

POINTS OF VIEW

SMART election

Vote yes Tuesday for regional transportation

Farmington and Farmington Hills were 100 percent right to stay in the Tuesday, June 6, SMART regional transportation millage election. We urge voters to say YES to the one-third mill, three-year tax proposal.

SMART is far from perfect and must be improved to meet the present and future needs of those who live and work in the Farmington area, own businesses here or come to the area to shop or seek other services.

If this millage fails, the ailing SMART will die a quick death. There will be no transit system on which to build a better, more efficient program. Starting from scratch will mean years

of floundering — complete with political infighting.

Voters in Macomb and parts of Wayne counties already have said yes to the SMART millage by two-to-one margins.

Only 20 of Oakland County's 61 communities, all but two of them in the southern end, have opted "in" for Tuesday's election. Some of those, in addition to Farmington and Farmington Hills, are Troy, Southfield, Birmingham, Beverly Hills, Franklin and Royal Oak.

If the millage is approved, all communities that voted will participate in the additional taxation.

SMART currently faces an estimated operating deficit of \$5.4 million and

Transit is also crucial for those elderly and handicapped persons who would be so isolated in their homes without some inexpensive form of transportation.

has faced recurring financial crises for the past five years resulting in a \$21.9 million accumulated deficit.

Unlike other large metropolitan areas, the Detroit area does not support its regional transit system with any local funding source. A yes vote Tuesday would change that.

Based on estimates, a one-third mill

spread on the available tax base would yield \$16.4 million a year.

A Farmington Hills homeowner whose property is assessed at \$100,000 would pay an additional \$33 a year if the millage passes. Farmington Hills property owners would commit about \$884,287 a year.

In Oakland County — where 47 percent of all new jobs in the state are being created — many of these workers will need rides. How will they get there without convenient, reliable and affordable transportation?

Where will Farmington-area businesses find the employees they need? How can they thrive and grow without these employees? Certainly metropoli-

tan Detroit needs a competent, job-driven transit system.

Transit is also crucial for those elderly and handicapped persons who would be so isolated in their homes without some inexpensive form of transportation.

SMART is already here. It's an existing base on which to build a badly needed, efficient transit system to help bring people and jobs together.

Farmington and Farmington Hills are cities that stand to lose a great deal if those who run the growing retail and office base can't find the employees they need to move forward.

Vote yes for SMART so that its reorganization can begin.

Mega stores close chapter on small bookstores

Those of us who had frequented Bookpeople pretty much since it opened 22 years ago in Orchard Mall in West Bloomfield had hoped it could make it.

We had gone there to buy our children their first picture books. As they grew older, we had taken them there to purchase still another Judy Blume story. And when they could drive themselves, we remember their own frantic trips there to purchase the Cliff's Notes of some high school classic they said they ran out of time to finish.

We went to Bookpeople when we had just finished a great novel and wanted a recommendation on another that would be just as compelling. They knew just the book to enjoy on a vacation or the travel book for planning a vacation. Plus we bypassed both the Hallmark and pharmacy in Orchard Mall in favor of their selection of greeting cards.

But it wasn't to be.

Just as Metro Books succumbed when Barnes & Noble moved across Telegraph from it in Bloomfield Township, Bookpeople could not withstand the competition from both the largest Barnes & Noble in Michigan and Borders, both of which opened last November within a mile and a half of it.

Another small bookseller, George Barry, said it was inevitable. Barry can see Borders from his own small, books-to-the-ceiling storefront along Orchard Lake Road in Farmington Hills. And he is well aware of the West Bloomfield Barnes & Noble, up the street.

But Barry is in the used book business. "I can weather it, but an independent new book store is in a hopeless situation," he says.

He doesn't subscribe to the theory that the mega bookstores deliberately locate where small independent book stores have been successful.



JUDITH DONER BERNE

"Their concerns aren't with the independents," he said. "They are concerned with each other."

So, now, at least in West Bloomfield and the Birmingham-Bloomfield area, that's what they have — each other.

And the small bookstore, like the black and white TV, the corner drug store and the single-screen film theater will join the ranks of signs of the past.

Children today will have different memories.

They are apt to attend story hours at the bookstores as often — or more — as they attend them at the library.

They are not only able to buy the newest Robert Munsch book (Canada's best-selling children's author) but can hear him read it (3 p.m. Friday, June 16, at Farmington Hills Borders).

And teenagers can not only get those Cliff's Notes, but discuss them with a classmate in the bookstore cafe or take another few minutes (remember they don't have time to read the original) to browse the music section.

Even a Bookpeople regular like Debbie Chutz of Bloomfield Township, browsing at the store's going out of business sale, recognizes that the new era has begun.

"When you go there (B&N, Borders), it's more of an actual event. You plan to spend time there."

A calendar of bookstore events includes children's story hours, book signings and readings, workshops, musical events and special and general interest book groups.

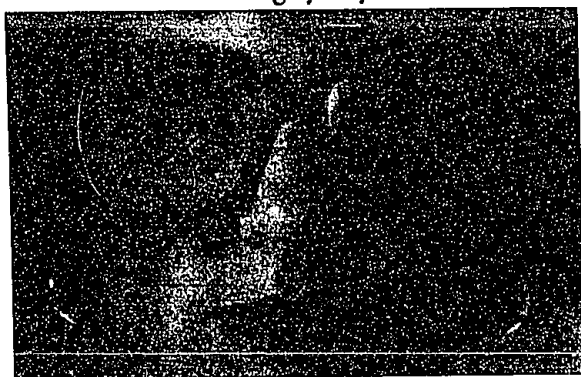
The Maple Theatre is teaming up with the Bloomfield Township Barnes & Noble to present monthly discussions of films they are showing at 10:30 a.m. Sundays in the B&N cafe.

And the West Bloomfield Barnes & Noble this fall will open another 1,000 square feet as an art gallery and 200-seat performing arts center.

Many of us remember IBrowse, an independent bookshop at the Northwestern/Orchard Lake intersection that tried the bookstore/coffee house combination some years back. It was apparently ahead of its time.

Judith Doner Berne, a West Bloomfield resident, is former managing editor of the Eccentric Newspapers.

Is RK surgery for you?

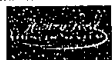


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Tues., June 6 Thurs., June 8 Wed., June 21 Tues., June 27
Fairlane, Reception W. Bloomfield, Conf. Rm. B Grosse Pointe Park, Reception - Sterling Heights, Reception
ALL SEMINARS START AT 7 P.M.

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JUNE 23, 1995

Ladies, this is your chance

to play in one of the

"nicest" golf events of the Summer. Bavarian Village Ski & Golf presents Detroit's 2nd Annual "Golf Outing for Women Only" at the beautiful Carnilla Golf Club, in South Lyon, on Friday June, 23, 1995. Seventy (70) winners & their guests will receive 18 holes of golf for 2 with power cart, complimentary gift pack & range balls, plus on-course beverages & snacks. Players will also have a chance to win a mini

golf week, courtesy of Boyne USA Resorts. During our luncheon, Bavarian Village will provide an informal fashion show featuring the latest in women's golf apparel. Guest speakers will include representatives from Boyne USA, the Executive Women's Golf League & Detroit Metropolitan Woman Magazine. Detroit's Nicest Golf Outing for women only will conclude with an exclusive all-female comedy review and an awards presentation. We think you'll enjoy this day of golf as it has been designed specifically for women. Please join us for this day of fun. Enter to win at any Bavarian Village International Ski & Golf.

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