

# Hills' book lovers make run for Borders

**By Sue Buck  
STAFF WRITER**  
Borders Books and Music opened its first store in Farmington Hills Nov. 19 with wide community participation.

The store's opening at 30995 Orchard Lake Road comes just in time for holiday shoppers.

"The grand opening was very busy," said Karen Dubrinsky, community relations coordinator. "There seemed to be thousands (of people)."

Borders offers its customers 30 percent off New York Times hardcover books and 10 percent off all other hardcover books. Customers also save up to 80 percent off publishers' overstocks.

In music, discounts are offered on more than 100 Billboard selections in those genres: pop, jazz, classical, classical crossover (a classical artist who has gone over to another genre), country, R&B, new age and world beat. There's also a 10 percent discount on boxed sets.

The Borders opening comes at the same time that a new Barnes & Noble has opened north one mile on Orchard Lake Road in West Bloomfield.

"I believe the more bookstores the better," Dubrinsky said. "The company will be true to its standards."

"We don't exist to compare to them," she said. "We exist to be the best. I think people appreciate a good bookstore."

Borders invites browsers to stay awhile, even hang out all day, if desired.

"I think people are looking for a place to go," Dubrinsky said. "You can come here for a date. And people do."

People are reading more, she said. It's not just literature that sells. All sections are popular.

Borders also assists with children's selections. "If you give them a good book, they can really take off and develop an appreciation," Dubrinsky said.

In a cafe section, espresso, pastries, cheesecake and soup are offered. "We have no kitchen here," Dubrinsky said.



**Reading light:** Chris Weber of the Joseph P. Weber Painting Co. puts the finishing touches on the ceiling prior to the opening.

"We don't take anything here," Kmart owns Borders, but plans to sell Borders stock to the public.

All booksellers have taken an in-depth literary or music quiz prior to hiring. "Staff is trained to know the selections inside and out and to devote personal attention to customers without intruding," Dubrinsky said.

Managers also stock shelves so they too learn the inventory. "You can really move up in this company, too," Dubrinsky said.

Borders was founded in Ann Arbor in 1971 by brothers Tom and Louis Borders who helped pioneer the concept of the "serious" bookstore. The company is still headquartered there today.

In the early 1990s, Borders began selling music CDs and today offers an extensive selection.

Since its acquisition by Kmart Corp. in 1992, Borders has stretched to 65 locations. Borders projects that it will have more than 100 stores by 1995 with sales in excess of \$700 million.

Borders has a selection of more than 100,000 books and more than 50,000 music titles available. More than 50 percent of the music titles are classical and jazz, compared to the music store average of 10 percent.

Video selections include American classics, foreign films and special interest titles.

Borders carries a large selection of domestic and foreign maps, 2,000 domestic and foreign magazines, newspapers from more than 55 U.S. cities and 23 foreign countries.

The media section offers CD-ROM and software titles.



STAFF PHOTOS BY ANN HEALTY

**Shelf life:** Bloomfield Hills resident and Borders Books and Music employee Michele Leonard stocks paperback books in the new Farmington Hills outlet on Orchard Lake Road, north of 13 Mile. The store opened Nov. 19.

## Mayor: Recall group plays 'fast and loose' with law

**By Bill Coutant  
STAFF WRITER**

The group pushing for a recall of six Farmington Hills City Council members was accused by Mayor Larry Lichtman of breaking the law at the Nov. 21 regular city council meeting.

According to an election specialist with the state, Voters' Voice, the group trying to recall Lichtman and council members Joanne Smith, Terry Sever, Nancy Bates, Jon Grant and Cheryl Oliverio, is likely violating the requirement to file as a political group.

The issue came up during a testy faceoff between Lichtman and Voters' Voice member Betty Lurie. Lurie had questioned the use of the city clerk's office to collect names of people who wanted their names removed from recall petitions.

"I'm here to talk about the recent attempt of Mayor Lichtman and other members of the city council to use the city clerk's office for what is essentially their private concern," Lurie said.

