

# Councils set to name library appointees amidst rift

By Julie Brown  
staff writer

Members of the Farmington Hills City Council will consider appointments to the Farmington Community Library Board of Trustees at Monday's meeting.

The city councils in both Farmington and Farmington Hills recently voted to expand the membership of the Library Board from four members to eight. The two councils appoint board members in equal numbers, each will now appoint four representatives.

Hills council member Joan Dudley said she would seek "reasonable, open-

minded people" to fill the board vacancies.

"The same kind of people I want on every board, nobody with an ax to grind, nobody with a particular prejudice," Dudley said.

"I presume there are two sides to every story. At this point, I'm not sure it's necessary for council to be involved. I can't make a decision based on only hearing from one side."

DUDLEY SAID she was not aware of the specifics of the recent resignations of seven professional library employees.

"Only from what I read in the paper, which I read when I got home from class."

The Farmington Observer ran a front-page story in Thursday's edition, headlined "Mass resignations at library point up rift."

The council's role in library affairs should be an indirect one, Dudley said. "I don't think council should be directly involved in the specifics of the library. I think the reason we have input on that is because we fund it." The city councils in the two communities approve the library budget.

"I don't think we should get involved in specific practices," she said. "That's not our role. I think we should have a very indirect role."

"I've never been to a Library Board meeting," council member JoAnn Soro-

nen said. "So far as I know, they have been" doing their job well.

"I assume they have the interests of the library at heart."

"I GATHER from the article in the (Thursday) paper that some people are unhappy about Jill Locke's resigning," Soronen said.

"I think she was one of our city's treasures. She obviously was highly thought of. I gather she's sorely missed, but I don't know Jill, and I haven't talked to her at all."

Locke had worked as branch head for the Farmington Hills library and as children's coordinator for both the Farmington and Farmington Hills branches. She had worked for 13 years at the library and resigned in February.

"All I got was what I read in the paper," council member Ben Marks said. "I'm certainly going to ask some questions Monday night."

Marks said this was the first time he could recall such concerns about the library being raised.

"I really can't remember when we've had any kind of problems," he said. "Monday night there'll be some

inquiries. If we have to, we'll bring (library director) Gordon Lewis in to explain these things."

"We don't have all the facts," Marks said. "We're hearing only one side of the story. I'd like to hear the whole thing. It's the obligation of both city councils to oversee the library."

"Up to this point in time, I've had no problems with the way it's been running," he said. "If it's just sour grapes, then we'll know that soon, too."

MARKS SAID he could not remember concerns about the library receiving such attention in the local newspaper.

"That tells me 'Let's find out what our problem is.' If there is a problem. We'll look at it. I'd like to hear all the facts. You should look at all sides of it and hear all sides of it, and then make up your mind."

Denise Albrecht, one of the librarians who resigned recently, is interested in filling one of the Library Board vacancies.

"I'd like to see people who have been active with the library, and not someone who doesn't understand the inner workings," said Albrecht, who turned

in her resignation in December and finished work in January.

"I think they need to be more concerned with the staff, trying to strive for positive relations between the Library Board and the staff," Albrecht said. "I'm just concerned something is going to happen to the library."

Lewis, the library director, was critical of the article on the resignations that appeared in Thursday's Farmington Observer.

"It links together a number of resignations the library has had for unrelated reasons and links them together as though they were all related to the same cause," Lewis said, speaking at the regular Thursday meeting of the Library Board.

"The article extensively quotes from a past employee whose employment experiences are well-known to the board," Lewis said, without naming the former employee or going into further detail.

TWO former employees, Denise Albrecht and Linda Madden, were quoted in the Observer's story.

## Lewis defends administration

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"As I already indicated to you, the resignations have been for a number of reasons," he said, citing health problems and family moves as reasons for the staff resignations.

Locke resigned in February, following 13 years with the library system. The Observer has been unable to reach her for comment.

Locke's resignation followed a library decision to move her to a new position, that of coordinator of Community Services.

The job description for the newly created position defines the job as "a highly responsible staff position under the direction of the assistant director and/or the director, (who) coordinates diverse projects, programs and community services of the library."

The Community Services coordinator "serves in an advisory capacity and is not directly responsible for staff supervision," according to the job description. In her previous position, Locke had supervised library employees.

Lewis, the library director, has de-

clined to elaborate on the reasons for Locke's resignation, referring to it as an "internal personnel matter."

"What I'd like to do is talk to you on Monday," the library director said when questioned further about library finances. "It's just not a very convenient time."

"And now if you'll excuse me, I really need to get back to my guests," the library director said, explaining that he had guests at his home. "It is Easter."

## Kottler writes

Continued from Page 3

was the first in the book on ethics," Kottler said. "It became a best seller in the field, and it was used all over the world. Since the publication of the book in 1977 there have been about a dozen, but that was the first."

The book covers such areas as the marketing of therapy, "whether it's appropriate to solicit business, and whether it's appropriate to turn someone away who doesn't have any money."

The book also covers such areas as dealing with incompetent colleagues and keeping personal and professional relationships separate.

"It's for practicing therapists," Kottler said. "It's a trade book and it's for psychiatrists, psychologists and social workers. Rather than telling people what to do, it focuses instead on making sound ethical decisions."

Kottler, who is 34, worked on the book while he was a graduate student. "In the eight years that have elapsed, it's different, how I think about things," he said.

The new edition contains some new sections, including one on family therapy; it also differs from the older edition in its treatment of certain theories.

"In 1977, behavior modification was still controversial. Now, in 1985, it's more accepted. We don't even have a chapter on that anymore, because it's so much a part of the mainstream."

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(USPS 187-840)

Published every Monday and Thursday by Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 30251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150. Second-class postage paid at Livonia, MI 48151. Address all mail (subscription, change of address, Form 3509) to P.O. Box 2428, Livonia, MI 48151. Telephone 591-0500.


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Newstand... per copy, 25¢  
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