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Second entrance OK'd for library



After tabling the issue in May, planning commissioners approved a site plan and a second driveway for the Farmington Hills library branch, targeted for improvements with the blessing of voters in 1998.

By LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER
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Farmington Hills Planning Commission didn't place another bookmark in an extended chapter for site plan approval.

Hills voters overwhelmingly passed an \$11.7 million bond issue to expand Farmington Hills Community Library in August 1998.

Upon a second look, commissioners unanimously OK'd site plans - including a troublesome second entrance - for the Farmington Hills library addition Thursday.

In May, planning commissioners tabled site plans after numerous questions arose, including a proposed west-

side driveway.

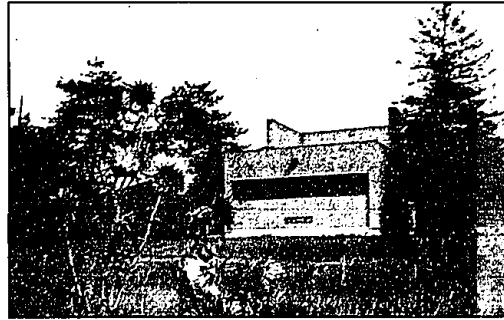
Construction of a new parking lot is expected to start in the spring of 2000 followed by the building addition in summer.

Another postponement would have knocked that timetable off course and wreaked havoc with an already tight budget, said Bob Plummer, Farmington Community Library board president. Construction costs are only going to increase as time passes, he added.

"We've already lost nearly one year in building time," Plummer said. "We're already hard pressed to meet the budget the voters approved."

Since the site plan review in May, architects paged the building height

Please see LIBRARY, A5



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRASLER

Approved: A second entrance would be built west of the Hills branch, which is scheduled for improvements.

1-276
CONSTRUCTION
NOTICE

Seven Mile ramp closes

Contractors were expected to close entrance and exit ramps this weekend for northbound I-275 at Seven Mile Road for reconstruction of the ramps.

The closure is expected to last approximately 10 days. Motorists can use Eight Mile Road and Six Mile Road exits as alternate routes.

Contractors also are paving new lanes of the northbound side freeway with the "interim" which paves three lanes simultaneously, and completing bridge deck work on the bridge overpasses.

The \$49 million project is expected to conclude this fall.

THE WEEK AHEAD

WEDNESDAY

On the bus: Elected officials in Farmington and Farmington Hills will march on Lansing to protect House Bill 4777, which they believe will negatively affect home rule.

THURSDAY

You're Invited: The Detroit Edison Citizens Committee will meet at 7 p.m. in the Hills Fire Department headquarters.

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Get a taste
of chamber
business expo

By RICHARD PEARL
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A fine business exposition that tastes great, too?

That's the 1999 Taste of Farmington & Business Expo, 5-9 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 28 at the William Costick Activities Center in Farmington.

But time is getting short for those restaurants and firms hoping to entice the public with their wares, says Carleigh Flaherty, executive director of the sponsoring Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce.

The deadline to register for booths in this unique forum - which is its fifth consecutive year of combining the tastefest with the business expo - is Friday, says Flaherty.

As of Tuesday, only four restaurant and 18 business booths remained for the event that is becoming increasingly popular both with business people and families.

"Where else can you take the family to

Please see EXPO, A5



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Diversity Sharing hopes for the future

By RICHARD PEARL
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When will there be a real smile on Rajbir Bedi's handsome, brown-skinned young face?

The day other students at Farmington High School realize he and his friends of various skin colors, races and nationalities are just as human as they are.

Bedi, a tall, well-spoken, turban-wearing follower of northern India's Sikh faith who is active in inter-cultural and interfaith activities in metro Detroit, told about 160 people of prejudice and ignorance he and his friends have encountered.

He was one of more than a dozen people, teenagers to seniors, community leaders and others, who shared views and hopes for the future Thursday night at the fifth annual kickoff meeting of the Farmington/Farmington Hills Multicultural/Multiracial Community Council.

Entitled "Many Faces: One Community," the program at the William Costick Activities Center on 11 Mile Road celebrated the two cities' efforts at bringing unity out of diversity.

Priscilla Brouillette, Farmington Public Schools board president, zeroed in on the width and breadth of the diversity when she noted there are 65 different languages spoken in the district.

