

Director from page 1A

Sittsamer for her dedication to the job, saying she had "made the job flow so smoothly."

"They don't know what a good employee they're getting," added Farmington city manager and DDA board member Robert Deadman. "They couldn't have done any better."

Although she will leave her post here, Strip-Sittsamer said she plans to continue living in Farmington Hills.

The Southfield job will pay her between \$50,000 and \$65,000, considerably more than what she earned in Farmington which ranged from \$25,000 to \$35,000 in the past five years. She said the move to Southfield also offers her more challenges for a career in municipal government.

Personally, she holds a bachelor of arts degree in international relations from The American University in Washington, D.C. and a master of public administration degree from the University of Pittsburgh. Prior to taking the post in Farmington, Strip-Sittsamer was assistant director of alumni relations for the University of Detroit.



Wendy Strip-Sittsamer

Cities are different

In Southfield, Strip-Sittsamer will report to a 13-member board compared with the nine-member board in Farmington. Southfield finances its DDA with the 2-mill levy which currently generates enough revenue to run the program without a tax increment financing district. The Southfield district is roughly between Eight Mile and

Nine Mile and Greenfield to west of the Lodge Freeway. The Northland shopping area is at the core of the district.

"They have all the elements of a downtown, but it's not really organized in the same manner," Strip-Sittsamer explained. "They're not along a main street."

When Strip-Sittsamer came to Farmington, she said she had plans to be an ambassador for the city. In Southfield, she hopes to do the same, she said.

"A lot of the things I've done here can be applied (to Southfield)," she said. "But I can't go there and impose Farmington on Southfield. I hope to forge the same kind of relationships and sense of community."

Southfield did a national search for a new director, and Strip-Sittsamer feels good about having been selected to the post. "The most important thing I'm going to bring to Southfield is a tremendous respect for the process," she added. "You can't do things in spite of the people involved. I think people have to have a sense of ownership about what's happening."

"Overall, you have to be flexible."

The multi-cultural aspect of the city — something she calls a "real strength" — also appeals to the new director.

"It clearly is a multi-cultural city — nobody in Southfield seems to be afraid to say that," she said. "It's there, and is recognized and held up."

She said her first item of business in Southfield will be to work with the DDA board to set priorities and direction. She said that it would be premature to speculate about specific projects.

She told the Farmington DDA board Tuesday she would remain available to assist them in hiring and training her replacement, which Deadman said would likely take 4-6 weeks.

Deadman said although the current tax increment financing vehicle for Farmington's DDA is set to expire in December of 1993, the DDA will continue to exist here. "We're not going to let things go back to the way they were," he said.

The city can continue to assess a 2-mill levy in the DDA district which would fund a director's salary, he added.

Speed contributed to teen's death

By SUZY PARKER
STAFF WRITER

Speed appears to be the contributing factor in a July 5 one-car rollover accident in Southfield which resulted in the death of a 17-year-old West Bloomfield girl, according to a police officer.

Lien Lyn Glass was completing a crossover from southbound to northbound Telegraph Road on Sunday around 5 p.m. when the ac-

cident occurred, according to Southfield Police Officer Lowell Moore.

Driving a newer model Corvette convertible, Moore said witnesses saw Glass move across four lanes of traffic and enter the turn-around just north of Civic Center Drive. As she was completing the turn around, Glass apparently overaccelerated as she turned, causing the car to slide into the curb along the

far right side of northbound Telegraph.

Upon impact, Moore said, the car jumped the curb, continued sliding sideways and then flipped over on top of Glass.

"There was no indication that alcohol was involved," according to Moore, who said a final determination is pending. "Her acceleration was great enough that it apparently

caused her to lose control of the car."

Glass was declared dead on the scene by an Oakland County medical examiner. Results of an autopsy performed the next day determined that head and neck injuries were the cause of death, said Patrick Sun, an investigator for the county's medical examiner office.

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