

Library searches for high-tech role

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know immediately if a certain book is available — not only in Farmington, but also at 10 area libraries in an inter-library loan system.

Using a "main frame" computer in Toronto, Ont., and a mini-computer in Plymouth, the GEAC system also will keep track of patron records and re-

mind librarians to send out overdue notices.

"It's leaps and bounds ahead of what we're doing now," said Clara Bohrer, manager of the downtown Farmington branch. "Now we do all this by phone calls."

Bohrer said she hopes the system will be in place by fall, although "there are always some delays."

Other area library directors praise

the coming of the "new technology" — with reservations. For example, there'll always be books on the shelves, according to Avon Township Library Director Patricia Wilson.

"I guess I'm still a proponent of the book," she said. "I don't think the book is ever going to go away."

"While libraries have certainly gotten into other forms of media full force, I think the book is our mainstay.

And I think that our public continues to think it's our mainstay as well."

Gretchen Kulberg, who directs the West Bloomfield Township Library, sees the technology, but shares Wilson's reservations.

"Sometimes technology changes things faster than you think, and other times you think the technology is there and it just never goes anywhere," Kulberg said.

IN WEST BLOOMFIELD, as the technology goes, so goes the library's plans for the future.

"One of the things we've felt has been good about building our facilities in stages is that we can continually monitor the technology and the way information is handled and what's happening in the publishing world and what's happening in education," Kulberg said.

"If it ever gets to the point where everybody does library business at home over a telephone or computer line, well, maybe we won't need a central facility. We're trying to keep flexible that way."

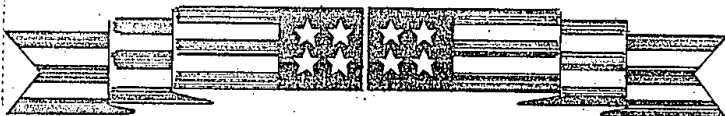
"There's a whole bunch of stuff out there. Some of it may be pie in the sky, may never be economically feasible. We don't know. We just have to keep watching the trends."



Clara Bohrer, director of the Farmington branch library, practices with a new computer that will streamline book check out procedures. staff photo/RANDY DORST



Miriam Kester (left) and Margaret Elliott volunteer their time to help keep the Farmington Hills Library running smoothly.



JULY SPECIAL EVENTS

HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY JULY 4th! Center Hours are 11 am to 4 pm

AMERICAN FLAGS

Encyclopedia Britannica will display colorful flags from each of the 50 states. In addition, they will pass out literature on the Great Moments in American Sports, which will feature the history and highlights of the modern Olympic games. June 29 - July 8, East Court.

MODEL AIRCRAFT

The Livonia Ribcrackers will display their motorized model airplanes. Sat & Sun, July 7 & 8, Center Hours, Center Court.

GOOD OLE SUMMERTIME SIDEWALK SALE

Super bargains, entertainment, good old-fashioned fun at Westland's Good Ole Summertime Sidewalk Sale. July 12 - 15.

ENTERTAINMENT SCHEDULE

DON HALLER - THEATRE ORGANIST

Playing your favorite tunes of yesteryear. Thur & Fri, 6 - 8 pm, Central Court.

ZIPPY THE CHIMP

Sat at 11 am, 2 & 4 pm; Sun at 12:30, 2:30 & 3:30 pm, Central Court.

STROLLING MIMES & JUGGLERS

Thur & Fri, 12 noon to 3 pm; Sat 5 to 6 pm; Sun, 1 to 4 pm.

MIDWEST HARMONY CHAPTER OF THE SWEET ADELINES

Sun at 3 pm

FLORAL ARRANGING

July's Lifestyle Seminar will feature the art of making floral arrangements from fresh flowers. Irene Hafelehn, a Floral Designer for Nature Nook Inc., will be the guest speaker. The arrangements she makes will be door prizes at the end of the seminar. Refreshments will be served. The seminar is free but reservations are necessary. Please call 425-5001. Tue, July 17, 10 am to 11 am, Auditorium.

MODELING AUDITIONS

Kids, toddlers to young adults, are invited to audition for Westland's August Back to School Fashion Show. Each child must submit a picture that will not be returned. Modeling chosen must be able to participate in both the 11 am and 7 pm show on Aug 15. Sun, July 22. Registration 12 noon. Auditions at 1 pm, Central Court.

WESTLAND CENTER

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