Program participants besides Brouillette included the North Farmington High School marching band and choir; city council members Nancy Bates of the Hills and Joanne McShane of Farmington; Farmington Public Schools Superintendent Bob Maxfield and Farmington



STAFF PHOTO BY RICK SMITH

Leading: Channel 7 newscaster Mark Hayes led the discussion at Thursday's multicultural/multiracial rally.

city manager Frank Lauhoff. It was hosted by council co-chairpersons Karen Bolsen and Jim Hall.

The main feature, a discussion of "Coming Together to Celebrate Our Community's Diversity," was led by Mark

Please see DIVERSITY, A7

Salary request leads ballot

By LARRY O'CONNOR
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Farmington Hills officials are grappling with a tough task: How do you pique the interest of the electorate on a topic about as sexy as Olive Oil in a corset?

AMENDMENTS

On Nov. 2, Hills voters will decide on seven amendments to the city charter, which was written in 1973.

A majority suggest changes to reflect the times. Chief among them is Proposal A, which would increase salaries of council members from \$1,800 to \$5,000 annually and the mayor's pay from \$2,700 to \$7,000.

Then there are the others, which deal from managerial audits to percentages of signatures required for referendum petitions. City officials say they need to clearly explain proposed amendments to voters.

A fear is that the electorate tends to vote no on proposals that are confusing.

"On the referendums, I helped write them and I still don't understand some of them," said Council member Jon

Please see BALLOT, A5

Just a regular guy

By LARRY O'CONNOR
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Former Detroit Tiger pitcher Dan Petry wore an invisible turban and made a searing delivery to the Farmington Exchange Club.

The member of the 1984 Tiger World Champions imitated Johnny Carson's Carnie the Magnificent to tickle his audience at the Brass Pointe restaurant Wednesday.

With Exchange Club member Barry Melamed serving in the Ed McMahon role as foil, Petry held a hermetically sealed envelope to his temple and uttered the phrase "catch 22."

"What would the Tigers do if you hit 1,000 fly balls to them?" recited Petry upon opening the envelope.

Unassuming nature

Petry's routine sparked howls of laughter. If the "Tonight Show" humor didn't sway the audience, his unassuming manner and sincere expression of his love for the area did.

After retiring from baseball, Petry and his family settled in Farmington Hills and the former hurler now works as a sales representative.

He helped coach the North Farmington/West Bloomfield baseball Cobras to a world championship this summer.

Like many former Detroit athletes, the Palto Alto, Calif., native stayed here. Midwestern values made him feel grounded.

"I found it was a lot more down to



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRASLER

Hometown: Former pitcher Dan Petry calls the Farmington area home.

earth than in California where it's a more fast-paced, holiday atmosphere," he said. "I never felt closer to anything than playing with the Tigers."

Rank-and-file fan

He shares the passion of an everyday fan when talking about the team that drafted him as a 17-year-old in 1976.

Like most Tiger zealots, he cringed when news of Tiger Stadium's demise first broke.

"I said why? Yeah, it was a little dirty and it was a little cramped. The playing field was the finest I ever played on," said Petry, who added he's softened his stance since then and

Please see DAN, A5

Parent calls outdoor practice 'ridiculous'

By TIM SMITH
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The girls swim team at Farmington High School is practicing in an outdoor pool, to the chagrin of at least one parent.

"They're swimming outside in the icy cold water," lamented Carol Loe. Her daughter, Cathy, is a FHS sophomore and a member of the team.

Loe said her main bone of contention was that both North and Harrison's teams were able to practice in heated, indoor facilities - unlike the Falcons squad, coached by Jason Cavichiolli.

"He (Cavichiolli) has said he has a team of smurfs, because they're turning blue," Loe continued. "It's just ridiculous."

According to Loe, it is "unacceptable" for the team to practice outside when indoor pools are available.

"I don't care if they have to split their lanes with us," she said.

Athletic director Brian Swinehart said it was Cavichiolli's decision to have September practices held right after school at the private Beechview Swim Club instead of

■ 'He (coach Jason Cavichiolli) has said he has a team of smurfs, because they're turning blue. It's just ridiculous.'

Carol Loe
—Parent

6:30 p.m. at Harrison, when a time slot was available. The team practices about six times a week.

"Obviously, it's not an ideal situation," Swinehart. "But we had to do the best we could, given our circumstances."

Loe also said that the Beechview pool doesn't have starting blocks, which keeps swimmers from effectively practicing their dives.

"They don't have starting blocks," acknowledged Swinehart. "But Harrison doesn't, either."

Swinehart said the Falcons will practice at the swim club until October 1, after which they will share the swimming pool at Harrison.

He said the water is heated at 84 degrees Fahrenheit, and that the

Please see POOL, A5