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Most downtown businesses already do a good job of snow removal, Clappison noted. But there have been individual cases where sidewalks haven't been cleared in a timely fashion. "We're trying to promote pedestrian traffic in downtown, right?"

Promoting Farmington as the place to live and work is something that comes naturally for Clappison. He grew up in the city, graduating in 1959 from Farmington High School, "when it was the only high school." Farmington remained home for his own family, as he and late wife Janice raised three children who also went to F.H.S. Of course, Frank also took on a career in downtown, at the Farmington Insurance Agency.

"I was influenced by my dad (John Clappison) and Bill Conroy" to enter and have success in the field, he said. Conroy was a longtime family friend and business associate.

Today, Frank Clappison is a partner at the Farmington Insurance Agency, Downtown

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*Frank Clappison
—DDA member*

Offices and the Center Holding Company.

"I like the community and I've made my living here," Clappison said. "I'd like to see the downtown continue to thrive. Downtowns are unique and require some work to keep them viable."

Clappison said he was approached by DDA President Ronald Oglesby and member Robert Heinrich about returning when a vacancy occurred.

"I've been familiar with the DDA, I've always supported their efforts," Clappison said. "They're critical to keeping the downtown viable and, as a business owner and member of the community, it's important we step up and serve the community to the best of our ability."

Clappison left the DDA in the early 1990s, due to personal reasons.

Already, he's noticed that the DDA is much more active in promoting the district than it was during his earlier tenure.

"Originally, we were involved in lighting improvements, physical improvements," Clappison said. "Now ... we're doing a better job of actively promoting downtown."

He mentioned the current Winter Fun Series on Saturdays, featuring events at the Farmington Civic Theatre. The DDA also sponsors an "under the tent" summer series, as well as programs touting Halloween and "Celebrating Holidays Around the World" in December.



Official: Farmington City Clerk Patey Cantrell swears in new DDA board member Frank Clappison.

STAFF PHOTO BY BILL DECKER

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