

# On The LIBRARY Line



## Library features October events

October holds something for everyone at the Farmington Community Library.

From legal rights of youth to interior design and running for adults, there are lots of programs, including many for the kids.

If you're curious about the library and resources it may have that you haven't quite been able to put your finger on, consider attending one of our library instruction mini-sessions. Offered Oct. 3, from 10-11 a.m. at the Farmington branch and Oct. 27 from 10-11 a.m. at the Farmington Hills branch, this session will provide a brief orientation to library services and basic instruction in library research methods.

On Tuesday, Oct. 17, Ray Interiors will present the first of three programs on interior design and decoration. The series will be offered at the Farmington Hills library from 7-9 p.m. on Oct. 17, 24 and Nov. 7.

If you're interested in running, join us on Oct. 26 at 7 p.m. at the Farmington Hills library for a spirited presentation and discussion of running, featuring Richard Mach, director of the Institute of Science and Sport. A follow-up fun run with Mach will be on Oct. 28 at 10 a.m.

Our adult book discussion continues at the Farmington branch library on Thursday mornings at 10 a.m. Lovey: a Very Special Child, by Mary MacCracken, is the topic of discussion for Oct. 12. On Oct. 26 we'll be looking at Renata Adler's Speedboat.

A special workshop in storytelling techniques will be offered at the Farmington Hills library on Monday evenings, Nov. 13 to Dec. 11, from 7-

9:30 p.m. Participants will learn some of the history of storytelling, sources of stories, techniques and tricks of the trade and a representative from the stories in class. Enrollment is limited. To register, call 553-0300 beginning Oct. 27.

The legal rights and responsibilities of teenagers will be the topic for the Oct. 19 program at the Farmington library. The 7:30 p.m. program will feature a short film on marijuana possession and a representative from the Detroit Bar Association will speak and answer questions.

At the Farmington branch library, pre-school children and their parents are invited to explore aspects of Halloween on Oct. 13, from 10:30-11 a.m. On Oct. 24, at 2 p.m., pre-schoolers are invited to "Clown Around" in a part of their Halloween costume for holiday fun.

Halloween "Costume Creations" will be the topic for a program for school age children on Oct. 21 at 2 p.m. at the Farmington branch. Make-up, hats and accessories will be illustrated. A list of necessary materials is available at the library.

A similar program, "Halloween Surprises," will be at the Farmington Hills library on Oct. 14 at 2 p.m. School age children are invited to make costume disguises, noisemakers and party decorations.

All of this Halloween activity will culminate in a party for elementary school children on Oct. 29 at 2 p.m. at the Farmington Hills library. Come in costume for a Halloween treat.

Preschoolers are invited to their own Halloween treat on Oct. 19 at 10:30 a.m. at the Farmington Hills branch. Call 553-0300 to register.

### FARMINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

A public hearing on the proposed 1978-79 general fund budget for the Farmington Public School District will be held Tuesday, October 17, 1978, at 8:00 P.M., during the regular Board of Education meeting, to be held at the Central Office of the School District, 2525 Silvaswase, Farmington, Michigan.

Copies of the budget are available for review at the Board of Education offices. The offices are open each week day, Monday through Friday, from 7:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

Public: October 2 and October 9, 1978



## Dorothy Frazee is lady of many lamps

By SHERRY KAHAN

"I collect kerosene lamps because I enjoy the smell of them when they are burning," smiled Dorothy Frazee of Livonia.

"I like the nostalgic feeling about them. It is something hard to describe. I love the light from it. It makes the house feel so cozy."

Then she laughed and added, "When I talk to old people about them, they say that if I had to clean them all the time the way they did, I wouldn't like them so much."

Mrs. Frazee was sitting beneath what she described as her pride and joy, a presidents kerosene lamp with a huge cast iron frame and a milk glass shade. Hanging above the glass shade, chimneys like the dot over an i was a milk glass bell designed to catch the smoke and keep it from blackening the ceiling.

Adapted to the needs of today, the pull-down lamp has been electrified, but it could be easily converted back to kerosene if necessary.

With a house full of kerosene lamps, Mrs. Frazee's household is the most prepared in the area for power failures that have the rest of us falling over the dog on a dark night. While the houses around hers are dimly lit with candles during a power failure, her house is bathed in a soft light that the Livonia lampmaker so enjoys.

The word is out about her hobby because during a recent blackout, the manager of a nearby 7-Eleven turned up on her doorstep to borrow two lamps.

His customers couldn't find the merchandise for which they had come.

AS THEY HAVE with many items of practical use, American artisans have added something extra to these lighting fixtures to individualize their

work. So in kerosene lamps, patterns were added to the font, the part that holds the kerosene.

