

OCC, Farmington edge closer to library merger

Oakland Community College and officials from Farmington Hills and Farmington Monday came closer to reaching agreement on a complicated project to merge their two library systems.

The plan is to blend the OCC Orchard Ridge campus library with the larger of Farmington's two libraries.

As it stands now, Farmington

and Farmington Hills would pay for a new 90,000-square-foot building on the Orchard Ridge campus, assuming that property owners approve a new tax on themselves to pay for it.

Dan Jakson, OCC vice chancellor for planning and development, estimates the building would cost \$10 million to \$12 million.

Then the collections from both

existing libraries would be moved into the new library. All 25,000 OCC students would have access to the materials in the library, as would all Farmington and Farmington Hills residents.

It's a good idea, said college spokesman George Cartsonis, "but the devil is in the details."

And the details are legion. Farmington officials were all

ready to schedule a millage vote to pay for the new building, but the OCC board of trustees put the temporary kibosh on those plans last month, Cartsonis said.

Monday, officials agreed to start negotiating again. That was the result of a meeting which included Jakson, OCC Chancellor Patsy Fulton, mayors Jon Grant of Farmington Hills and Bill

Hartscock of Farmington, and city managers Robert Deandman of Farmington and Bill Costick of Farmington Hills.

The most contentious point is the location. OCC wants the library to be near the rest of the campus buildings where it's most convenient for students. Farmington wants it on the east side of the campus near Farmington Road where it's more convenient for city residents.

will interact, if at all. "There are ways to handle that, but it may require redundant equipment," Jakson said.

Furthermore, it's not certain how Farmington and OCC will keep track of who owns everything. "Don't ask me who's going to own what," Jakson said.

The big savings for OCC in this deal is that it doesn't have to pay for the new construction. The two Farmingtons make out because they don't have to buy property on which to build the library. The college and the cities prosper after the library is built because they share the operating costs.

Then there's the nightmare of the nets, book-sharing nets that is. OCC is in a system called Detroit Area Library Net that hooks up to hospitals, colleges and law libraries.

Farmington's two libraries are currently in the Wayne Oakland Library Federation net, but plan to join a new outfit called Metro Net in the next year. So if the merger goes through, officials have to figure out how these nets

Race relations groups offer community conference

The Birmingham-Bloomfield Task Force on Race Relations and Ethnic Diversity will join with Focus: HOPE and the Race Relations Council of Metropolitan Detroit to offer a community conference on racism 2-8 p.m. Monday at The Community House in Birmingham.

The afternoon session will focus on small group discussions of life situations involving racism. The discussion will be led by Gail Parrish of the Race Relations Council of Metropolitan Detroit; and Lila Cahill, a private consultant. Groups will share their plans of action for specific situations following the discussion.

Keynote speaker for the conference is the Rev. William T. Cunningham, executive director of Focus: HOPE, who will speak following the dinner at 6:30 p.m.

Cunningham founded Focus: HOPE in 1968 as an interracial movement of volunteers. Today the civil and human rights organization employs 450 people and involves 40,000 volunteers.

Registration for the conference is \$25 for adults and \$15 for students, including dinner. Registration forms are available at The Community House. For more information, please call Jan Bird at The Community House, 644-5832, or Shirley Bryant, conference chairwoman, at 258-3347.

The program will begin with the viewing of a "Prime Time Live" TV show segment, "True Colors," in which Diane Sawyer follows two college-educated men — one black, one white — as they move into a new community, seek housing and a job.

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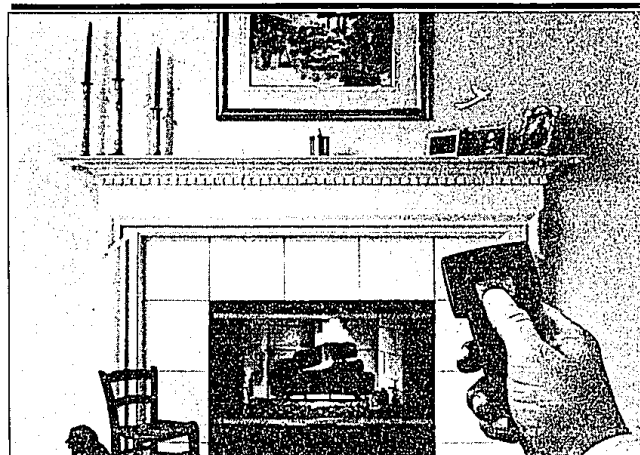
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