

Local library now autonomous

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"THESE REVISIONS bring state law into compliance with a Michigan Supreme Court ruling, which held that district library boards are taxing authorities," said state Sen. Harrison Croppsey, R-Decatur, the bills' sponsor.

Papal is preparing sample ballot language for approval of the Farmington and Farmington Hills city councils. In mid-May, the councils withheld endorsement of the library's plans, pending ballot language, dollar amounts for a bond proposal and operating millage, and possible sites for a new library.

While library trustees continue to want the councils' support, the new library laws allow trustees to ask

voters for financing without city council consent.

Papal said he expects to present the requested information to the councils separately rather than scheduling a joint city council meeting. No date has been set to meet with the councils.

Library trustees have one year in which to provide the Library of Michigan, charged with administering district libraries in the state, with an organization plan. The plan must include whether five to eight members will be appointed or seven will be elected. It also must include the library system's method of financing.

"I think we'll file a proposal of organization with the city councils. Pending an election, we'll then file a

final proposal for approval by the Library of Michigan," Papal said.

LIBRARY TRUSTEES continue to want to be appointed by each council's mayor, instead of elected by the public. Appointment allows the city councils some continuing measure of influence over the library system by determining who sits on the library board.

The new library laws permit library trustees to levy a voter-approved tax of a maximum 2 mills for library purposes. An accompanying law, called the district library financing act, gives library trustees authority to issue bonds and borrow money, with voter approval. Library trustees also may acquire property and construct buildings.

"The creation of better district library legislation was mandated by the Library of Michigan task force on interdependency and funding to encourage the merging of very small library systems to create larger ones to better serve public needs," Papal said.

In Kent County, for example, 28 governmental units want to merge into one district library system. Under previous law, 54 trustees would have served on the library board, Papal said.

"There must be uniformity. There is none in any of the pieces of legislation governing the various types of libraries in the state," Papal said.

There are eight different types of public libraries in the state.

MDOT study looks at Haggerty

Continued from Page 1

ways and Pontiac Trail.

To build a variation of the previous option that would protect a peak mine north of 14 Mile.

OFFICIALS IN Novi, Wolverine Lake and West Bloomfield, Commerce and White Lakes townships have endorsed the final option, which would run through Commerce Township and cost \$72 million.

"The department itself is waiting for comment from the public before we make a decision as to which one we recommend," Zeigler said.

According to a 10-page summary of the statement, the first option is merely presented as a base-line with which to compare the other options, noting the dire need for improvement.

MDOT 'is waiting for comment from the public before we make a decision as to which one we recommend.'

— Andy Zeigler
MDOT resources specialist

THE SECOND option proposes to expand Haggerty to a six or eight lane controlled-access boulevard with an 84-foot median and service road on each side for local access.

The project would cost \$109 million if a straight-line option is followed from 14 Mile to Pontiac Trail and \$114 million if an alteration is included to avoid disturbing the Black

Spruce Bog near Maple Road. This option is expected to result in increased water runoff and stream flows, minor floodplain encroachment and some loss of wetlands, according to the report.

If the straight-line option is chosen 126 parcels of land would have to be bought and 154 people displaced from homes, the report said. The alternate, if the bog is avoided, would require 139 parcels be bought and 322 people displaced.

Choosing the second option would result in the loss of taxable land, which would be compensated for by an increase in property values, ac-

ording to the report.

THE THIRD option, to build a new road west of Haggerty, would also involve a six- to eight-lane controlled-access boulevard with an 84-foot median. The new road would extend from I-96 to Pontiac Trail and cost \$73 million.

This option would provide uncongested peak-period traffic flow at least through the year 2010, according to the report.

Like the previous option, it would result in increased ground water run off and some encroachment onto floodplains. Plant and wildlife habitats would be destroyed with the construction of the new road.

The project would require the purchase of 101 parcels of land and the displacement of 81 people.

The final option, which involves building the road west of Haggerty but diverting it from the 14 Mile Peat Mine between 13 Mile and 14 Mile, would cost \$72 million.

It would require the purchase of 103 parcels of land and the displacement of 85 people.

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RANDY BORST/artist photographer

Party art

High school student Doug Dearth is responsible for the artistic promotional posters for this year's North Farmington High School all-night graduation party June 14. The annual event, with the theme "Cruise Ship," will include a moonwalk, a casino, an auction, a recording studio, caricature artists and a disc jockey. Seniors are reminded to bring cameras and yearbooks for signing; a room will be set aside to store these items and gifts during the party. The seniors-only event will run from 10:45 p.m. to dawn; seniors will be admitted until 11:30 p.m., when doors will be closed. The event is sponsored by North Farmington parents.

Forum focus: Heart health

Dr. John Schairer from Cardiovascular Health Association in Farmington Hills will lecture on the role of diet, exercise and cholesterol in heart health at 2 p.m. Wednesday, June 14, in the Community, Administration and Education Building of Botsford General Hospital.

There is a \$1 admission charge at the door. For registration, call Health Development Network at 471-8990. Botsford is at 28050 Grand

River, Farmington Hills.

Schairer has been in private practice in the Farmington Hills area for the past 10 years. He is a certified cardiologist, who has a special area of interest in exercise and its role in health. He conducts a cardiac rehabilitation program for those patients recovering from coronary artery disease. On a personal level, he has been running for 12 years and has completed the Boston Marathon.

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