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bathrooms, a dining room, fireplace and two enclosed porches.

Since McShane and her husband will be the only occupants, they have big plans for some of the bedrooms. One room will probably be turned into an office, another into a walk-in closet and one more into a guest bedroom. The master bedroom will be expanded to take over most of the second floor, she said.

A walk through the house reveals many aesthetic problems, such as holes in some of the walls, stair cases in dire need of repair and an outdated kitchen. There are some bigger problems as well, such as caving roofs, faulty electrical hook-ups and sagging floors and walls.

Even with all of its problems, McShane said she immediately saw the potential

the house.

The couple plans to turn the structure into a "transitional home."

"You take the old and bring in the new. We're not the type that wants to bring it back to 1860 or 1901 (when it was built)."

They do plan to maintain most of the familiar aspects. "Everybody knows the house from the outside, and we're going to keep that. We want to preserve the integrity of the house."

McShane estimated that they will be able to move into the house within 12 months. The architectural firm Kevin D. Hart AIA and Associates, out of Birmingham, will need two months to draw up floor plans.

Hart works with a team of experts, each of whom specializes in different

areas of the home. Also, McShane liked the ideas the firm had for the home.

"(Hart's plan for the home) was such a combination of the old and the new. He works with a team. We like that concept better. He's very creative."

After the plans are done, the couple will take bids from contractors. Construction should take from seven to 10 months, if everything goes smoothly.

The house was sold by Cornwell and Bush Real Estate and was priced at \$209,900.

"(This is) where all our money is going for the next year. It's going to cost a small fortune. This is it - we're not moving after this."



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRIDGES

Spacious: A large living room awaits an architect's plans.

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Aid delay, cuts affect local district

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Farmington Public Schools will be among Michigan districts figuring out how to deal with a potential foundation allowance reduction, which will primarily affect early childhood programs for at risk students and reading recovery programs.

After state lawmakers adjourned for summer break without passing a school funding bill, Gov. John Engler announced a 5-percent cut in a proposed school funding increase. The funds were already figured into Farmington Schools' 2001-2002 budget, according to district superintendent Bob Maxfield.

Locally, it's a \$400,000-\$450,000 hit.

"I think what the governor did was to tell the legislature they screwed up," Maxfield said.

The school year will start before the legislature goes back into session. Kelly Chesney, spokeswoman for the State Budget Office in Lansing, said lawmakers have 30 days to come up with a spending plan.

School lunch programs, Proposal A obligations, a portion of special education funding and Headlee amendment obligations will not be affected, Chesney said.

"We had a shortfall in the school aid fund where we were spending more money than we had," she said. "We had to bring spending in line with available funds. It's very unfortunate that this had to happen."

Though budget cuts would hurt Farmington, the district wouldn't be as hard hit as others, said Frank Reid, school board president.

"The at-risk population here is smaller than in other districts, and we already have a good handle on our reading recovery and reading intervention programs," Reid said. "Other districts would be more affected by these cuts."

But, the school board may need to go back to the drawing board to figure out what might have to be cut.

"We're outraged that any of those cuts would have to come about," Reid said. "(Engler) promised not to cut the foundation allowance, and that's precisely what he did."

"(Engler) really acted with undue haste," Reid added. "The legislature has plenty of time before the Oct. 1 deadline."

Maxfield said he has discussed a number of issues with his staff. There won't be drastic changes, but the delayed decision will have an effect.

"I think what it means is we're going to be a whole lot more inflexible with spending," he commented.

Botsford at the festival

Carrying on a long-standing tradition, Botsford General Hospital will do something a little different to support this year's Founders Festival, which takes place in downtown Farmington July 19-21.

Managers and administrative staff will be running a food booth complete with some fair "alternatives." The booth's theme is "Lifesavers in your Community."

The Botsford Hospital staff will be dressed in scrubs, selling turkey roll-ups and fruit kabobs. Others marching with the hospital float in the parade will hand out Band Aids.

Proceeds will go toward the renovation of the hospital's emergency department.