## Reflecting on the past

## Continued from Page 1

WILLIAM, WID dd not seek re-election, received a plaque from fellow council members in recognition of his years of service to the city. "I certainly appreciated attling with you (on council) the last four years," Mayor Jan Dolan said. "Sometimes you tried the patience of all of us the last four years. And I know we have tried yours,"

four years. And I know we have tried yours." Following a standing ovation, Wil-flams talked about leaving the council. "There is a feeling of relief. And there's a sense of regret," Williams between the original state of the sense of downs. But it is rewarding." On a lighter side, Williams talked about the telephone calls - generally from disgrundled residents - he will no longer will receive as a councilman. "People never call you to say. (Chuck, tothing is going wrong. Just called to i ay hello." """ "Williams abort compared to many of this city" current council members, tome of whom are serving third and purch terms.

Dirich ternas. TWTLLIAMS WON a four-year council genn in November 1991. But he decided got io seek re-election this year be-cause of health problems. Williams is a glabetic. "I was a but low, And basical-ye'l dicht want to go through a long fampaign," he said. "Bau Williams says he nonetheless has niked feelings about not sitting on the chuncil anymore. "I have collyed my four years on council — at least most of I. I won't miss the late meetings. But I will miss most of the council," he faid.

ful 1 will miss most of the council," he faid. "Recalling his four-year council ten-tere, Willams said be believes he was a "fairly good" councilman, although "I gam not the greatest public orator. I functioned best behind the scenes." An accountant, Willams believes his kreatest contribution to the city has been in finance. About two years ago, he delved into city surpluces, demand-ling that some of the city's fund balances be used, especially for needed bapital improvements. "We had maybe about 34.5 million in urpluses at that time. Now we have bout 32.3 million. We have managed byer 2.3 years to keep tares low. We have used the surpluses for capital im-provements. DESPITE HIS insistence on using DESPITE HIS insistence on using

DESPITE HIS insistence on using surplus money for capital improve-fuends, williams supported a tax in-crease last year. "The city has needs that a couple of million deliars (in sur-plus) wort cure," he stall Belleving development of the 12 Mille Road commercial corridor "will be a

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benefit to the city in the long run," Wil-liams also supports using the Tax In-rement Financing Authority (TIFA) Act. Under TIFA. city oficials could enable public improvements on 12 Miles property taste captured from current "A city and Improvements on 12 Miles I Improvements on 12 Miles

asked. ON THE sidelines, Williams was in-strumental in planning for the new po-bic building now under construction as well as in negotiations for the purchase of the Spicer park property. "The staff has run a loi of financial problems past me. I think the greatest contribution is in the financial. I think any one of them would asy this is the area I probably perform best in," Wil-liams began his political career in the 1860s when he was elected to the Farmington Township Board of Tru-tes. He later resigned when he moved the cely of Farmington. In 1881, the considers his most difficult. "It was not a good year for me as mayor," Williams and, taiking about the open division one council and per-sonality conflicts. "Quite frankly, all I was trying to show was lendership."

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DURING WILLIAMS' first two years on council (1981 and 1982), members "completely got along. We could take different posiduns but personally we all liked each other. It was great to serve on council and everyone was hap-py," he said.

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But in 1983, new council members finite and arguments broke out. Feeling he was being personality con-flicts and arguments broke out. Feeling he was being personality attacked by some council members, Williams said he analy, tried defending himseli. "I some of the new uncil members. Being bandled on council and attempt de to make some changes to take some changes. Realling a Farmington Observer headline that read: "Williams to Dad-ley - "Shut-up," Williams said he new-er really meant for things to get to that point nor did he mean to get upset and say that but his tenere as mayor in 1984 also coincided with his increasing-ity poor health. "I was alsot. And I guess I had a short fuse." But in he past year, Williams said, tengog council and no relationships among doubt at the part of the some proved. In sci. the former councilmant governing board.

governing board. "DESPITE THE newspaper (Farm-ington Observer) calling us 'the gang up at 11 Mile,' I think the members of the city council do ose heck of a good job. Everybody does their homework,' Wil-liams said. "I know all the council members do the homework and are very responsive to citizens. There are times when we good up. But you can just ask us to do the bet job we can. Here, everybody thinks for themselves. Everyone has to be their own person — and they cer-tainly are."

The start of the person — and they cer-tainly are." Despite his decision not to seek re-election, Williams' interest in the city offi-cials he is willing to be appointed to one of the boards or commissions. And he still has his opinions about where the city is headed and what's best for it. "There are some directions I see that I don't agree with," Williams said.

said. For one thing, Williams would like to see Farmington Hills maintain as much of its sconfurral atmosphere as possible. "People for the most part still want it (the city) rural."

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Hills City Clerk JoAn Reynolds (left) swears in council members Ben Marks, Jan Dolan, Terry Sever and JoAnn S

INCREASED BUSINESS growth is something Williams has mixed feelings about. He would like to see a strong and stable commercial and industrial tax base. But he doesn't want to see Farmington Hills become another Southileid and Troy with tail buildings. Both citler, he said, have much higher tax rates than Farmington Hills.

In keeping with a seminural atmosphere, phere, Williams would like to see the city more away from efforts to install sidewalks throughout the area. And he doesn't beliver residents should be re-quired to clear ice and anow from all of the walkways, especially those he be-lieves are rarely used.

Also irritating to Williams is that the city does not provide trash pickup for businesses and apartment complexes. "We are taxing business. But we are not providing them with equal service. I think that is morally wrong."

But Williams believes that for the taxes lovied, residents are getting a good deal from the city. "We're giving them the best bang for the buck."

Although Williams says that "with our budget, you can't do everything for everyone," one thing he would like to see is more recreation facilities for residents.

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