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Library bond targets user needs

Farmington area voters face an \$11.7 million decision on their libraries: To meet the growing needs of a demanding, educated public - or not, officials say. Election day is Aug. 4.



Like the commercials say: It's what you crave. Gotta have it. Burgers and pop? Nope - information.

And when it's needed "fast, hot and now," as another food commercial says, residents of the two Farmingtons have, in increasing numbers, turned to the Farmington Community Library, a state and national pioneer on the so-called information superhighway.

Which is why the library's goal, according to its director, Beverly Pappi, is to be "the information provider of choice" - and why the library and its supporters hope the well-educated residents of Farmington and Farmington Hills will, on Aug. 4, pass the proposed 15-year, 6-mill library tax levy.

If approved, they say, the \$11.7 million revenue raised via bond sales will go a long way toward meeting citizens' overall information needs into the 21st century.

The bond issue will cost the average homeowner with a home assessed at \$100,000 - market value \$200,000 - \$5 a month or \$60 a year.

Library officials, who have seen two previous proposals for a new Hills library defeated, say the funding is needed due to growth: Population has increased 45 percent since 1972, when the Hills branch opened.

That growth has resulted in a 165 percent increase in the number of library-card holders and a 134 percent



Learning young: Laura Apolloni, 2, reacts to a computer game for children at the Farmington Library Thursday. Her mother, Karen, is at right. Rebecca Schmeemann, 7 1/2, is behind Laura.

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increase in the number of books circulated.

The Farmington Community Library was one of the first in the state to offer public access to the Internet (1994) and most recently has recorded 30,000 logins on the Internet and electronic resources.

Furthermore, demographics show the two communities have a higher-than-average percentage of residents in the professional/managerial and sales/technical fields.

"We have a well-educated community that's very demanding of their school system," said Pappi (pronounced pay-pee). And the corollary to having a good school system is having a good library,

she added.

Business needs

Instead of mainly seeing mothers bringing toddlers to storytime while they look for best sellers, the two branches now see businesspeople carrying attaches looking for the latest

Please see LIBRARIES, A2

THE WEEK AHEAD

SUNDAY

Chicken, dessert: The annual Founders Festival feast, featuring barbecued chicken dinners, will be from noon to 6 p.m. today at the Masonic Temple. Meanwhile, at 2:30 p.m. in Memorial Park, Salem United Church of Christ will host an ice cream social and band concert.

MONDAY

Dino-din time: Children find a week of programs with dinosaur themes beginning July 6 at the Farmington Library.

WEDNESDAY

Miss Farmington: Two former Miss Americas will be on hand as 10 contestants vie for the Miss Farmington/Oakland title in the pageant, 7 p.m. July 8 at Vladimir's on Grand River.

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Murder case delayed again

A hearing to decide whether to extradite a man wanted in a Farmington Hills murder case has been delayed again - this time until Aug. 5.

James Summerville, 28, who is fighting extradition, remains in Hennepin County Jail in Minneapolis in lieu of \$150,000 bond after his latest hearing was postponed Thursday.

Oakland County prosecutors want to charge Summerville with first-degree murder in the stabbing death of Mikhail Ellis, 32, whose body was found in his Independence Green Apartment May 2.

Paperwork is causing the latest delay. When a person fights extradition from another state, a governor's warrant must be issued, said Sgt. Tim Swanson, Farmington Hills police investigative Bureau.

Gov. John Engler has to sign the warrant in order for an extradition to occur. Oakland County Prosecutor's Office has sent the paperwork to Lansing, Swanson said.

"That's what's taking a little time ... They (the state) demand a lot of information and paperwork, including photos and fingerprints," Swanson said.

Police arrested Summerville in Minneapolis. He was driving the victim's jeep at the time.

Police linked Summerville to the crime after finding a bloodied shirt with his name on it in a washer at the apartment. Through credit card transactions, police tracked him to Minnesota.

Summerville and the victim had a relationship for five years, police said.



Festival ready: This week's Founders Festival will be the first for Carleigh Flaharty, new president of the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce.

Chamber chief

She can't buck destiny of job

Seattle hangs on, the new Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce president like a damp raincoat and a double tall skim latte.

"I'm a coffee snob," said Carleigh Flaharty, a Seattle native and University of Washington graduate who worked in a coffeehouse in college.

However, she never took a shine to Seattle grunge bands as Nirvana and Screaming Trees in her collegiate days.

