

Very familiar: John Barrett's varied jobs at Farmington High prepared him for his next position: school principal.



Barrett from page A1

ground. He has a passion for high school education. He cares. And he has inside knowledge of what Farmington High School is all about. Except for a 6-year stint as the district's K-12 curriculum coordinator, it's the only place he's worked.

"We've had a great administrative team here," said Barrett, stressing that he doesn't foresee any problems with the transi-

tion. "I think we see eye-to-eye on a great many things. I think there'll be continuity."

One of the most pressing challenges will be the upcoming bond issues construction projects. But Barrett said his duties as assistant principal included being closely involved with architects and contractors while the blueprint for those projects came together.

Consumers from page A1

consumer affairs believes such a committee could serve the community, but only if it is done properly. Those involved should be well-versed in consumer rights and laws, said Esther Shapiro of the Detroit Consumer Affairs Division.

"This is not something for amateurs," Shapiro said. If the committee intends to be an informational outlet, there are plenty of agencies that provide consumer updates, Shapiro said. She also suggests such a committee might consider using a hotline, newsletter and the media to inform residents.

Shapiro, who is leaving her position with the city of Detroit April 14, pledged her support to the Farmington Hills effort.

"I think every municipality

should have one of these groups and I'll do whatever I can to help," Shapiro said.

At least one member of the Hills committee will be from the police department, Vagnozzi said. Another might include a representative from the chamber of commerce.

While seniors served as inspiration for the committee, its work is not limited to older people, Vagnozzi said. Phone slamming, the act where unscrupulous long distance carriers switch service to their company without the customer's knowledge, is one devious business trend the committee would inform residents about.

"This phone (slamming) is hitting everyone," Vagnozzi said.

INKWELL

John Trummer, the son of Mr. and Mrs. John P. Trummer, Jr., of Farmington Hills, earned a Gold A, the Culver Academics' highest academic honor



reserved for those students earning a minimum semester grade point average of 3.7.

A freshman at Culver Military Academy in Culver, Ind., this is Trummer's first Gold A. Culver Military Academy is a boarding and day school for grades 9-12.

Library from page A1

1,000 visitors a day; the Farmington branch has around 500.

Both buildings have been cramped since the 1980s. People want more books, computer and compact discs and quiet space, according to an area survey.

"Those needs are still there and now they are even greater," said Bob Plummer, Farmington Library Board president during the Farmington Hills City Council meeting Monday.

Voters turned down previous library bond issues in 1989 and 1993. Library officials are optimistic, citing results of the ongoing community survey where 1,123 respondents said they'd support a bond issue. Another 580 - or 28 percent - are undecided while 392 said they wouldn't support a library millage.

Another factor is, unlike previous ballot proposals, this one doesn't involve moving the Farmington Hills library to a new site.

"We learned in 1989 and in 1993 that people like the location of our Farmington Hills library," said Bev Papal, Farmington Community Library director.

Instead, the library building on 12 Mile Road would see a 35,000-square-foot addition built on neighboring city-owned land

while the existing facility will be refurbished. The plan includes 214 new parking spaces to go along with 147 existing spots.

The Hills branch addition is expected to cost \$8.8 million while renovation is estimated at \$2.4 million. Another \$1.02 million will be spent refurbishing the Farmington branch.

Library officials have five months to sell the plan to voters.

A ballot proposal in August allows for construction to start sooner and avoid the November general election, which is expected to include a \$500 million state environmental bond issue. "We didn't want to go up against that," Plummer said.

In August, there will likely be a smaller voter turnout. That will allow library supporters to campaign more effectively, they said.

However, the SMART tax referendum for 3 mills is up for renewal in August and there may be a countywide tax question for emergency 911 services. Passage of the library bond issue is seen as an emergency, a library supporter said.

"If this keeps up and we can't expand, no matter how much money we raise for books and materials, we're not going to have any place to put the books or the shelves," said Judy Antishin, Friends of the Library board member.

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