

Library linkup

Farmington hooks into U-M system to offer more services

By Joanne Mallazewski
staff writer

Farmington Community Library is one of seven statewide soon to be electronically linked to bring the University of Michigan Library's resources closer to home.

"This is an opportunity to show that a public library can be significant to the economic development and growth of the community," library director Beverly Papai said.

U-M chose the Farmington two-branch library system as one of seven sites to participate in a five-year pilot program called M-LINK, supported with more than \$600,000 Kellogg Foundation grant.

The pilot program will be more than book-lending. It's designed to provide U-M's library's staff, materials collection and information services primarily for a community's business, professional and governmental sectors, Papai said.

"Few public libraries in Michigan have the sophisticated staff resources coupled with the community growth that Farmington has. M-LINK was conceptualized with such a library in mind," U-M library director Richard Dougherty said, announcing Farmington's participation.

The program's starting date will be determined by an advisory board, which will include participating library directors.

THE GRANT allows the U-M library to create the remote information network M-LINK. Additional money from the Kellogg Foundation will be used to convert the U-M library's card catalog system for computerized database use of the more than 2 million records in the National Research Library Network. The U-M library is nationally ranked as the sixth largest research library.

Farmington library staff time is expected to be the major local commitment in the pilot program. Papai said she didn't expect any direct costs to the libraries in the first five years of the program.

The program will allow local patrons, particularly the business, governmental and professional community, to have access to the university's six million volumes, information and research services and staff.

For M-LINK's use, Dougherty gave the following example: "Let's say a banker in Alpena needs technical data in order to make an international investment decision, or a citi-

zens group in Battle Creek needs to check some factual details on a proposed ordinance.

"Normally, they wouldn't have easy access to a major university library collection. With M-LINK, it doesn't matter where they live — they will have quick access to one of the finest libraries in the country," Dougherty continued.

M-LINK IS not designed to replace public libraries' existing inter-library loan programs. "What's exciting about M-LINK is its potential to help communities develop their own resources," Dougherty added. Participating libraries and U-M officials expect that patrons such as chambers of commerce, school boards, economic development corporations, small businesses and professional groups and individuals will make use of M-LINK.

In the Farmington area, Papai said, the only business library available is in Botsford General Hospital. "That means businesses in the area must seek sources from other areas," she said.

Participating in M-LINK is appropriate considering that in the past year, the Farmington Community Library's reference services increased 18 percent. Of the 850-1,000



Beverly Papai
a significant opportunity

database (computerized) searches for information, half came from the business community, Papai said.

She believes those statistics, plus the library's five-year development plan and its plan for marketing library services to the business community, went a long way in showing the community's need to participate in the M-LINK program. Resolutions of support from the Farmington and Farmington Hills city councils, which finance the library, were included in the program application.

In addition to providing access to the U-M's records and resources, the seven participating libraries will receive microcomputer software; capability for electronic mail and conferencing with the university library database search services for U-M's computerized resources and the delivery of requested materials over telefacsimile equipment.

Other participating libraries are Alpena County Library, Bay County Library, Grand Rapids Public Library, Willard Public Library in Battle Creek, Hancock School Public Library and Lapeer County Library.

on the agenda

Below are highlights from agendas of government meetings this week. All meetings are open to the public.

Farmington City Council
Farmington City Hall
23500 Liberty
8 p.m. Monday, June 6

Adoption of 1988-89 budget and tax rate will be considered this evening, as well as proposed amendments to the current budget.

Also on the agenda is discussion of structure at 33430 Shilawasee, a house next to and owned by the First Baptist Church of Farmington, which the city has deemed dangerous; contractor payments; bids to improve the Nine Mile Farmington Road intersection; an agreement to continue the senior transportation program; and discussion of formulating a committee to study needs of a Senior Activity Center.

Also slated for discussion are a fence variance request, one for outside seating and others for outdoor sales. Financial reports for the general fund and 47th district court will also be considered.

Farmington Hills City Council
Farmington Hills City Hall
31555 11 Mile
7:30 p.m. Monday, June 6

Two public hearings are scheduled on the proposed 1988-89 budget and proposed tax increase.

Other items include a recommendation for an ordinance to convey city property to FCA Senior Housing Corporation for development of senior housing on Freedom Road, between Drake and Gill. Also to be considered is a preliminary plat for country club property on 12 Mile and Haggerty roads.

Downtown Development Authority
Farmington City Hall
23600 Liberty

8 a.m. Tuesday, June 7
A construction progress report, re-planning of the downtown Farmington project, banner design approval, discussion of this year's Michigan Youth Corps program, and awarding of painting contract for pedestrian lighting posts are all scheduled for consideration.

Also on the agenda is authorization of street contractor payments and a treasurer's report.

Farmington Board of Education
Scholastic Administrative Center
35500 Shilawasee

7:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 7
Adoption of the 1988-89 budget and tax rate is on the agenda.

Also to be considered is a resolution for a \$27 million fall bond issue involving a new school and building improvements, gym floor refinishing at Power Middle School and Farmington High, purchase of a refrigerated truck, and adoption of art, language arts and health curriculums. Discussion of computers for Farmington High business classes is also slated for discussion.

Farmington Community Library
Board

Hills Branch Conference Room
32737 12 Mile
5 p.m. Thursday, June 9

The library board will consider amendments to the 1987-88 budget and adoption of the 1988-89 combined budget. Director Bev Papai will give a progress report on the library's participation in the M-LINK pilot project. The board will hear an analysis of the fiscal year activities that complement the five-year plan. Officers will be elected for the coming year and a legislative update will be given about Senate bill 896, a new proposed district library law.

Little Caesar scholarship goes to WSU

Farmington Hills-based Little Caesar Pizza will donate a \$1,000 scholarship to a Wayne State University student.

Little Caesars and Wayne State University have joined forces to encourage students to use the university's early registration system through this special scholarship program.

The recipient will be chosen at random from a list of all early registrants.

Little Caesars and Wayne State hope the prospect of winning a \$1,000 tuition and book scholarship will be an incentive for more students to register early.

"Our interest and support of

Wayne State goes way beyond the focus of our restaurant on the University's Campus," said Kim Polack, Little Caesars executive director of special projects.

"We look at this scholarship as a way to give back to the university and support higher education."

Little Caesars has worked with Wayne State University vice president of student affairs William Markus and student center director David Johnson for the past two years

on projects that have created a strong bond between the university and Little Caesars.

A flyer advertising the Little Caesar Scholarship will be placed in each mail-in registration envelope to explain the special scholarship to students.

In addition, the university will have information about the Little Caesar Scholarship on the cover of their schedule of classes booklet, making more students aware of the program.

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