# City's ex-DDA director resigns Southfield post

BY WAYNE PEAL EDITOR

Southfield Downtown Development Authority executive director Wendy Strip-Sittamer, on materity leave since Docember, has resigned to remain at home with her new daughter.

Strip-Sittamer, a Columbus, Ohio, native, had previously served for five years as DDA discrete in Farmington.

Strip-Sittamer's resignation was furmally presented to the DDA board Wednesday, It is effective at the end of her maternity leave, which ends March 11.

"It's a very demanding job and idecided I couldn't give the job, new help and, therefore, myself the time needed," said Strip-Sittamer, 32, had been DDA director since August 1992.

She jists introduction of a leasing incentive program as among the helpflichs of her femuly so the helpflichs of her femuly so the program as among the helpflichs of her femuly so the program as among the helpflichs of her femuly so the program as among the helpflichs of her femuly so the program as among the program as the program as among the program as a program as a program as the program of the program as among the program as among the program as a program as a

She lists introduction of a leasing incentive program as among the highlights of her tenure.

"We've also had a number of discussions about redevelopment of property in the DDA area and lexpect we'll be seeing something soun along those lines," she said.

Target Stores has expressed interest in vacant property along Eight Mile Road within the DDA district.

While on maternity leave, Strip-Sittsamer had been temporarily replaced by consultant David Birchler of Birchler Atroya Associates Inc., a Berkley-based municipal planning sgency.

DDA board members were to

NEW FURNACE THINKING ABOUT.

CALL TODAY FOR A FREE ESTIMATE 476-7022 D&G HEATING & COOLING



Wendy Strip-Sittsamer

decide this week whether to seek another full-time director. "At this point, we heven't de-cided how to proceed," board chairman Frank Brock Jr. said Tuesday, Brock had lestned of Strip-Sittsamer's intentions in

"We're accepting her resigna-tion with mixed emotions," Brock-said. "She did a fine job for us. I know she enjoyed working here and I know she enjoyed the chal-

lenges."

The DDA is responsible for planning and promotion in

"downtown" Southfield, roughly the area including Northland Cheer Including Northland Cheer Including Northland Cheer Including Northland Cheer Including on how to fill the vacancy becomes another challenge for the DDA.

The DDA reached a high point in October with the opening of the musical comedy "Life is a Beach" at the Millennium Theater.
That DDA-sponsored production closed in early December and DDA members seek to attract an outside producer interested in bringing another show to the former Northland movie theater.
"That DDA poduction "Clife is a Beach") was the show the theater Northland movie theater.
"That production "Clife is a Beach") was the show the theater business full time."
This year has also brought renewed attention to the City Centre project, a plan to bring more puedestrian and nighttime traffic to the area around the Prudential Town Center, across from city hall — seen by some as a rival to the DDA district.

Brock, though, said he didn't believe the two projects were in competition.
"Southfield really needs both,"

competition. "Southfield really needs both,"

#### **CLARIFICATION**

An article in Monday's Observer about the city's Dumpater ordinance should have said that 3,000 letters explaining the new ordinance were sent out April 27, 1993. The city has received about 20 responses. The article also

should have said that surplus grant money for rehabilitation must be used for that purpose, but the city can then use a larger portion of the next year's grant money for capital improvements.

#### Farmington Observer

- Classic Interiors -



### **BUILD YOUR OWN DEAL** Save 25% to 40%

#### **PURCHASE**

\$200. to \$999. \$1000. to \$1499. \$1500. to \$1999. \$2000. to \$10,000. Receive 3 Months Same As Cash Receive 6 Months Same As Cash

Receive 9 Months Same As Cash Receive 12 Months Same As Cash

(All Contracts Executed 30 Days From D.O.P.)

or PAY CASH (checks accepted) AND RECEIVE AN ADDITIONAL 5% 1 week only - sale ends 2/21 at 9:00 PM

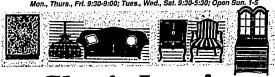
Pennsylvania House

Century
Century
Bob Timeriake
King Hickory
Hekman
Hitchcock
Howard Miller

Thomasville
Nichols & Stone
Lexington
Conover
Stiffel
Jasper Cabinet
I.M. David

- marden • Bradington-Young • Hooker • Sligh • Canal Dover • Superior • Butler

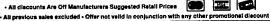
Mon., Thurs., Frl. 9:30-9:00; Tues., Wed., Sat. 9:30-5:30; Open St



Classic Interiors 20292 Middlebelt, Livonia • South of 8 Mile • 474-6900

All discounts Are Off Manufacturers Suggested Retail Prices







Unsolved arson: Farmington Hills firefighters found that the fire Jan. 9, 1993, that gutted this Harlan Drive house was an arson. The fire claimed a man and his dog.

## Year later, unsolved arson fire sparks no new leads

It's been more than a year, but police aren't any closer to solving an arson fire that claimed the life of a 34-year-old Farmington Hills resident and gutted a house that dated back

to 1916.
The fire, which started in the early morning hours of Jan. 9, 1993, caused the death of Tony Mendes, an automobile sales-

"In ason cases, it's hard to get enough evidence," said Hills detective Brian DeGrande. "He had been staying there regular-ly, but he didn't get back from the (Detroit) auto show until about 2:30 or 3 (a.m.)."

DeGrande said police don't believe that Mendes' death was intentional, but said that under Michigan law, an arson that results in a death felony murfer.

At the time of the fire, which also killed his dog, Mendes was divorcing his wife Colleen. She and their three children were living with relatives in Plymouth at the control of the college. A friend and covered at Earhard BHW in Bloomfilled Hills, Pat Feely, had said Mendes had become on the control of the college o

planned to move to the bay area.
"When a mutual friend called me, I couldn't believe it," the man said. "He was likeable and outcoine."

man seid. "He was likeable and outgoing."

Mendes' body had been found near a window, indicating he was probably trying to escape the fire, which had spread to every room by the time firefighters arrived shortly after a neighbor called the fire in at about 6 a.m.

"We have had no tips at largarding the case," DeGrande said.

Anyone with information

said.
Anyone with information should call the Farmington Hills Police Department at 474-6181.



#### INTRODUCING

#### ANN MASSEY

Jacobson's Birmingham is proud to introduce our new Gift Registry Coordinator, Ann Massey. Ann is available to assist you with all of your bridal, baby and other gift registry needs. See her today and discover just how pleasant it can be shopping for gifts. For further information please call Ann Massey al 645-8669.

### Jacobson's

336 W. MAPLE RD. • BIRMINGHAM • 644-6900

eday, Wednesday and Saturday 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday and Friday 9:30 a moch to 5 p.m. Jacobson's Charge, MasterCard®, VISA® and American Express