As a result, collectors hunt for bulb-se, daisy, tulip, chainlink and beehive patterns or those with milk glass thumb prints.

Painted ponies were added to the large china font of the Gone with the Wind lamp.

Chimneys, too, have received their share of attention. Owls have been etched into the glass of some, or flowers or some kind of pattern.

"You can tell an old chimney from one recently manufactured one by its smooth, flat lip," said Mrs. Frazee. "The new ones have a rounded lip. When selling these chimneys, a dealer might lie to you about its age."

"Actually, most of them don't know the difference between an old and new one. She advised lamp collectors to be wary."

"Once in Canada, a man tried to sell me a lamp he said was 300 years old," she said. "They didn't have kerosene lamps 300 years ago. They didn't come in until about 1870 when kerosene came into common use."

ALONG WITH THE intricate art work, many of these lamps also have an interesting custom or story etched into their history.

"This miniature lamp over here was a courting lamp," Mrs. Frazee said. "The couple lit this and put in on the table."

"Then when mom or dad called out to ask if their daughter had the lamp lit, she'd say yes. But it was only a miniature one and didn't give much light."

Nearby was a skating lamp. "If a child went skating on the pond at night, she took a lamp to light up the pond and show her mother where she was," the collector said.

"If the lamp disappeared, the mother started looking for her child."

Dodgers' offices at the turn of the century often had a mercury reflector added to their kerosene lamps.

With several of these lamps close by, the reflectors heightened the light so that the physician could operate at night if necessary.

"The original mercury reflectors are hard to find," said Mrs. Frazee who managed to unearth a couple.

"They are now making the reflectors of a substitute material."

At an earlier time, manufacturers made perfume bottles in the form of tiny kerosene lamps. Other miniatures were made to be given away with a newly purchased suit of clothes. Some were made as dollhouse miniatures.

Mrs. Frazee's husband, Smoky, collects the doll-house-sized variety—possibly as something to do while his wife scours antique shops for the large lamps that actually work.

"I've been doing this for 25 years," she said. "I started in this area, but have collected in Indiana, Pennsylvania, Montana and so forth. Wherever I go, I find a lamp."

"I GO INTO the town antique shop and buy the only kerosene lamp they have. Then the owner says that Mrs. So and So has one."

"Most dealers will call the people and ask if you can come over. I don't see in Indiana one time, I bought all the lamps the dealer had and went to see a woman up the road and bought three miniatures."

Information is hard to come by on her favorite subject. "One of these days I want to write my own book," said the lady with the lamps.

"No one has ever written on the large lamps. I get information from anyone who will talk to me, from books in the Henry Ford museum



With her lamp glimmering ahead to show the way, Mrs. Dorothy Frazee climbs the stairs much as her grandmother did before the arrival of electricity.

from books on all kinds of lamps and old Sears catalogues. They give descriptions of the lamps and prices." Average-sized antique used to sell for \$1-\$2. Today, depending on pattern, size and condition, the cheapest ones go for from \$25-\$30. Big antique table lamps sell for \$45 and up.

Mrs. Frazee explained that dealers today sell the font as the lamp. Customers have to buy the rest of the pieces separately.

"I should have been born 100 years ago," she said with a smile.

## Obituaries

### DONALD W. BLOUIN

Mr. Blouin, 56, formerly of Farmington, died Sept. 21. Services were Sept. 25 in Our Lady of Sorrows Church with the Rev. Msgr. Thomas Beahan officiating. A rosary was recited in the Heenev-Sundquist Funeral Home, and burial was in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

Surviving are sons Michael D., Joseph V., Donald W., George E., and Patrick D., daughters Susanne and Maureen LaFontaine, and six grandchildren.

### SAMUEL PATTERSON

Mr. Patterson, 74, of Farmington, died Sept. 21 in Botsford General Hospital. Services were Sept. 23 in the Heenev-Sundquist Funeral Home with the Rev. Carl Schultz of the Salem United Church of Christ officiating. Burial was in Oakland Hills Memorial Gardens in Novi.

Mr. Patterson was retired from the Livonia division of the Ford Motor Co. Surviving are his wife Isabel; sons William J. and Robert C.; three brothers; one sister; and grandchildren

Keven J. and Trevor J. Patterson. Memorial tributes may be made to the Muscular Dystrophy Fund, the family suggests.

### DOROTHY L. THOMPSON

Mrs. Thompson, 65, of Farmington Hills, died Sept. 28 in the Williamsberg

Convalescent Home. Services and burial were Sept. 30 in the White Chapel Cemetery. Arrangements were made by the Thayer-Rock Funeral Home.

Mrs. Thompson was a housewife and is survived by her husband Douglas; mother Pearl Alpert; sister Virginia H. Reese; and brother Jack Alpert.

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