"I never got on the grunge bandwagon," she said while noting she doesn't have a flannel shirt as part of the accompanying fashion.

Flaharty thought her position in Farmington was destiny when she wheeled out of her interview and saw a Starbucks on Grand River, a block away from the chamber office.

She joined as chamber president the first week of June, succeeding Maria Esposito who became director of Lifelong Learning at the Grasso Pointe War Memorial.

Flaharty worked as Canton Township chamber director for nearly two years. She moved to the Detroit area with her husband, J.P., who is a mechanical engineer with Toyota in Ann Arbor two years ago. She and her husband return to Seattle regularly.

She inherits a chamber in good shape. Farmington's membership tops 700, which has grown from 550, members in 1994.

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Please see CHAMBER, A2

From clowns to elephants - big top here July 18

They're willing to work for peanuts but just don't try nibbling on their ears.

They're real elephants with tusks, trunks and ears - not the deep-fried confection - and they'll be joining clowns and other performers as part of the circus that's coming to Farmington Hills.

Kelly Miller Circus will perform two shows, 2 and 5 p.m. Saturday, July 18, in Founders Sports Park on Eight Mile, between Farmington and Drake roads.

The city-sponsored event is preceded by the raising of the big top tent at 9 a.m. in the 80-acre sports park, which also hosted its first-ever fireworks show without a glitch June 27.

"It fits in nice to the fact that the city has been able to obtain parks like Heritage and Founders. We're putting them into use by putting in the activities like this for the community," said Andrew Lang, Hills Special Services Department.

As part of the morning spectacle, elephants will trundle their bundle and wave the ropes and cords to set up the giant tent.

"Elephants can walk 30 miles a day and push a tree over for lunch," said Trey Key of Kelly Miller Circus. "So it's nothing for them to put up a tent pole. They're very strong animals."

The 65-member Kelly Miller

Here's ticket info

Advance tickets for the Kelly Miller Circus on July 18 are available at the Farmington Hills Department of Special Services and are priced at \$5 for ages 2-11 and \$7 for ages 11 and up.

Tickets bought the day of the show are \$6 for ages 2-10 and \$9 for ages 11 and up. Children under 2 may attend free of charge.

For more information, call the Farmington Hills Department of Special Services at (248) 473-9257.

Circus is in the midst of a summer tour, which included a performance at the Circus Fans Association of America Convention in Cleveland June 22.

The Oklahoma-based tent circus features flying trapeze artists, performing horses and elephants, jugglers and clowns.

A spokesman for the Circus Fans Association of America said the Kelly Miller group puts on a very good show.

"It has all the flavor of the big top, the smells of peanuts, popcorn and pink lemonade," said Harvey Esto, CFA's web administrator. "Oh, yes, and the smell of elephants, too."

Another circus aficionado said this show is particularly colorful and an intimate experience.

Please see CIRCUS, A2

Really celebrating the parade

Garry and Doty Clark will begin celebrating their 30th wedding anniversary at the Farmington Founders Festival Parade Saturday.

And why not; it's where the couple met back in 1965. The Farmington Hills residents' story (profiled in this column four years ago) began with Garry riding a horse in one of the first Founders Festival parades and Doty riding in a wagon just behind him. Someone kept telling Doty that Garry thought she was cute and she should just hop on that horse with him.

Reportedly, it took half the parade before Garry could talk Doty into it. She finally agreed - at the corner of Grand River and Power.

FARMINGTON FOCUS

They've been partners ever since, celebrating their unusual meeting every year by taking in the parade at "their spot" along the route.

This year, though, is even more special. On July 16, they'll celebrate their 30th anniversary with plans to re-state their wedding vows and have a large party on July 18. "The real celebration," according to son Brian, "will start on Saturday, July 11, at the parade."

So, save a spot on the corner of Power and Grand River for the Clark party, and wish the Clarks a

happy 30th.

Twins have double the fun

Farmington Hills twins Joyce Hodess and Janet Spinner won medals for being most alike in their age category at the 52nd annual Michigan Twins Association convention June 27-28 in Livonia.

Nearly 60 sets of twins from around the state attended the convention at the Livonia Marriott Hotel. The youngest set was 3 months old; the oldest was 81 years old.

Weekend events included attending Livonia Speech and dinner at the local Sweden House. Next year's state convention will be held in Lansing the last weekend of June.