

# Library board pay not priority, says chief

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

Providing compensation for Farmington Community Library trustees is not a priority, despite new legislation enabling members to be paid for each meeting attended.

"We really don't have any plans to discuss it," said library president Charlotte Yaverski. "That's kind of very low — it's not on our list of priority. I would never push for it. But I wouldn't object to it either."

Public Act 229 allows library board members to be paid not more than \$30 per meeting for a maximum of \$2 meetings a year. The Farmington library's bylaws do not refer to any form of payment or stipend for board members, library director Beverly Papai said.

"It (payment under the new law) is not required. It's enabling legislation," Papai said.

The library director said board member compensation could be discussed later and included in the 1989-90 budget. How much members' compensation would cost depends on the number of meetings attended annually.

The library board meets monthly. Two major committees, personnel and building, meet when necessary. The 3-4 member personnel committee generally meets 12-15 times a year. The 3-4 member building committee meets as many as 20 times a year.

IF THE library board decides to

be compensated in the next fiscal year, the budget, which would include money for payment, would have to be approved by the library's major financing sources, the Farmington and Farmington Hills city councils.

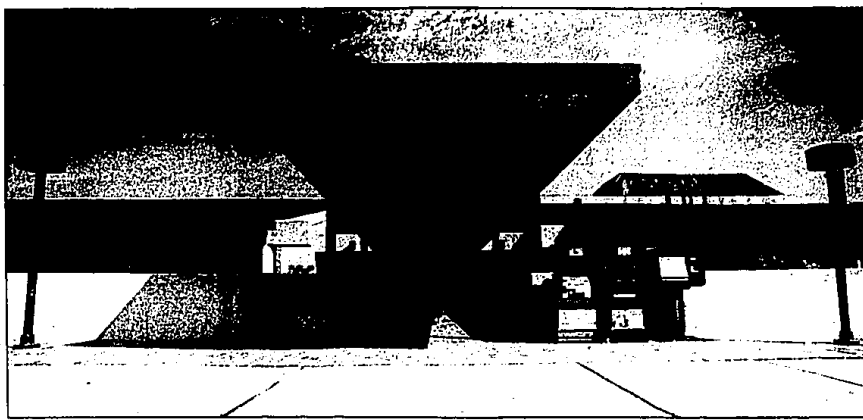
"I would not be opposed to it. But we would have to know how that affects their budget," Farmington Hills Mayor Jody Soronen said. "I suppose if there was great objection, the council would say so."

Soronen acknowledged that the library board's responsibilities are greater than some of the city's lesser boards. The library board oversees a \$1.9 million budget for the community-wide facility and "deals with all things involving the library," Soronen said.

Farmington Mayor Richard Tupper was unavailable for comment. Farmington city manager Robert Deadman called the compensation issue a political question, but added: "It's been the judgment of this city council and previous city councils not to (compensate library trustees)."

Former library trustee, Farmington Hills city councilman Aldo Vagnoli, said he has no strong opinion whether trustees should be paid.

"We got along well on the library board for years without compensation. I don't think compensation would draw any attention from the people," he said, adding he has



Members of the Farmington Community Library board of trustees meet monthly in the Farmington Hills branch on 12 Mile,

east of Farmington Road. All meetings are open to the public. Agendas are available through the library.

no objection to payment.

SEVERAL OTHER boards and commissions, particularly in Farmington Hills, receive compensation.

In addition to the city council, the planning commission, zoning board of appeals, economic development corporation and property tax board of review receive payment. Planning

commissioners and zoning board of appeals members earn \$35 a meeting. EDC members \$50 a meeting and board of review members \$20 per hour, said Farmington Hills city

clerk Kathy Dornan.

In addition to the city council, only board of review members in Farmington are paid. Review board members earn about \$40-\$45 a day.

## Woman hit by rock is better; tips help cops

By Casey Hans  
staff writer

Oakland County Sheriff's deputies received several tips this week about a post-concert incident that left an 18-year-old Farmington Hills woman with severe facial injuries.

