

Council won't take arts tax stand

BY PAUL R. PACE
STAFF WRITER

The proposed arts tax facing voters in the November general election in Wayne and Oakland Counties will not have an official endorsement by the Farmington Hills City Council.

But the majority of council members are encouraging voters to weigh the benefits in supporting a .5 mill tax increase for 10 years that will go to local and Detroit-area cultural institutions.

Artist Dangle Jurgutis of the Farmington Hills Artists

Club attended council's Monday meeting with the impression that members would entertain an endorsement on the tax, known as Proposal K.

She said the tax is a way to keep culture alive and affordable and added that arts programs are known to help the sick and disabled.

Councilman Jerry Ellis said he asked the issue not be listed on the agenda, however.

He argued that Farmington Hills is a donor community to Oakland County, the state and the nation in the amount residents and businesses pay in

taxes. Because of this, he feels any new tax money for the arts should stay only in the city.

The .5 mill tax increase proposal would generate about \$600,000 for Farmington Hills' arts and parks programs, but \$1.2 million from the increase in a year would go to Detroit cultural arts institutions, such as the Detroit Institute of Arts, the Detroit Symphony Orchestra and Henry Ford Museum — all from local taxpayers.

"We have already raised enough money for the arts," Ellis said. "We're always giving and I don't want to ask (residents) for anymore."

A mill amounts to \$1 for every \$1,000 of a home's state equalized value.

The majority of the council said the tax proposal is something they would personally support, but wanted residents to make up their own minds. Councilman Barry Brickner said the tax would also support park improvements.

"It's something that helps the community grow," he said. Without the taxes, "we might not have these things."

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BOOKS

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and the fact that they are returned isn't an indicator so much of their popularity as much as a product of the different deals offered to these book stores.

The managers may receive 50 books, sell 30, send 20 back and then order 30 more of the same book, Schemper said.

"They only pay if they sell the books," he explained. "This is a browsing bookstore for someone who may have a half hour to spend. We will have books of every sort, except pornography."

Books can be offered at a 50-90 percent discount, he said. A \$27 book on the New York

Times list which might have been offered at a 10-20 percent discount at Barnes & Noble may sell for \$7.99-\$10.99.

Shoppers can't order a specific book, however. Hours will be 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday through Saturday; noon to 6 p.m. Sunday. Farmington City Manager Frank Lathoff called the bookstore a good use.

Though many had hoped for a restaurant, previous DDA meeting discussions mentioned the lack of an available liquor license and adequate foot traffic.

"It's not a good location for a food store or a restaurant, Lathoff said.

"It's a difficult parking configuration," Lathoff said. "It's not designed for handicapped access."

SWOCC open house impresses guests

It looked like Oscar night in front of SWOCC Studios in Farmington this past week. Residents and the who's who of Farmington, Farmington Hills, and Novi walked down the red carpet and celebrated the official grand opening of the new cable access studio.

It was a dream come true for the Commission and the Cable Access Committee who worked long and hard to get the plans approved. After almost a year and a half of construction, the doors officially opened.

"It was worth the wait," commented Farmington's Mayor Jim Mitchell. "I was pleased to have had the opportunity to be one of

CABLE CONNECTION

the first to use Studio B which has state-of-the-art technology that residents should try to take advantage of.

Jerry Ellis, Chair of the Southwestern Oakland Cable Commission officiated at the ribbon cutting ceremonies. He, along with Lou Cordas, Novi Councilmember and Chris Melton, Mayor Pro Tem of Farmington Hills congratulated SWOCC's staff for making the vision a reality. Cordas joked that back in the 70's he had his car repaired here when it was

still a bump shop.

Guests were awed by the high-tech equipment and especially impressed with the sophisticated graphics capabilities including 3-D animation. Some took advantage of the chance to get behind the cameras while others preferred to star on-camera for the SOUND OFF program.

Seven stayed up for the free workshops so they could produce their own shows. SWOCC Studios is committed to bringing the best in programming to the three communities. It's our goal to provide timely information on city-related issues like road construction and building development as well as information related to national issues like the 2002 Election.

If you missed the Open House you can still get a sneak preview of the new studio by tuning to your access channels: INFO TV-

12, Farmington 15, Farmington Hills 8 and Novi's TV13. Watch the construction of SWOCC Studios from start to finish in an upbeat three-minute montage which airs between programs all day long. Guaranteed you'll want to watch it over and over again.

It's an exciting time for the cable television industry and SWOCC Studios is on the cutting edge. I want to say a special thanks to each and every one who worked on this project. I want to say thanks to each and every one who helped make this grand opening such a huge success. And, I want everyone to know that SWOCC Studios is ready to serve the communities better than ever before!

Caren Collins is the Executive Director of the Southwestern Oakland Cable Commission (SWOCC). The next SWOCC meeting is at 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 6 at Farmington City Hall. The next cable Access Committee meeting is at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 12 at SWOCC.

CALENDAR

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"It's for charity," Waddell emphasized. The funds raised will also benefit the Farmington Hills Police Benevolent Association, which supports the families of fallen police officers and firefighters, as well as other city employees in need.

Calendars are available at Botsford Commons, which is just east of Orchard Lake Road, south of Folsom, and in the gift shop at Botsford Hospital.

Within the next few weeks, the Boys will set up a display in the Livonia Mall. They've been given permission to be in front of the theater and Rodeo Diamond Jewelry Shop.

That can only increase their notoriety, gained through newspaper coverage locally and in the daily newspapers.

"I went into the doctor's office, and they were laughing," said Ed Repucci. "They said, 'Hello, Mr. February!'"

Later his doctor commented, "If you look this good, what am I doing taking care of you?"

The group has received fan mail, asking whether there might be any members who were single and whether phone

numbers might be available, Waddell said. One 48-year-old man wrote that he'd been dieting and exercising since he was 28 years old and had not been able to get his body into the shape of the calendar man he most admired. "He asked very politely if our guy would have the time to send him a copy of his diet and exercise regime," Waddell said. "With a PS: 'I really like your abs.'"

To get your FREE copy of the Boys of Botsford 2003 calendar, send a check or money order for \$10.75 (that's \$12.75 for shipping) to The Boys of Botsford, 21268 Sycamore Court, Farmington Hills, MI 48336.

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LIMPING
What causes you to limp? Answering this question is as important to the doctor as it is to you. When you have leg pain no matter where it begins or ends, the first item on your physical examination is seeing how you walk.
One answer that comes out of walking is to establish if you ambulate with a limp. If you have a limp, then a degree of urgency exists. Your doctor will not have the choice of giving you something for pain and watching how your leg pain changes over time.
If you limp, then he needs to obtain x-rays or other studies to establish the cause and treat it quickly. The reason that a limp indicates a medical response is that you start with pain and loss of function in your legs. However, you walk with your whole body, so a limping gait will quickly lead to aching all over and daily fatigue.
Walking a limp helps a doctor determine from where the pain comes. A certain pattern-abduction and external rotation is typical of hip pain. An antalgic gait-moving off the painful limb as fast as possible-is keeping with a painful knee. A stiff-legged gait is the way the body keeps your knee from bending and occurs when internal derangement is present.
Other types of limping present in stroke and Parkinson's disease. Proper treatment for abnormal gait in these circumstances calls for a neurologist, rather than orthopedic consultation. Thus, when your doctor asks you to take a walk, he is not trying to get rid of you, he is really delving into your problem.
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