

Expansion for Hills library stacks up for 2001

By JONI HUBBARD
Staff Writer
 hubbard@oe.homecom.net

A lot of campaign promises accompanied the 1998 bond election for an expansion of the Farmington Community Library's Hills branch.

Now, that officials have blueprints and are preparing to accept bids, Executive Director Bev Papai says she intends to see those promises kept. That's the easy part.

The tough part will be keeping the library running during the 18-month construction period.

"The library's intent is to be open as much as possible during construction," Papai said. "We'll be building a temporary entrance on the west side. I'm going to be as fascinated as everybody else to see how it all happens."

"The library's intent is to be open as much as possible during construction. We'll be building a temporary entrance on the west side. I'm going to be as fascinated as everybody else to see how it all happens."

BOND ISSUE

played a role in planning. The expansion will include a small meeting room on the second floor, complete with video conferencing capability.

In addition, some tables may be equipped with electrical and data transmission outlets, allowing people to bring in laptop computers and tap into the library's resource network.

Adult services will remain on the second floor and children's services on the lower level, Papai said. A translucent arch will provide a luminous canopy connecting the old building and the new.

While there won't exactly be a "groundbreaking," Papai expects construction of a new parking lot on the west side to begin in March or early April. The first set of bid documents for construction is expected to be available very soon and will also be posted on the library's Web site.

Actual construction will occur by the existing parking lot, and the main entrance will be shut down as well. Excavation should start in mid-summer.

"They tell me that the addition will be complete in December 2001," Papai said. "It's a huge building."

Beverly Papai
 —Library director

The 36,000-square-foot addition will nearly double the size of the building. The difficulty in adding on, Papai explained, is that the original concrete-over-steel-beam construction has the second floor cantilevered over the first.

When the need for more space first became an issue in the late 1980s, the difficulty of building on-site led planners to recommend a 90,000-square-foot facility, built at a new location. Papai said voters turned down requests for funding in 1989 and 1993.

With circulation and the need for space increasing, the cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills asked the library board to add on to the Hills branch. Everyone knew the challenges they would be facing.

"You can't just casually say, 'We'll just take off the roof and put another floor on top,'" Papai

said. "It doesn't work that way."

Based on studies completed by Bob Ziegelman of Luckenbach Ziegelman Architects, the city of Farmington Hills purchased two and a half acres to the west of the library, holding it in reserve until voters passed a bond proposal.

In 1998, Papai said, more than 71 percent of those who turned out at the polls approved the request for funding.

"We carried every precinct, both absentee and at the polls," she said. "I call it the mandate. It really does speak to the kind of support we have in the community."

Hills branch circulation numbers tell the tale even more clearly. When construction of a new library seemed possible in 1989, Papai said library officials predicted a circulation of about

700,000 items in their first year.

"Well, here it is, 10 years later and I still don't have an expanded library, and by June 30 we will hit the benchmark of one million items out in circulation," she commented.

In addition, a burgeoning interest in technology has led to more than 45,000 hits each month to the library's website, www.farmlib.org. Computers and other technological innovations will play a large part in the expansion.

Plans call for information commons areas, with banks of computers geared toward different age groups. A computer training center, with 20 PCs, will house classes in everything from Internet basics to finding business resources on the Web.

Papai said an increased use of the library by local businesses

HOW TO REACH US

Circulation Nightline.....734-963-2008
 Classified Advertising.....734-591-0900
 Display Advertising.....734-591-2300
 Home Delivery.....734-591-0300
 Newsroom FAX.....734-591-7279
 Newsroom.....734-963-2104
 O&E Online* www.observereccentric.com.....248-901-4718
 Photo Reprints**.....734-591-0500
 Reader Comment Line.....734-963-2040
 Sports Nightline.....734-963-2104

* OnLine — www.observereccentric.com — can be accessed with just about any communications software: PC or Macintosh. You are able to send and receive unlimited e-mail, access all features of the Internet, read electronic editions of the Farmington Observer and other Observer & Eccentric! Newspapers and chat with users across town or across the country.

** Photo orders must be for pictures that have been taken by our staff photographers. Please provide publication date, page number and description of the picture, which must have been published within the past six months. Prints are \$20 for the first print, \$7.50 for each additional print. Payment is in advance (check or credit card).

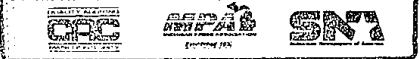
The Farmington Observer

A HomeTown Communications Network™ publication
 33411 Grand River, Farmington, MI 48335
 (On the southwest corner of Grand River and Farmington Rds.)