"We're really close," said detective Steve Parker. "We've had calls from persons (who were) in the area that evening. We're feeling a little bit better about it."

Detectives plan more interviews today, which could bring them closer to solving the case, he said.

Rewards of up to \$5,000 are being offered. Janet Cowen, a 1988 North Farmington High School graduate, was leaving an Aerosmith rock concert at Pine Knob Music Theatre Aug. 13 when she was struck with a large rock.

Extensive facial injuries required

six hours of surgery to repair damage to her jaw, doctors said.

DEPUTIES ARE seeking an 18-22-year-old man, who was seen throwing rocks after the concert, Parker said. Two witnesses have given similar descriptions of the man.

Cowen remained hospitalized Friday at Pontiac Osteopathic Hospital where she was listed in stable condition. She made steady progress last week and was expected to come home over the weekend.

A \$2,000 reward is offered by Cowan's father, another \$2,000 by his employer and up to \$1,000 through the Oakland County Chamber of Commerce Silent Witness program.

Detectives ruled out occupants of a suspected small red Honda. Late last week the police were seeking the occupants of a Chevrolet Blazer, Ford Bronco or dark-colored pickup truck with cap.

JANET COWEN was one of three passengers in a car driven by Farm-

ington Hills resident Michelle Hall, 17. The friends were driving from the music theater near Clarkston when the rock was thrown through an open front passenger window, striking Cowen in the face, Parker said. Sheriff's deputies summoned an ambulance.

A second rock-throwing incident also occurred that night.

Anyone with information is asked to call Parker at the Oakland County Sheriff's Department at 858-4960 or 858-4950. If you wish, you may identify yourself as a Silent Witness and remain anonymous.

## police/fire calls

Listed below are some of the Farmington-area police incidents, fire calls and court cases reported during the past week:

● **DRUG DELIVERY ALLEGED**  
Two Farmington Hills men face up to four years in prison if convicted on drug delivery charges in connection with the sale of marijuana at Putt 'n Games, 30749 Grand River, Aug. 15.

● **JUVENILE SUSPECT**  
A 14-year-old Farmington Hills boy is charged with breaking into a model apartment and possessing stolen property.

Farmington Hills police filed an Oakland County Probate Court Juvenile Division petition charging the boy with breaking and entering of an unoccupied dwelling and receiving and concealing stolen property over \$100.

scripton of a car occupied by two men believed responsible for a drug transaction inside Putt 'n Games at 10:40 p.m. Aug. 15.

Inside the car, officers found eight baggies of marijuana, packaging material and cash, said detective Patrick Monti of the Farmington Hills Police Department.

● **THEFTS REPORTED**  
A lawnmower valued at \$650 was reported stolen from a garage on Spring Aug. 16.

Jewelry valued at \$345 was reported stolen from a house on Ashley Aug. 16.

A 1985 Pontiac Firebird valued at \$8,000 was reported stolen from a house on Amber Aug. 17.

Jewelry of undetermined value was reported stolen from a house on Arden Park Aug. 17.

A leafblower valued at \$800 was reported stolen from a house on Gilchrist Aug. 17.

A bicycle valued at \$179 was reported stolen from a house on Red Clover Aug. 17.

A lawnmower valued at \$550 was reported stolen from a garage on Eastfield Aug. 18.

● **TICKETS ISSUED**  
An 18-year-old Farmington Hills man was ticketed for possessing beer during a traffic stop at Middlebelt and Grayfield Aug. 16.

A 19-year-old Farmington Hills man was ticketed for possessing beer during a traffic stop on Ramble Hills Drive Aug. 18.

The first charge stems from a break-in at Indian Creek Apartments Aug. 16-17. The second charge stems from the theft of a wallet from Greenhill Apartments the same night, said Farmington Hills officer Duane Fox.

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## Man found dead under tree

A 74-year-old Farmington man died Tuesday when he apparently strangled himself while sitting under a tree at the First Baptist Church of Farmington.

Oakland County medical examiner's investigator Michael Podeszwick said Friday Val T. Guilmette died of apparent strangulation through use of an electrical extension cord. Final autopsy results were not complete, Podeszwick added.

