

Results from center study are awaited

By Joanna Maliszewski
staff writer

The Farmington Community Center

ter's future is drawing closer. Center officials will get their first glimpse Nov. 3 of the \$18,000 study they commissioned to help plot and

ensure the 19-year-old center's future. The study is expected to provide a guideline for programming, commu-

nity services, financing, staffing, administrative organization and how the historic facility should be used. "IT COULD be they (consulting

firm representatives) will share with us what will be included in the final report. I don't know how far they are going to go at that meeting," said center interim director Lawrence Freedman.

Plante & Moran CPAs of Southfield are completing the study, which is one of several plans of attack for solidifying the center's position in the community and for getting the financially ailing center on its feet.

Freedman said he expects that Plante & Moran representatives will provide the center's executive board with preliminary information about fund raising, programming, staff organization, use of the center and the community's expectations.

"At this stage they have completed the interviews," Freedman said.

A FACET of the study includes interviews of people from community agencies, the cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills, business and center volunteers. The interviews were designed to provide a sense of how people feel about the center, what they know about it and what they think its role should be.

The consulting firm's staff also is expected to assess the center's weaknesses, strengths, capabilities and future direction, Ruth Farrell,

executive board vice president, said in August. Potential competing community resources, fund-raising efforts, administrative structure and marketing of the center also are expected to be analyzed.

Finally, recommendations are expected on the center's future operations, including staffing and programming, as well as financial projections and improvements to the 8,400-square-foot facility on Farmington Road, between 10 and 11 Mile roads.

Problems — particularly financial — at the center were first made public in April when then-executive board president Nancy Finley confirmed in a presentation to the Farmington and Farmington Hills city councils that the center was in a financial pinch.

IN JUNE, the center's membership approved release of the \$165,000 Angel trust fund, which the executive board previously restricted for capital improvements.

In addition to the study, efforts are continuing to beef up the center's public relations and marketing. Another change includes the push toward the cultural arts, particularly in programming. The center's regular activities and classes are expected to be maintained.

Interviews scheduled to begin this week for a new community center director

By Joanna Maliszewski
staff writer

By the first of the year, a new permanent executive director is expected to be running the Farmington Community Center. Interim director Lawrence Freedman will step aside when a new director is hired and begins in the position Jan. 1. Freedman accepted the interim position after veteran direc-

tor Betty Paine retired in June. Freedman, who will own a new Farmington restaurant Oct. 30, is not seeking a permanent job with the community center. But he is spearheading the application and interviewing process for a new director.

"WE WENT national and received 44 applications," Freedman said. "They're all good."

But the executive board screening committee reviewed the applications and has chosen those whom "we consider top notch" to be interviewed this week. Freedman said he preferred not to discuss how many candidates will be interviewed.

The new director can expect a multiyear contract with a \$35,000 annual salary or more depending on experience and qualifications.

Center officials put together a pamphlet explaining the community center, the director's position and expected qualifications of applicants. The pamphlets were sent to major university placement offices, hospitals, city governments, libraries recreation departments and community centers, Freedman said.

"THE EXECUTIVE director must provide professional leadership to the board of directors through written and oral communication identi-

fying the pros and cons of issues on the agenda and make administrative recommendations," according to the pamphlet.

"A humanistic approach to relationships with community, staff and the board is a necessity."

The pamphlet also addresses the qualifications candidates are expected to possess. Qualifications include skills in financial matters, long-range planning, and "be self-confident, intelligent, imaginative, and have an inclination toward innovation with a healthy respect for tradition."

The qualifications also include an ability to maintain a "high visibility and engender strong credibility throughout the community," and "possess a sensitivity and appreciation for the fine arts," according to the pamphlet.

In the experience area, a candidate is expected to have a minimum three years working in community activities, as well as provided leadership in the planning of employee salaries. A candidate also must have experience in fund-raising activities and have participated in team management.

Hills man a finalist

"Wish Upon A Star" made Richard Brown of Farmington Hills a top 20 finalist in AAA Michigan's Seventh Annual "Zero-Proof Mix-Off" recently at Detroit's Rosters Ball.

Brown, a bartender at Matus Red Fox in Birmingham, displayed his nonalcoholic drink, which includes vanilla ice cream, hot fudge,

peanuts and strawberries.

It will be featured along with 19 other winning recipes in the 1987 Great Pretenders Party Guide, cornerstone of AAA Michigan's Christmas-New Year's traffic safety program, which will be available free at all AAA Michigan offices in early December.

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