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

| CARRIER DELIVERY | MAIL DELIVERY |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| One year.....\$47.40 | One year.....\$55.00 |
| One year (Sr. Citizen).....\$38.00 | One year (Sr. Citizen).....\$44.00 |
| Newsstand.....75¢ per copy | One year (out of State).....\$90.00 |

Advertising published in the Farmington Observer is subject to the conditions stated on the applicable rate card, copies of which are available from the advertising department. The Farmington Observer, 33411 Grand River, Farmington, Michigan 48335, (248) 477-5450. The Farmington Observer reserves the right not to accept an advertiser's order. Observer & Eccentric! ad takes have no authority to bind this newspaper and only publication of an advertisement shall constitute that acceptance of the advertised order.



Ultimate Winter Sale

28 1/2 Cans of Corned Beef 89¢
 16 1/2 Cans of Corned Beef 135¢
 Month
 Any 24 1/2 Cans of Corned Beef 199.99¢
 Any 12 1/2 Cans of Corned Beef 115¢
 Month
 800-722-0466
 248-894-3209
 Visit us on the Web at www.sturdy-butt.com
 P.O. BOX 147 - EAST FREEDOM, PA 15627

FREE "LIVING TRUST" SEMINAR

"What You Ought to Know About Living Trusts"

(What you don't know could cost your family thousands of dollars!)

If you own a home... or you have assets worth at least \$100,000... you owe it to yourself—and your family—to get the facts on living trusts. If you think you're protected with a simple Will... think again... A Will guarantees that your estate will go through probate, which means that your family may not be able to take possession of your estate for many months, or even years!

Plus, if your estate is over \$75,000, your family may owe estate taxes which could amount to 37-55%.

This means that your family may have to sell some assets just to pay the estate taxes!

A living trust avoids all this by avoiding probate and minimizing estate taxes. Plus, a living trust will protect your estate if you become incapacitated during your lifetime by avoiding a conservatorship. This means that your estate will be managed as you see fit, not as a court-appointed guardian sees fit.

To find out more about the benefits of living trusts, attend one of these free seminars...

| FARMINGTON HILLS | STERLING HEIGHTS | NOVI | ROYAL OAK | LIVONIA | TROY |
|---|---|--|---|---|---|
| Tues., Feb. 15 10:00 - 11:30 am Coffee & Cookies Farmington Community Library 22737 W. Twelve Mile Road | Tues., Feb. 15 7:00 - 8:30 pm Coffee & Cookies Freedom Hill Main Building 15000 Metro Parkway | Wed., Feb. 16 7:00 - 8:30 pm Coffee & Cookies Novi Community Center 46175 W. Ten Mile Road | Wed., Feb. 16 7:00 - 8:30 pm Coffee & Cookies Royal Oak Women's Club 404 S. Pleasant Street | Thurs., Feb. 17 7:00 - 8:30 pm Coffee & Cookies Livonia Civic Center Library 32777 Five Mile Road | Thurs., Feb. 17 7:00 - 8:30 pm MCU Management Education Center 811 W. Square Lake Road |

Law Offices of Einheuser & Associates, P.C.
 Offices in: Royal Oak, Utica, Brighton and Taylor

The attorneys at Einheuser & Associates speak to area residents about living trusts and proper estate planning. They are members of the American Academy of Estate Planning Attorneys—and their seminars are informative & easy-to-understand!

Don't Delay - Call 800-884-5369 Now to reserve Your Seat or Register On-Line at www.EAestateplaw.com (24-Hour Seminar Reservation Line)

Regent Street of West Bloomfield

4460 Orchard Lake Road
 West Bloomfield, MI 48323

Studios and suites with private baths
 Three well planned daily meals
 Emergency call systems
 Housekeeping and linen services
 Round the clock staffing
 Licensed nurses 24 hours daily
 Personal care assistance
 Medical supervision
 Spa with pool and exercise room
 Scheduled activities
 Game room
 Library
 Hair salon
 Sundries shop
 Transportation
 Valet parking for residents
 Free cable TV

Studio Apartments from
\$265 per month - all inclusive

Assisted living, with catered services in beautiful surroundings created especially for older adults.

Includes all utilities with the exception of telephone
 Call Renee Mahler at 248.683.1010 for additional information and tours

Further reductions winter sale!

1/2 OFF

original prices on all winter fashions for men and women

KLEIN'S

LIVONIA •
 NEWBURGH PLAZA 37205 W. SIX MILE at NEWBURGH 734-591-8244

WEST BLOOMFIELD •
 WESTWIND VILLAGE 4779 HAGGERTY at PONTIAC TRAIL 248-869-1090

HOURS: MONDAY THRU FRIDAY 10-6 SATURDAY 10-5
 10% OFF AND CLEARANCE MERCHANDISE ONLY. SALES ONLY
 ITEM IN STOCK ONLY. HAVE BEEN TAKEN. NO ADJUSTMENTS TO PRIOR PURCHASES
 ALTERATIONS AT COST. BOWS, NO LAYERS. HURRY IN FOR BEST SELECTION
 SPRING 2000 GOLF AND CRUISEWEAR ARRIVING DAILY