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Soaring circulation strains library

FARMINGTON—The Farmington Community Library's budget may be standing still, but the use of the two area facilities is still growing.

With National Library Week being observed April 13-19, library director Gordon Lewis took the opportunity to reflect on the library systems growth in recent years and new demands that are being placed on the facilities.

"Increased demands are being placed on the library and in many cases library funding is being reduced," Lewis said.

Circulation has doubled in the past three years and continues to grow at the rate of 5,000 a month.

The library staff projects that 300,000 items will be circulated this

year and more than 600,000 items next year.

THE LIBRARY NOW has 23,000 volumes.

"We should have a book collection three times as large as it is," he said. Lewis attributes the growth to the wide variety of services provided by the systems branches in Farmington and Farmington Hills.

Original art, films, records and cassettes, magazines, newspapers, telephone directories, business and investment services are among the materials available at the library.

IN ADDITION the library sponsors programs for all ages.

The monthly attendance at library programs sometimes exceeds 2,000 persons, he said. Another 1,000 persons use the library meeting rooms each month. Between 25 and 50 groups hold meetings and programs at the library each month.

Unemployment has further strained the library, Lewis said.

"During periods of high unemployment, library usage tends to increase as people search for new jobs, learn new skills and utilize their leisure time," he said.

"Libraries must meet these additional demands without an increase in funding and frequently with tighter budgets restricted by inflation and cuts in allocations."

LOCALLY, THE Farmington libraries received less income reduction in 1971, he said.

In 1972, the library had been receiving 15 mills from each city.

Now, the allocation is one mill from each city.

"This reduction in income occurred during a period of 12 per cent inflation," he said.

LIBRARY SUPPORT could be increased through gifts if more local residents took advantage of permitted state and federal tax deductions, Lewis said.

The state permits the taxpayer to deduct 50 per cent of a gift to public libraries or universities from state in-

come tax. Taxpayers who itemize also may deduct gifts to public libraries from federal taxes.

In addition, many employers will match gifts of their employees.

"It only costs most taxpayers 25 cents for every dollar donated to the Farmington Community Library," he said.

"Taxpayers are encouraged to take advantage of these potential tax savings and thus use their tax dollars in their own community."

Kite contests to coffee hours

Library booked solid

FARMINGTON—Special activities to commemorate National Library Week run the gamut from daily coffee hours for the adults to a kite flying contest for the youngsters.

In addition, the Friends of the Library is holding its month-long membership enrollment drive. Gifts and time donated by the group enables the library to provide added service and materials.

Both the Farmington and Farmington Hills branches of the community library system have scheduled a

number of special events for the week's observance, April 13-19.

At the Farmington branch, 2333 Farmington Road, coffee will be 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Tuesday through Friday.

At the Farmington Hills branch at 3277 Twelve Mile, four programs are set for area youngsters.

A PET SHOW for preschool age children will be 10:30-11 a.m. Thursday on the lawn behind the parking lot.

A Charlie Brown kite flying contest will begin at 1 p.m. Saturday. Prizes

will be awarded for the highest flying kite, the kite with the best slogan for the National Library Week theme of "Information Power," the kite best decorated with a book character and the kite with Charlie Brown's lunch with kite-eating trees.

At 2 p.m. Saturday, youngsters will be able to compete in a book stacking contest. Prizes will be awarded to the youngster with the highest stack. Jill Locke, children's librarian, suggests entering this contest with a partner.

AT 2:30 P.M. Saturday, youths will be able to try their skills as sleuths in the encyclopedia brown treasure hunt. They will have 15 minutes to locate the concealed contraband.

All participants must be registered for the events by April 15.

In case of rain, the pet show will begin at 10:30 a.m. April 24. April 25, the kite flying will begin at 10:30 a.m., book stacking at 11:30 a.m. and treasure hunt at noon.

Church plans seniors housing

FARMINGTON HILLS—St. Clare Parish Church has cleared its first hurdle in trying to develop a senior citizen housing project on its property on the north side of Ten Mile, just east of Middle Belt.

The city's planning commission recently approved the parish's request for rezoning of the property from

representatives of various homeowner associations near the property.

The gist of the dissent appeared to be that while residents agreed housing for senior citizens is needed, the units should be placed on another parcel of property.

THE SENIOR citizen center, to be called Marian-Oakland West, was first discussed in early 1971 when consideration was given to using the land north of the church for charitable purposes.

Early in 1972, the parish received permission from the archdiocese to buy a strip of land adjoining the parish boundary to allow access to the

land which will be the center.

Feasibility studies followed, and a provisional board of directors was established.

Construction money is to come from a trust fund left to the archdiocese by William Ryan. The archdiocese plans are to construct senior citizen housing in all six counties that it serves.

The Rev. Joseph Drogowski said the center, which will be interdenominational, will be based on the campus concept of housing for the elderly.

"IT IS A very special type of orientation to the aging," he said. "It is a place for people who are dependent or

semi-independent beyond the point of helping themselves on a regular basis and yet who are not in need of nursing care."

