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Farmington's central business district will also get a boost from new businesses and renovations to the T.J. Maxx store, the State Bank building on Grand River, Arbor Drugs, the Village Commons and Luigi's restaurant. Motorama Manufacturing has broken ground for a new central office and manufacturing facility on the northeast corner of Nine Mile and Gill roads.

Farmington will also undergo extensive road repairs over the next 20 years and more, thanks to passage of a 16-mill tax in November of 1994. The city also plans major sidewalk improvements and repairs to the Caddell Drain to prevent erosion.

Upon seeing a rendition of the new ice arena being built at the Founders Sports Park in Farmington Hills, Lauchoff joked about Farmington's new city hall.

'Our downtown'

His Farmington Hills counterpart, City Manager Bill Costick, countered by noting all the improvements in Farmington, "our downtown."

Mayor Smith said the ice arena was "coming into its own," as

construction of the two-surface facility that includes a restaurant and other amenities continues. Smith said Farmington Hills will be challenged to use its remaining land wisely, and to that end, the city has begun a master plan review.

"We don't have a lot of land left," she said.

In addition, Costick said work on the new NBD complex on 12 Mile between Drake and Halsted should begin later this year. Area Philharmonic as second only to the Detroit Symphony Orchestra in musical prowess.

"It's a very professional symphony," she said of the orchestra, which began as Group du Jour. Costick said work on the final 3½-mile stretch of the 12 Mile Boulevard between Drake and Halsted was under way. The total cost of that project will be \$4.3 million.

Thanks to a \$1.3 million federal grant, engineering, environmental and right-of-way studies should be complete in early 1996 on a two-phase intersection improvement for M-5 and Grand River. The city has been trying for more than a decade to win approval to



Bill Costick

ease traffic at the intersection.

Plans to improve the Grand River corridor should be implemented in the summer and fall after a study, begun in 1994, recommended improvements along the corridor between Eight Mile and Orchard Lake roads.

Farmington Hills will also benefit from a reconstruction plan for Northwestern Highway between 14 Mile and Inkster. Costick said the road, which includes a base that was built in the 1930s, will be completely rebuilt.

The DDA will complete a streetscape program that includes new sidewalks and pedestrian lamps from School Street east along Grand River to Mayfield, and along Liberty Street in front of the city municipal building and between Grand River and Oakland.

But through all the praise, there were some sobering notes as well. Both Lauchoff and Costick said their communities could not depend on an increasing tax base, but would have to continue to innovate.

In that spirit, school board President Cathy Webb said with children making up a quarter of the nation's population, even an accomplished school district like Farmington will have to continue to come up with good programs.

"We must never accept good enough as good enough," she said.

Webb pointed to programs such as the Mission 2007 and GRIP as innovations that will not only help students meet educational goals, but attain the self-esteem necessary for achieving those goals.

Superintendent Robert Maxfield, who joined the district last year, admitted he was not quite sure of what he was getting into. Maxfield called his first year "a kick," and presented some goals the district will pursue in the coming years.

Among those are promoting quality and equity, a maintaining a student-centered learning environment, promoting innovation and positive change, maintaining financial stability, strengthening community involvement, and promoting a safe and healthy environment.

Although Proposal A put a limit on the amount Farmington schools can spend, Maxfield said he preferred to have that problem rather than start from a lesser amount.

"The good news is that we are frozen at a higher level," he said.

The Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce sponsored the event.

OCC from page 1A

mingham and Bloomfield Hills came closer to approval. Northern districts like Clarkston and western ones like South Lyon and Huron Valley bombed it by 2-1 margins.

Voter turnout was low: 41,524. "This was near the basement end of our forecast," said Craig Ruff, a political consultant who helped the campaign committee.

Campaign leaders were convinced their choice of a Thursday election was not a factor in the outcome. "Monday and Tuesday are low turnout days anyway," said Dan Jaksen, vice chancellor who led OCC's effort.

"I doubt any other day would have been better," added Ruff. "You had a one in seven chance of maximizing voter turnout."

OCC's campaign committee ran a low-profile campaign, using a telephone bank and 700 volunteers to contact the 30,000 students, 180,000 former students and self-identified friends. Away from its five campuses, there was no media advertising.

"What kind of a high-profile campaign do you run in a county larger than several states?" asked vice chancellor Jaksen.

While it's possible another campaign could be run earlier, the next general election date will be June 12, when general school district elections are held. Community colleges, however, dislike trying to win tax proposals when K-12 districts are on the ballot, too.

Despite budget cuts that are likely to be voted before the next fiscal year begins July 1, OCC board members are determined to come up with funds to repair aging buildings, parking lots and infrastructure.

Here is how area school districts voted on the OCC tax proposal, with the yes vote first:

- Avondale 251 to 319.
- Birmingham 959 to 968.
- Bloomfield Hills 604 to 656.
- Clarenceville (Oakland portion) 15 to 28.
- Farmington 1,605 to 1,776.
- Huron Valley 612 to 1,203.
- Novi 227 to 325.
- Rochester 2,198 to 2,035.
- Southfield 670 to 1,015.
- Troy 1,010 to 927.
- Walled Lake 857 to 1,584.
- West Bloomfield 2,156 to 1,643.

OBITUARIES

THEODORE K. DELCOMYN SR.

Mr. Delcomyn, 88, of Farmington Hills died March 16.

Mr. Delcomyn retired from the Good Humor Ice Cream Company as plant manager. He was employed with Good Humor for 40 years. After his retirement he donated his time to SCORE, which is a nonprofit organization that assists people starting a business for the first time.

Mr. Delcomyn was a member of the Detroit Commandery No. 1 Knights Templar, the York Rite College No. 1 of Detroit, the Monroe Council No. 1, the King Cyrus Chapter, Scottish Rite of Detroit, the Moslem Temple Shrine, the Blue Lodge and the Noontide Club.

Survivors include his son, Theodore Jr.; daughter, Sandra L. Randolph; one brother; four grandchildren.

A memorial service was Saturday at St. Timothy United Methodist Church in Detroit with the Rev. Thomas E. Hart and the Detroit Commandery No. 1 officiating. Burial was in Roseland Park Cemetery, Berkley.

Memorials may be made to the Shrine Crippled Children's Hospital in care of the Moslem Temple, 434 Temple, Detroit 48201.

Arrangements were made by the Northrop Funeral Home, Northville.

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