

## points of view

## 1990 was good to Hills

**Editor's note:** The outgoing mayor of Farmington Hills traditionally prepares an end-of-the-year address on the state of the city. The following address was written by Jean Fox, mayor during 1990.

WHEN WE SURVEY the year just closed, we find that perhaps in spite of ourselves this city has accomplished a great deal.

Now I know there are those up here and out there who think we spend most of our time bickering, and there have been some dandy arguments. But the record tells a different story.

Perhaps the most important thing we have done this year is to begin our educational program on how local government operates. We have since early in the year been broadcasting these city council meetings.

Not only does this provide insights into the political and governmental process, in a valuable educational process, but it shows us in action, warts and all . . . as Samuel Johnson insisted when in the 18th Century Sir Joshua Reynolds asked to paint his picture . . .

We understand that as a result of our success Novi and the school board, as well as some members of the planning commission, are considering televising their meetings.

POSSIBLY THE second most important thing we've accomplished this year is to settle the longstanding Boys' Republic lawsuit which stemmed from 1989 disagreements.

We are happy to put this behind us, as we have preserved our zoning intact in this lovely residential area of our city, are working on a monitoring system, and have resumed cordial relations with the board and staff of the facility.

In fact we were even invited to the Christmas Party, and we hope this show, now on the road, stays on track.

Another milestone this year has been the cooperation of handicapped individuals in our community to help enforce the handicapped parking allotted in shopping and office areas.

Citizens like George Roberts and others are making a difference, and we're the recipients of a wonderful editorial on Channel 7 from

Chuck Stokes commanding this effort.

A fourth significant accomplishment has been the adoption of controls on toxic and hazardous materials in industrial and IRO zones in the city, and the hiring of an additional fireman and enforcement. This concern, unknown ten years ago, is the pride of our admittance into the next century with its evolving environmental concerns.

FIFTH, AND this has been generally misunderstood and unduly criticized by the press, we extended our voting procedures at the time of the general election in November into the high schools, allowing students for the first time since the 1930s a chance to have a mock election and practice the voting procedures they will soon be using.

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This year has also seen (as a result of Mayor Terry Sever's efforts in 1989) a great increase in the number and amount of fines levied by the Liquor Control Commission on local holders of Class C licenses, even to the removal of three such licenses, for selling to minors, in action, infeasible to this city council . . .

We are continuing to upgrade the city's qualifications for acquiring a liquor license, they are not a right, but a privilege, and deserve to be allotted to those who can use and enforce them properly.

This entire city council has completed a city study of needs and available land throughout the city for the foreseeable future.

Together, with the Year 2000 Plan, we are looking to serve better our senior citizens with an enlarged program at the Mercy Center, through cooperation with the YMCA;

we are devoting a lot of time to



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— Jean Fox,  
outgoing mayor

MDOT property with \$810,000 in state grants, and are preparing a campaign for renewal of the city's half mill voted money for parks and recreation for the next year.

In May we also held a citywide conference at Bottford Inn showcasing the city's ability to hold historical preservation in the face of rapid growth and development throughout, with over 100 attending from all over Michigan, as well as from two state universities and the Lansing state government.

We've devoted a lot of time to road improvement. First off, we assumed control of Farmington Road from 18 to 14 Mile as a city road, the Oakland County Road Commission relinquishing control to us. We have almost completed the first mile \$5.5 million phase of the 12 Mile boulevard — our Christmas gift to you. Landscaping awaits next spring.

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## Here are a few '91 predictions

SO WHO NEEDS Jean Dixon? Here are my predictions for 1991.

The U.S. Postal Service, reacting to the demands of some Oakland residents following the lead of the secretary of state's car license division, will begin offering vanity ZIP codes.

For a fee (of course), residents of Bloomfield Township, Beverly Hills, Garden City or any other place in the metro area can get a Birmingham ZIP code.

On another front, we have amended the tree ordinance to make us a more beautiful city, and if you don't believe this makes a difference, just compare the parking lots in the Target FM department store and the renovated Crowley's Center with similar Target Store developments elsewhere in Michigan which don't have our ordinance provisions. Day and night.

**WE HAVE** A new \$1.1 billion fire station at Nine Mile and Drake dedicated to the citizens of the Council, we have \$10 million in new/more cost senior citizens housing. From the Square at Drake and Freedman roads, thanks to aid and superior effort from councilwoman Nancy Bates.

We have signed contracts with the city's four major labor unions, assuring us many years of peace and fine workmanship. We have dealt with sewer problems around the city, as well as approving \$16 million storm water program designed to alleviate flooding in the center of the city.

We signed a new major multi-year contract for garbage pickup for residents, and in May 1991, as a result of hours and hours of work this year, the city will be starting its curbside recycling program.

We've done several dozen other things, but time does not permit. All in all, it's not a bad record for this city of almost 75,000 souls — to all of whom we wish a most joyous holiday season.

And to those who persist in believing this is just a part-time position, I challenge them to give it a try and do it.

And to Mayor Pro Tem Almo Agnozzi, for his never-failing understanding and support, I wish a joyful and peaceful 1991.

**Jack Gladden**

In Rochester the school board, reviewing its school holiday policy for the 41st time, will decide that the whole holiday concept is detrimental to the learning process and will ban celebrating, teaching or discussing any kind of holiday in any building owned or controlled by the school district.

And nearby Rochester Hills, which has been a leading smoking on the beach at Lake Superior Park, will enact an ordinance to make smoking illegal anywhere in the city, joining Quezon City in the Philippines as the only other municipality in the world to make the use of a legal product illegal. It is unclear whether the Hills will jail smokers; as is the practice in Quezon City.

IN TROY the high school theater director will start planning for his December production in January since, under the school district's fine arts guidelines, he is required to announce the name of the proposed play several days in advance of auditions in order to give residents a chance to voice any objections they may have.

By November he will announce that there will be no high school theater production, after objections have been raised against "Romeo and Juliet," "Mary Poppins," "Cinderella," "The Sound of Music," "The Wizard of Oz" and a special one-man show featuring Mr. Rogers.

And on the political scene, Debbie Schaus, the wonderkind of Oakland County Republican Party, who lost her bid for state representative by one vote, then got wiped out as a write-in candidate in the general election, will return to the University of Michigan as a guest lecturer in the political science department. Where she will teach a course in "Campaign Ethics."

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