Lurie said council members should realize that Voters' Voice would "expose" indiscretions to "a wider audience," adding that "we do our homework."

Lichtman countered that Voters' Voice was wrong in its assertion that the city council had acted improperly, and further, that the group was itself violating rules governing groups trying to influence voters for or against the recall of a public official.

"You have played fast and loose with the law and facts previously," Lichtman said. "Finally, I want to point out for the record that while you so self-righteously sit and speak to this council about the standards of the conduct which we should follow, as far as I know, Voters' Voice is still an unregistered political committee in violation of the laws of this state."

Lichtman said because the group had received more than \$500 in contributions, whether in terms of money or in-kind services, it was required to register with Oakland County as a political committee. The group Say No to Recall, which supports the six council members, has registered.

Lurie said the group has taken no money, and that since printing, copying and other work has come in small, irregular amounts, there has been no accounting. She said that the group hadn't had time to worry about the requirement, but would register if need be once the petition signatures were turned in sometime in December.

Josephine Scott, an election specialist with the Secretary of State's office, said once a group that is involved in a recall campaign receives \$500, whether in money or in-kind services, it has 10 days to file with the county.

"On the date they have \$500 in contributions, they then have 10 days to file," she said.

Scott said the law was enacted as part of the Michigan Campaign Finance Act, and also considers a political group as two or more individuals. She said late filing fees are the penalty for violating the act.

## Park buildings make historic district

The Farmington Hills City Council added three buildings at Heritage Park to the city's Historic District.

At the regular meeting Nov. 21, City Council members voted unanimously to include the caretaker's house (Palmer Sherman house), Barn, and stable/chauffeur's quarters at the Spicer House in the city's Historic District.

A study committee had recommended the move, and the Historic District Commission and Planning Commission had concurred.

The move clears the way for internal improvements of the buildings under the jurisdiction of the city's Parks and Recreation Commission after several years of debate as to their future. By placing the buildings in the Historic District, the city also improves its chances for receiving grant money for preservation.

In other action, the council:

■ Recommended the creation of a Multi-Purpose Ice Arena Advisory Committee with at least a three-year life span.


The committee would include 10 members, including two representatives from the Parks and Recreation Commission, two representing figure skaters, two representing hockey groups, one citizen at large, one citizen with a professional financial background, one representative of business, and one representative with a professional marketing background.

The committee will report directly to the City Council, rather than through the Parks and Recreation Commission. The council will solicit names of interested citizens to serve on the committee.

■ Awarded a bid for the pre-engineered metal building for the ice arena to Vauxco'Brien in the amount of \$509,028. That is \$14,028 over the cost estimate for that part of the \$6 million arena project. The Ann Arbor company was more than \$52,000 lower than the next lowest of the four bidders.

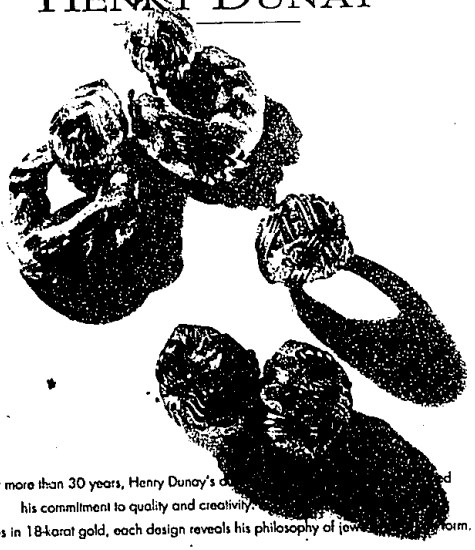
■ Designated Power Road north of 11 Mile as a Natural Beauty Road.

■ Approved a zoning amendment that increases setbacks and restricts the location of parking areas for churches and day-care centers in the city. The amendment will not affect churches and day-care businesses already operating in the city.



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