

## Community Corner

This week's question:

Why is education important to you?

We asked this question Monday at the Orchard Ridge campus of Oakland Community College.



"Because if you don't, you won't make it in life."  
—Kathy Sheip  
Hartland



"I couldn't see being without knowledge. You have to live with the consequences of your decisions."  
—Brandon Frelich  
Novi



"Even with education, it's still who you know, as far as your first step in the door."  
—A. Preston  
Detroit



"The further you go in education, the better your future will be."  
—Lonle Erlich  
Southfield



"When I'm old I want to be able to say I got something out of life, to know I helped somebody."  
—Patti Bergum  
Brighton



"Knowledge is power. And we have to eat."  
—Darrell Ragland  
Detroit

# EDC chairman looks toward the future

Continued from Page 1

modernize, improve, furnish and expand within the city. The EDC board accomplishes its mission and achieves its goals by persuasion, seed funding, matching funding and total funding and sponsorship for projects, concepts and ideas.

The board is particularly interested in maintaining and balancing the tax base so that the burden is spread appropriately between residents, businesses and government.

The 1991 total State Equalized (SEV) of real property in Farmington Hills was \$2,352,777,150, according to McConnell's report. Of that amount, \$1,443,137, 100 or 61 percent was residential property.

Non-residential property valued at \$909,640,000 provided 39 percent of the total. Of the non-residential property, \$688,659,550 was comprised of commercial and multiple, while \$220,980,500 was industrial.

IN THE YEAR 2000, the city will see a predominance of the 65 and over age group, and a decrease in young people. "The trend parallels the national population," McConnell said. "The major deterrent to young people in the community is the cost

**'Right now it's pretty good. But we need to know how the brokers and realtors are viewing us.'**

—Robert McConnell  
chairman  
Economic Development  
Corporation

of housing."

The closing of auto companies will have "a trickle down effect" on the community in terms of a shifting population. "We'll be the last to feel it, but we will be feeling it."

The city needs to look at how it enhances its commercial climate, council member Ben Marx commented. "We don't have a backup in this community," Marx said. "We're relying on the older community. Your son and my daughter cannot live in this town until they are 55 years old."

Marx commended McConnell's report because it dealt with facts, with no bias.

"A lot depends on the economy,"

McConnell said. He expects the general economy to improve this December, after the election.

It's important for the city to strive for real estate incentives, McConnell said. Council member Nancy Bates voiced her appreciation that the EDC held the line on tax abatements.

Looking further into the Year 2000, McConnell predicts that refuse and trash-removal costs will increase by nine percent, McConnell said.

The current SEV freeze will prove challenging for the council, McConnell said.

THE ECONOMIC Retention Com-

mittee was formed to retain business. The EDC also recently purchased a new sign at Grand River and Eight Mile Road, a city entranceway.

The EDC will continue to explore the needs of the Grand River and Eight Mile corridors as well as the industrial park areas, McConnell said.

Since its inception in 1979, the EDC has poured more than \$200,000 back into the community, McConnell said. Some 36 projects have been implemented. The EDC is responsible for the Grand River boulevard landscaping, Orchard Lake Road master tree planting, the 12 Mile boulevard study and the Northwestern Highway study.

The EDC continues to investigate the feasibility of conducting an international trade symposium or conference with the cooperation of Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge campus which McConnell de-

scribed as "a fine piece of property, underutilized."

Through its committees, the EDC seeks continuation of the M-102 and Grand River Improvement project as well as the Haggerty Road connector and the Orchard Lake Road business study.

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