

# City's infrastructure a top concern for '90s

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completion, including a citywide sidewalk system, a downtown redevelopment program, updating city hall with new technology, introducing cable television, expanding programs for seniors and rebuilding the city's entire park system.

"We certainly have come a long way," said Mayor Shirley Richardson, the city's first female council member and mayor, who will lead the city council for the next two years. "We're a city on the move. I'm quite proud of our city."

Launching the 1990s will be the start of the city's most expensive infrastructure improvement to date — a \$9 million sewer update program necessary to meet federal and state clean water regulations. The city's current system combines sanitary and storm water during heavy rains, and discharges into the Rouge River. State Department of Natural Resources officials have said Farmington is far ahead of other communities in making these changes before they are forced upon older communities.

## Mayor's goals for early '90s

Newly appointed Farmington Mayor Shirley Richardson has some specific items on which she plans to focus in the early 1990s.

Some of her key topics include:

- Special needs of seniors and teens — "I want to do whatever I can to meet those needs."

- Child care — assessing how much day care the city has and whether it is enough for residents.

- Adult day care — with the increase in senior populations, she would like to further study the possibility of day care for seniors. "It's something that could really be used."

- Historical concerns — working with neighboring Farmington Hills. "I want to make sure our community is maintaining our historical heritage," Richardson has already met with Hills Mayor Jean Fox to discuss mutual issues.

- Enhancing communication — more and better information about the city. "I want to make sure we have better communication, not singling out any one segment."

Appointed mayor in November, Richardson will serve a two-year term. She was the top vote getter in November; her council term expires in 1993.

## Hills in year 2000

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stay current with record-handling procedures and computer technology used in the private sector to ensure efficiency of the support staff.

- Citizen involvement with the police must be encouraged and developed to provide a concerted police community effort at combating crime.

- To provide high-quality, cost-efficient emergency services geared to protecting life, property and the environment.

## Travel agent studies top vacation spots

A travel counselor from AAA Travel Agency's Farmington office recently participated in a product education seminar to expand her knowledge of various leisure travel product lines, AAA Michigan reports.

Patricia Gow attended the day-long seminar and received in-depth descriptions, tours and vacation package prices offered by popular vendors for 1990.

The meeting featured representatives of Globus Gateway Tours, Royal Viking Cruise Line, Northwest World Vacations, Chandris Celebrity Cruises, Apple Vacations and the German National Tourist Office.

"We feel, because we have started early, we will save our city money," said Richardson. "We have a city manager who used a lot of foresight. I feel we have a very good start."

**CLEANING UP** the environment will also cost more. Lack of landfill space is already prompting increased garbage costs and alternative garbage treatment of which costs will end up at the average taxpayer's door.

"People have thought that what-

ever they place at the curbside, the city can handle. It's just not so," said Deadman. "As we clean up the environment, it's going to cost us much more. The dilemma is the time it takes to work these issues through — it's not months, but years."

Relating to garbage disposal is the reintroduction of recycling. A recycling center was just opened in the city last year.

"I think we'll see it come into its own in the 1990s," Deadman said.

Curbside separation, composting and innovative solutions — like pick-

ing up different types of trash on different days — will be put into place.

"We know it's going to cost us extra money, but, here again, we don't really have a choice," added Richardson.

In the coming decade, Deadman sees a continuation of federal regulation relating to the environment.

"That's what people want," he said. "They want to know that their water's pure when they're drinking it. They don't want pollution going into their streams."

Traffic congestion is an issue that

will continue to be addressed in the 1990s, as roads are improved around Farmington, and with the widening of Orchard Lake Road through the city, Richardson said. That work is expected to begin this year.

**THE REJUVENATION** of downtown Farmington has remained in the limelight, since the formation of the city's Downtown Development Authority in 1986. Deadman said the community owes a group of 20 businesspeople a "debt of gratitude" for their impetus 20 years ago, which

formed the base of the current business district.

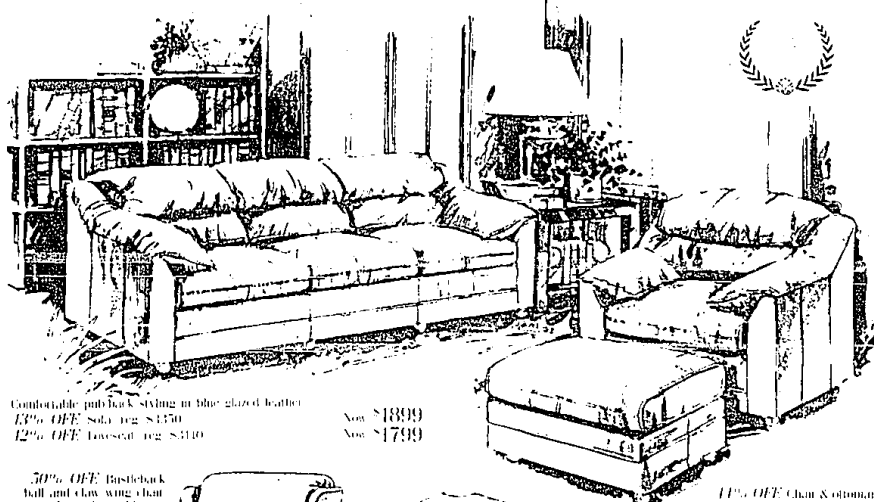
"It was an evolution that took place," he said. "I see the continuation of the DDA program. The organization is now in place where business leaders and the community can sit down. I think it's worked well."

Richardson said she looks forward to an active downtown group, be it the DDA or another. "It's (downtown) becoming a much more pleasant place to be," she said. "That all has to do with downtown redevelopment."

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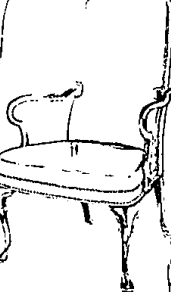
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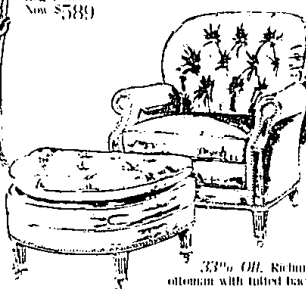
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