By December, Father Drogowski said he hopes to build two units with a capacity of 40 persons and a service building which would have dining, kitchen, recreation and administrative facilities.

Residents would take their meals at the center. The campus concept encouraged residents to spend little time in their rooms.

An interdenominational board of directors would oversee the operation of Marian, Fr. Drogowski said.

At the planning commission public hearing on the proposal, a representative of Franklin Ravines Association asked who would be permitted to live in the project.

HE SAID persons of any nationality, race or creed would be living there. He also said the property would not be taxed, although taxpayers would be providing services.

Others were concerned about increased traffic and the effect that the multiple dwellings might have upon the neighboring homes.

Another resident said the proximity of the school and the children who live in nearby homes would be detrimental to the elderly persons.

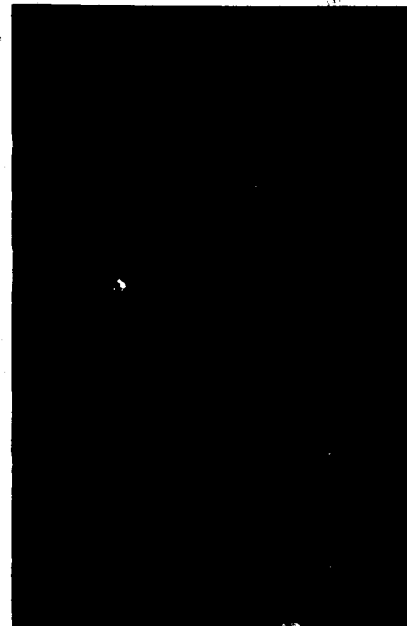
Supporters pointed to the need in the area for senior citizen housing.

The facility would serve the western portion of Oakland County, Fr. Drogowski said.

He estimated that residents at Marian would pay \$100 each month for room and board.

The first phase of the project will include buildings for single residents. The second phase will include one building for single residents and one for couples.

"We want to serve the person who has the need," he said.



V. O. Bates enjoys the hunt. (Staff photo by Harry Maute)

History markers become a quest

BY CORINNE ABATT

FARMINGTON—The deep appreciation which V.O. Bates has for his home state is due in part to historical markers.

The other part should be attributed to the man's delight in learning and in traveling the back roads.

In the mid 1930s, the state authorized a historical marker project, and in the next few years some 60 were put up at historic sites.

About that time, Bates, former principal of Farmington High School, who later worked in public relations for Detroit Edison, and his late wife, decided to do some traveling. Their children had married and it was the time of life to do some leisurely wandering.

CLEARLY HE REMEMBERS the day in June 1932 when they stopped in a roadside park near Clare for a breather. They walked over to read the historic marker commemorating Shay's Engine, a heavy duty piece of railroad equipment which was partially responsible for opening up the lumbering industry in Michigan.

Although the marker was in poor

shape, Bates decided to take a picture of it.

That was the beginning of a quest which continued almost until Mrs. Bates died. He went to the state archives for information on other marker locations, and returned with a list of historic sites, some state, some local, all eligible for markers. Some had them, some didn't.

He also acquired a map of Michigan historical attractions and as the couple planned their trip, they would include marker sites in their itinerary.

Looking back, Bates speculated it might have been because they were both country people—the kind who liked to stop and picnic, see the small towns and the countryside that triggered their interest. But, whatever it was, he collected pictures of more than 300 markers and in the process a wealth of information about Michigan history.

"EVERYBODY TALKS about the Chicago fire in 1871," he says. "But, I'll bet you don't know that a fire

(See FINDING, next page)



Marian-Oakland West is sponsored by St. Clare Parish

State forced to improve Grand River

FARMINGTON—Continued pressure on the state highway department may pay off if the state agrees to improve a number of intersections along Grand River.

The portion of the roadway that runs from Purdie to Gill is already slated for recapping. Curb are to be replaced when possible.

City officials have requested that improvements be made to Grand River intersections at Shilwanee, Drake, Halstead and Nine Mile, as part of that project.

The highway department met with

representatives of the city for an inspection of the roadway in late March, but no commitment was made.

"IT WAS AGREED that the surface of Grand River east of Gill Road is in extremely poor condition and that base repair, curb replacement and a 2½ inch asphalt overlay would be required," City Manager Robert Deadman said. The department also indicated that Grand River west of Gill should be widened to five lanes.

The project is supposed to be advertised for bids by July 1, but engineering problems in the west end may delay advertising.

The high cost of the improvements also may figure into the delay, Deadman said.

"We have requested together with Farmington Hills that those sections of Grand River that do not require additional engineering be let for repair in the summer of 1973 and that those sections that require additional engineering be let in 1974," he said.

DETERMINATION must be made

as to whether the maintenance should be handled by the county or the two cities.

It may take additional pressure on the highway department to release the project for construction, Deadman said.

"The cost of this road repair program is still beyond the funds budgeted by the state highway department for these needed repairs," he said. Deadman has contacted state legislators to intervene on the city's behalf.

