

Mayor Surveys Growth City Enjoyed In 1971

By WILBUR BROTHERTON
Mayor
City of Farmington

FARMINGTON The year 1971 will have to be considered a "boom" year with the City of Farmington establishing all kinds of new records for construction starts and valuation. There were 764 permits issued exceeding \$15 million in construction costs. They will have a great impact on the city's assessed valuation in the forthcoming year.

Capital improvements during the past year were highlighted by the construction of a \$200,000 storm sewer to service and relieve drainage problems in the Alta Loma area.

The installation of this facility made it possible for

the construction of a new \$500,000 Huron River Hunting & Fishing Club building. The storm sewer will also make it possible for ultimate development of 28 acres of apartment and office complexes on Farmington Rd. and Freedom to Alta Loma.

This could conceivably amount to more than \$10 million in new construction.

ANOTHER MAJOR improvement program completed during the past year was construction of a \$300,000 major street system; the concrete paving of Gill from Grand River to Freedom; and Shawness from Farmington Rd. to Grand River.

The construction of these two main arteries had been badly needed for several years and were completed when the city finally was in

the position to finance these projects under the gas and weight tax revenue bond issue. It wasn't necessary to have any special assessment for construction of these two streets because they are part of our major street system that is financed through these revenue bonds.

The paving of Gill was highlighted by the redesign of the street enclosing a portion of the open ditching on Gill in an effort to save the oldest tree in Farmington (estimated to be 320 years old). Through this redesign, we can chalk up a victory for ecology over economics. The city has retained an historic landmark for future generations.

THE CITY completed construction of the first phase of the Drake Road Park after qualifying for a state grant in the amount of \$26,354 to apply against the \$42,000 cost of construction.

The first phase of the park was constructed to afford needed baseball field facilities. We were able to provide a new lighted ball diamond that was used for hardball play during the day hours and softball during the evening hours. This baseball diamond was completely sodded, with sprinkling system and drainage affording all the amenities of Tiger Stadium.

In conjunction with this major diamond, there were also two additional Little League sodded diamonds that were used extensively during the past season.

In addition to the diamonds, the city developed a picnic area with barbecues and picnic tables, and the Farmington area Jaycees provided playground equipment designed to be utilized by the Longacre Elementary School children during school hours and general use at other times.

The city has applied for state funds for the second phase of the Drake Road Park from surplus funds that were not utilized in the \$100 million State Recreation Bond Issue by communities that did not apply by July 1, 1971.

If our application is approved for the second phase, we will be in a position to construct a hard-surfaced parking lot, restroom facilities, a storage building and lighted tennis courts. This would give us a complete recreation facility that would be second to none in the area.

OUR BEAUTIFICATION

Committee had another banner year that was keynoted by receiving a distinguished achievement award at the National Cleanup Congress Contest. This was indeed gratifying because it was the first time that the Beautification Committee had submitted their entry in this contest and the results were beyond expectations.

The Beautification Committee and the National Bank of Detroit cosponsored the River Rouge Cleanup project. This was another Farmington "first," and the committee received excellent cooperation from all segments of the community in making this project a great success.

The magnitude of the community effort is shown by more than 1,000 man hours and 25 truckloads of debris that were removed from the Rouge River. The community involvement in this project was so encouraging that the Beautification Committee is going to make this a continuing project so that the Rouge River can be cleaned on an annual basis.

The Beautification Committee's theme for 1971 was to encourage youth to become more involved in their community and beautification activities. Activities initiated were the Farmington Schools Beautification Program, the Litter Monster, the curbside clean-up, the Youth Scroll and youth activities for clean-up, the Girl Scouts park project and the Volunteer Cleaning Bureau.

The response to these youth programs was very gratifying. The committee received full cooperation from these youth groups.

THE HISTORICAL Preservation Committee completed its major assignment submitting an application to the Michigan Historical Commission in an effort to establish an historical district under a new state statute during the past year. This culminated three years of work researching, testing, authenticating, verifying construction and workmanship of historical buildings and sites dating back to the original founder, the Powers family, in 1824.

Upon the completion of all the necessary procedures establishing an historical district by ordinance, the Historical Preservation Committee will be disbanded and a new historical commission will be initiated by ordinance and will serve on a permanent basis insuring the preservation and upgrading of historical structures and landmarks within our historical district.

It will be the main function of this new commission to retain the rich heritage that has made Farmington unique and a well-desired place to live.

PLANNING played another important part in the city's progress with continued effort attempting to redevelop our Central Business District.

The first phase of re-designed offstreet parking in the Downtown Shopping Center was initiated which improves traffic flow and pedestrian movement in our downtown area.

The planning commission developed new zoning ordinances including a new cluster housing concept that may provide a new method of residential development in appropriate locations.



MRS. SHIRLEY RICHARDSON shows the scrapbook of 1971 activities of the City of Farmington Beautification Committee. The book will be entered in national competition to see if the committee can repeat its 1971 national honors. (Evert photo)

Omelczenko Studying In U.S. Capitol

FARMINGTON Victor Omelczenko, a Redford Township resident and past staff member of the Farmington Enterprise & Observer, has been awarded a Sears, Roebuck and Co. congressional internship for journalism students.

Omelczenko, 20, will work and study for three months in Washington, D.C., beginning early in 1972. He will be assigned to the staff of Rep. Paul Findley (R-Ill.) to gain first-hand knowledge of legislative processes in Congress.

Omelczenko, one of 20 students from across the nation selected for the program, is a senior at the University of Michigan. He spent the summer of 1970 as an intern - reporter for the Enterprise & Observer after completing his sophomore year at U-M.

Last summer, Omelczenko worked as an intern in New York City on the staff of the Popular Mechanics magazine. Sears President Arthur M. Wood said Omelczenko was selected for his academic performance, writing ability and interest in political reporting.

men in service

Army Pvt. George J. Clark, 20, son of Mr. and Mrs. George W. Clark of Inskier Rd., Farmington, has completed eight weeks basic training at USATC, Annapolis, Md. Clark attended Clarenceville High School, Livonia.

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HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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Renewing old acquaintances and the making of new friends together with a bright outlook will make 1972 an exciting year for you.



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