

# Officials say library branch is cramped, busy

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

Cramped is still the way Farmington Community Library officials describe the 38,000-square-foot Farmington Hill branch.

"We've begun boxing the less-useful to free space," library director Papal said. "We've added shelving tables closer, rearranged items."

rearranged to get the most efficient use of the space we have."

Shelving for materials and seating for the public continue to be the most obvious space problems at the 12 Mile branch, library board president Bob Plummer said.

While library trustees are awaiting the results of two independent architectural reviews of a possible expansion of the library — as opposed to building a new 80,000-square-foot building elsewhere — they are

concerned about the age and condition of the existing building.

"The heating and air-conditioning units are growing old and won't support an expansion here," Plummer said. "The roof is leaking. All sorts of capital expenditures will be needed if we stay here."

THE LIBRARY'S lower level has twice flooded, in 1981 and 1989, and is five feet below the 100-year flood plain and one foot

below the 10-year flood plain, Plummer said.

The library president said he and other trustees are aware that many are "not convinced" that the existing library is cramped and that more space is needed. "The need is still here. We're loaded with statistics that show why we are unaffiliated — I don't know if that's a word," Plummer said.

The Farmington Community Library, including the downtown Farmington branch,

circulated 614,250 books and other materials in 1990 and answered 179,247 reference questions, hosted 39,568 people for different programs and another 21,225 people for meetings, according to library statistics.

The 12 Mile branch reached an all-time record high for the two-branch library system April 16 when traffic at the branch crested at 1,649 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Of the library's total service population of 84,271, 45,696 are active library card holders.

## Architects to comment on plan to expand library

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Plummer said they are willing to give it another go-round.

Trustees have asked city officials to consider selling acreage on Peltz-MDOT to the library for a new, 80,000-square-foot building. The city council has not yet made a decision though it has talked of reserving land for the library when the parks and recreation master plan is adopted.

IN NOVEMBER 1989, Farmington and Farmington Hill voters defeated a \$14.5 million bond issue to build a new 80,000-square-foot main library on the north side of 12 Mile, east of Halsted.

They also defeated a request for a maximum 1.5-mill operating tax, which would have allowed the two-branch library system to be financially independent of Farmington and Farmington Hills, which finances the library.

It is expected that library officials will again ask voters for financing in

the future, both for library expansion and operations.

"We're sensitive about asking for tax money. We recognize we have the obligation to give the best value for tax dollars, both short-term and long-term," library director Beverly Papal said.

THE NEXT TIME they go to voters — it won't be this year — library trustees want to be sure the location of a new library is in the heart of the city. A reason for the 1989 defeat, officials said, is because voters were

unhappy with the western location of a new library.

That's why library trustees have their eyes on the Peltz property, south of I-196, west of Farmington Road.

Landscape architect John Grissim who drafted a conceptual plan for Peltz-MDOT — pinpointed eight acres for a possible larger library on the east side of the Peltz property, near Farmington Road.

"It was proven in the last election (1989) that location was part of our undoing," Plummer said. "Peltz is

the only central piece of property to use."

IN SPRING 1990, the Farmington and Farmington Hills city councils voted 11-1 that building a new library was preferred over expansion. Marks cast the opposing ballot.

Though trustees have agreed to hear two more opinions on expanding on site, the need for enlarged quarters — for public seating and space for materials — continues as does the belief that the existing library is not easy to expand.

"We have done studies. It will literally cost as much as a new building. The difference (in costs) was not that great," Plummer said.

Trustees would like city officials to reserve land on Peltz for a new library, the library president said. But trustees, Plummer said, remain open to the recommendations from the two architects who are reviewing the situation.

"We'll get back the opinions and the board will say, 'Yes, we made the right decision or OK, we should expand here.'"

## Freedom 'absolutely great' for ex-teacher

Continued from Page 1

work and seek regular employment. His release followed a re-sentencing by Oakland County Circuit Judge Hilte Gage, who revised her sentence in the direction of the Supreme Court in November to a four-year minimum. She had originally sentenced him to a mandatory 20 to 30 years in 1987, a sentence she called "inappropriate" but one that she was required by law to pass.

The August 1990 Supreme Court decision allows judges discretion in sentencing in such cases for "substantial" and compelling reasons.

The re-sentencing has been appealed by the Oakland County Prosecutor's office, and it could be upwards of two years before a decision is made, Wolfman said. The prosecutor's office has taken a very vigorous approach. They have appealed every case in Oakland County when a judge departed from the mandatory

sentence.

"Frankly, once he's discharged from parole, I don't think there's anything anybody can do to him," Wolfman added.

WHILE IN PRISON, Schultz said he heard from a number of people who said they were sentenced too harshly. "It makes you feel maybe this happened to bring light to a wrong situation," he said. "That's how I kept strong. The system's definitely not flawless."

Schultz was arrested in November 1986 during an undercover drug raid on a house on Hayden Street in downtown Farmington, where co-defendant Daniel Jameson lived. Jameson jumped bail and was recently arrested in Montreal, Canada, where he is awaiting extradition proceedings to bring him to the U.S. to face drug charges. Schultz had brought a package to Jameson's house as a favor, but said he did not know there

was any cocaine involved.

Schultz and Wolfman plan to meet this week to discuss the future. Speaking engagements to schools, or maybe law school classes to discuss the case, could be possible. "He's so articulate in speaking about what it's like in the system," Wolfman said. "I think he can scare some kids straight too."

"But right now, he's got some liberty to feel, and some things to work out."

## Kroger urged to let supermarket rent empty store

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the effort might be what one called "a lost cause," many are doing their part to circulate the petitions, which oppose the Kroger Co.'s action of preventing another grocery store from occupying the vacated Kroger store. Preventing another retail food store from occupying this space is depriving the residents, a large number of whom are senior citizens, of the availability of a neighborhood grocery store.

"I'm going to do everything I can" to help, said Lester London, a resident of Jarneweston Apartments, who said petitions will be circulated at bridge games and get-togethers at the complex.

Since the closing, London has been contacted with and talked with representatives of Kroger who told him the change was "strictly a business decision."

SINCE THE CLOSING, London is shopping at a nearby A&P and Farmer Jack. "I'm boycotting them when they had good

sales, when they were getting ready to close this store, I wouldn't go in there."

Merchants in the Grand-Halsted Plaza where the closed Kroger store is located may also get into the act. Richard Herstein of The Little Professor book store has petitions on the counter at his business, and has customers ask about the vacant grocery store.

"Their closing has cut the traffic in half in the mall," he said. "It's probably that, the economy and the

war — I don't want to blame Kroger entirely. But the closing will take its toll."

Herstein said he plans to "get out and walk around and talk to other store owners" with the petitions.

Although the Observer could not reach representatives of Standard

Construction Co., the shopping center's owner, McShane said she spoke with someone who told her the Kroger Co. held a 40-year lease on the space and was 20 years into the lease. She was to pay \$1,500 people per week patronized the store before it closed.

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### on the agenda

To provide as much notice as possible to interested residents, the Farmington Hills City Council releases its preliminary agenda for the following week. Full agendas also will be published prior to the scheduled Monday meetings. All meetings are open to the public.

Farmington Hills City Council  
Lower level conference room  
31555 11 Mile Road

9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 26  
This is a goals setting session for the city council. It is open to the public.

Farmington Hills City Council  
City Council Chambers  
31555 11 Mile Road

7:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 28  
During its regular meeting, the council is expected to consider:

- an ordinance amending the Replacement Standard code of a parks and recreation for the city
- designating Farmington Hills as a Bill of Rights Bicentennial city,
- a resolution to extend the deadline for the Southland Park project.

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