



Senior librarian Tina Theeke loafs through historic materials in the Michigan History Room at the Farmington Community Library branch in downtown Farmington.

## History Room opens door to past

By Bob Sklar  
staff writer

Edgar Rollin Bloomer — founder of Farmington's first newspaper, the Enterprise, 100 years ago — would feel right at home here.

The Farmington Community Library's Michigan History Room not only boasts 1,600 publications about Michigan, Oakland County and Farmington, but also an original collection of the Enterprise and its successor, the Enterprise & Observer, from 1900 to 1975.

So if you have a question, or simply an interest, in state, county or local history, you may find the answer in the Michigan History Room, on the lower level of the Farmington branch library, 23558 Liberty.

"Very few local public libraries have history rooms," said Tina Theeke, senior librarian. "So visitors include people thinking about developing something similar in their community."

The room received a big boost two years ago when Farmington Hills Historical Commission member Kathryn Briggs donated hundreds of new and rare books about Michigan history. The donation was appraised at \$11,000.

Count the Farmington Historical Society and the Farmington Genealogical Society among the Michigan History Room's biggest fans. Both groups have donated such historical documents as tax ledgers, photographs and leather post cards. Both groups will begin an inventory review of room materials Saturday.

"I just think it's a real resource for Farmington and southeast Michigan," said Farmington Historical So-

ciety president Steve Olson, who lives in the historic Royal Aldrich House in Farmington Hills.

Genealogy buffs can tap eight volumes of the Passenger and Immigration Lists Index and many volumes containing Michigan and Oakland County biographies.

THE ROBERT B. Cook Historical Collection of Farmington History provides information about local families — wedding announcements, obituaries, biographies, historical events and land transfers — from the late 1800s to the 1970s.

"Few cities have had such in-depth study of its founders, landmarks and historical events," said Beverly Papal, library director.

Librarians make it a point to include the room on school tours "so children can see a room devoted to the history of Farmington," Theeke said.

The Michigan History Room is open during regular library hours.

Any reference librarian can unlock the door. None of the materials circulate. Duplicates of some materials are in the library's circulating stacks. A copy machine is just outside the room.

A trip around the Michigan History Room is like going back in time. There are the Michigan Pioneer & Historical Collections from 1874 to 1914, the History of Oakland County from 1817 to 1877, the History of Detroit and Michigan by Silas Farmer, published during the 1880s, and a host of periodicals, including Michigan History, Old Journal and the Detroit Society for Genealogical Research Magazine.

Local books include "Farmington: A Pictorial History," "More than A

Tavern: 150 Years of the Botsford Inn," "Farmington's Centennial Families" and "A Farmington Childhood. The Watercolors of Lillian Drake Avery."

There's even a collection of fiction by Michigan authors, a replica of the 1872 Farmington Township map and the real estate board game, "Opportunity Farmington," which loosely resembles Monopoly.

A CLIPPING file is chock full of goodies, from abstracts to pictures. There's a thick file of newspaper stories about Farmington's 1970 effort to annex 12 square miles of southern Farmington Township.

## Novi woman killed in hit-run accident on M-102 at Drake

A Novi woman walking on the road of M-102 was struck and killed by a hit-and-run driver early Monday, the morning after her 22nd birthday.

"We're looking for information from anybody who may have seen a woman walking on the expressway or who may have seen something lying in the road at approximately 2:45 a.m. Monday," said Sgt. Ray Cranston of the Farmington Hills Police Department Traffic Section. Call 473-9682.

Deborah Jean-Faye Commander, who lived in the Novi Meadows mobile home park on Napier Road near 12 Mile, was pronounced dead at the scene. An Oakland County Medical Examiner's office spokesman said the cause of death won't be known until toxicology tests are completed.

Cranston said police pieced together the following chain of events based on evidence and investigation: Two companions were driving Commander home after a birthday celebration in Redford Township when she became sick. That's when she and the driver got out on the

westbound shoulder of M-102 near Grand River.

She then crossed the median of the divided road and walked along the median side of the eastbound lanes. Somewhere along that stretch, a motorist stopped, apparently to offer Commander a ride. But she kept walking.

The woman later crossed the eastbound lanes to the south shoulder, where the snow wasn't as heavy. About that time, a second motorist stopped on the shoulder and backed up, again apparently to offer her a ride. Again she continued walking.

She had wandered into the right lane of eastbound M-102, about a half mile west of Drake, when she was struck from behind by a car and killed. That was about 400 yards from where she had gotten out of the car.

Survivors include her mother, Linda Patchett of Detroit; father, Jim Patchett of Orchard Lake; sister, Sarah, and brother, Randy, both of Detroit; and grandparents, Betty Vessey of Detroit and Jack Patchett of Arizona.

Services will be held at 11 a.m. today at Wilkie Funeral Home, Detroit. Burial will be in Forest Lawn Cemetery, Detroit.

The family asks that memorials be made to Brightmoor Tabernacle, Southfield.



Commander hit-run victim

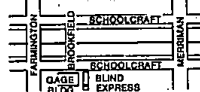
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46"	18.50	19.00	19.50	20.00	20.50	21.00	21.50	22.00	22.50	23.00	23.50	24.00	24.50	25.00	25.50	26.00	26.50	27.00	27.50	28.00	28.50	29.00	29.50	30.00	30.50	31.00	31.50
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62"	26.50	27.00	27.50	28.00	28.50	29.00	29.50	30.00	30.50	31.00	31.50	32.00	32.50	33.00	33.50	34.00	34.50	35.00	35.50	36.00	36.50	37.00	37.50	38.00	38.50	39.00	39.50
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66"	28.50	29.00	29.50	30.00	30.50	31.00	31.50	32.00	32.50	33.00	33.50	34.00	34.50	35.00	35.50	36.00	36.50	37.00	37.50	38.00	38.50	39.00	39.50	40.00	40.50	41.00	41.50
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70"	30.50	31.00	31.50	32.00	32.50	33.00	33.50	34.00	34.50	35.00	35.50	36.00	36.50	37.00	37.50	38.00	38.50	39.00	39.50	40.00	40.50	41.00	41.50	42.00	42.50	43.00	43.50
72"	31.50	32.00	32.50	33.00	33.50	34.00	34.50	35.00	35.50	36.00	36.50	37.00	37.50	38.00	38.50	39.00	39.50	40.00	40.50	41.00	41.50	42.00	42.50	43.00	43.50	44.00	44.50

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