property very difficult to sell, as it would be marked identifying the rightful owner.

The department also is participating in a county-wide program that will involve the exchange of information between police agencies in a unified crime fighting effort. This program should be implemented sometime in 1973. It will provide a pilot for other communities across the nation to follow.

During the summer of 1972, the department employed an animal control officer to aid in the licensing of all dogs in the city, along with reducing the nuisance of the stray animal. This program was so successful the city plans to repeat it each year.

THE FIRST PHASE of a street lighting improvement program began with the conversion of the old incandescent street lights to mercury vapor type lights. It has been pointed out that good outside lighting is an important factor in reducing certain types of crime.

These new lights will aid in making the streets of Farmington safer at night by



WILBUR BROTHERTON (left) receives a certificate of appreciation from Farmington City Councilman Ralph Yoder. Brotherton was being honored for his service to Farmington both as a councilman and mayor over the last decade. He was recently elected to the Oakland County Board of Commissioners. (Evert photo)

providing 2 1/2 times the illumination of the old type lights.

The Farmington Beautification Committee again has provided the city with a banner year of programs.

It spearheaded the Rouge River maintenance project, in which over 400 people, including boy scouts, girl scouts, environmental and sportsmen's groups joined together to clean the upper branch of the Rouge River of debris.

The committee was awarded a plaque honoring its efforts in the Rouge River cleanup by the Keep Michigan Beautiful Committee.

Tree and shrub planting program offered evergreens, shrubs, and trees to local residents. More than 100 shrubs and 70 trees were purchased and planted by Farmington area residents.

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