Guilmette lived on Shilawassee in

downtown Farmington and was a former handyman.

A Farmington woman spotted him sitting under the tree at the west end of the church property, at Shilawassee and Farmington Road, shortly before 3 p.m. and contacted public safety officers.

A suicide note was found in the victim's nearby van, said Farmington Department of Public Safety director Frank Lauboff.

## Hills plans voter survey

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characteristically low voter turnouts, which average 14 percent. In conjunction with the Year 2000 plan, the survey will incorporate questions designed to plan for the city's future, Costick said.

COUNCILWOMAN JEAN Fox was the most outspoken against spending \$16,000 for the survey. "This is not an amount of money I think we should spend for this. That's what it boils down to."

Fox suggested that voter participation committee members make the \$90 calls Market Opinion Research would make for the survey. Haron opposed the suggestion.

Councilman Terry Sever agreed. "I don't think paying a professional as far as a questionnaire is going to do whole lot," Sever suggested using the city newsletter to question residents on their voting attitudes.

BUT HARON said that only those who are interested in voting would respond to a mailed questionnaire, and the committee wants to know

*'There is some reason people aren't voting in this city. Yet they're coming out here and complaining and talking to you (city council) — at least a few of them are.'*

— David Haron  
Voter Participation Committee

why non-voters avoid the polls.

"There is some reason people aren't voting in this city," Haron said. "Yet they're coming out here and complaining and talking to you (city council) — at least a few of them are," Haron said.

Mayor Jody Soronen questioned whether the survey would show specific reasons that offer solutions to prompt non-voters to the polls.

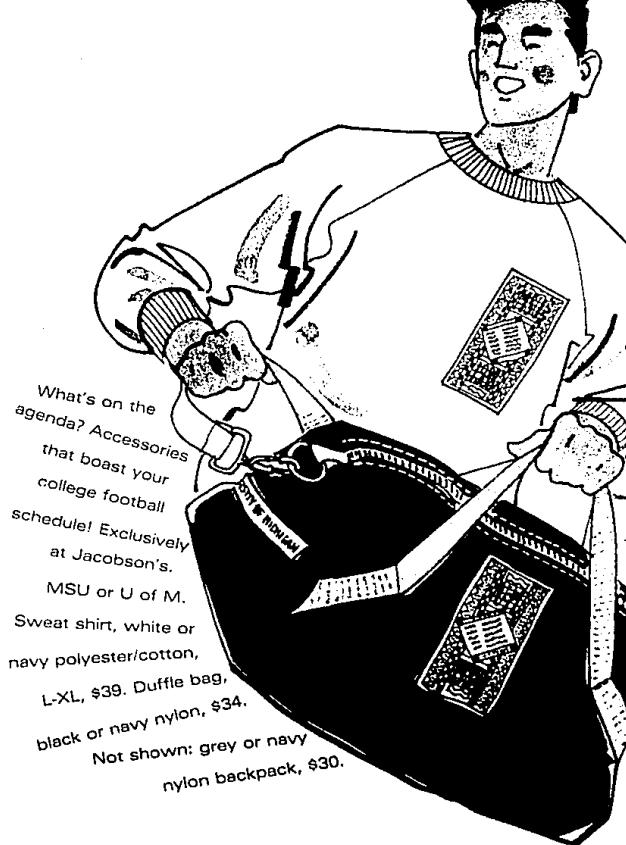
"If people say 'politicians are a bunch of crooks and I'm not voting for any of them,' is it likely we can affect that individual or are they the unlikely (ones)," Soronen said.

MARKET OPINION Research is expected find ways to improve voter turnout, Haron said. Although the committee also is concerned about the low voter turnout for school elections, voter turnout at city elections is its focus, Haron said.

"(School election turnout) is not our charge, but it is our concern. We were not appointed by the school board."

Although councilman Joe Alkateeb said he's content with city election turnouts, he favored spending \$16,000 on the survey. "It's kind of a let down to say no to them."

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