

Court

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branches of government that serve both communities," he said.

The current court occupies a renovated school building on 10 Mile Road.

Farmington Hills Mayor Nancy Bates said, "This is a very significant and exciting day for us... The people's business needs to be done in a place of dignity," she said.

Bates said the current building operated in the "poorest of conditions."

Farmington Mayor Bill Hartscock described the project as, "A great example of the two communities working together in a very effective manner."

Hartscock said it is about 10 percent of the cost of the court, that city has had equal participation in the planning process.

Judge Marla E. Parker said the new building "provides a safe and efficient environment to administer justice."

One of the features of the new court building is a secured tunnel from the Farmington Hills Police Department to the court building.

"It will improve security and the movement of prisoners to court," said Farmington Hills

Police Chief Bill Dwyer. "It is going to streamline our operations, and save the time and cost of moving prisoners."

"The safety issues are an important concern to us," Harris said.

Plans also include rooms for consultations, conference rooms for mediation and rooms where a victim can be kept separately from an alleged perpetrator.

"It's very functional," Harris said.

Richard Cray, a part-time Court Security Officer, said, "It's going to be great."

He said the new court would provide metal detectors and central security cameras.

"That will be a considerable help to us and to everybody's sense of safety. It's a big improvement," Cray said.

Dave Walsh, 47th District Court Administrator, described the functionality of the new court design as "outstanding."

There is a large increase in the size of the file room, and it has a much more open area in the court clerk's area—it's much more customer friendly.

Dennis Phoney, a 47th District Court Magistrate for 16 years, is also pleased with the new building.

"At least we'll have decent

facilities to work with," he said. "It will give people more of a judicial feeling experience. It will be marvelous for judges and security."

The new court is expected to be completed in 17 months, and is expected to cost approximately \$12 million.



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BREWER
Celebrating: Judge Frederick Harris introduces retired Judge Margaret Schaeffer.



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BREWER

Diggin' It: Judge Frederick Harris, Carl Evangelista-Farmington Hills Building Authority, Farmington Mayor Bill Hartscock, Judge Marla Parker and Farmington Hills Mayor Nancy Bates make the ceremonial first shovel of earth during Friday morning's groundbreaking ceremony for the new 47th District Court building.

Fake

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Chapter of the Shakespeare Oxford Society, with members in the Farmington area, put up a display July 2 at the downtown branch of the Farmington Library which debunks Shakespeare as the author.

The controversy has been handed down through the years, though not everyone, including literature professors, is willing to acknowledge the theory.

Not mainstream

Marilyn Smith, manager of the downtown branch of the Farmington Community Library, said this isn't a mainstream philosophy, but through the years, others like Francis Bacon and Christopher Marlowe were also considered possible authors.

"I think of this as a literary display of interest to our patrons," Smith said. "There has long been wondering."

The library has material citing a variety of discussion, theories and speculation on the subject, she added.

In the summer the library doesn't have as many groups asking to use the display case, Smith said, and this group was

eager. The display will be up throughout the month of July.

Smith describes Dorothy Tarpinian, a Farmington Hills resident, as an avid library user. Tarpinian and Barbara Burris, an equally fervent society member, say there's no doubt in their minds de Vere penned the plays.

"It's a fraud," Tarpinian said. "We want to set the record straight," Burris added.

Reasons for doubt

Through research, the women can cite passages and characters which they say more closely resemble de Vere's life of privilege and contacts than Shakespeare's life.

They point to researchers who have asked questions like:

■ How could Shakespeare read the sources for his plays when they weren't published in English? There were no public libraries, and books were expensive and precious. Where did Shakespeare obtain an intimate knowledge of court life and behavior, of French, Italian, Latin and Greek literature, or aristocratic sports and pastimes,

which are all contained in the plays?

■ Who paid Shakespeare to write his plays? He retired a wealthy man. Would a common playwright be permitted in his plays to caricature some of the most powerful people in the land without being punished?

■ From a practical point of view, how did Shakespeare find the time to learn the acting trade, write plays after educating himself in the various subjects contained in them and run a grain business in Stratford, a four-day journey away?

Other views

Through the years, famous figures have presented their viewpoints and questions, considering the difference in background of the two men. Some said:

■ The life of Shakespeare is a fine mystery and I tremble every day lest something should turn up. — Charles Dickens

■ "Other admirable men have led lives in some sort of keeping with their thought, but this man was in wide contrast," — Ralph Waldo Emerson

■ "I no longer believe that William Shakespeare the actor from Stratford was the author of the works that have been ascribed to him." — Sigmund Freud

■ "If I had to rule on the evidence presented, it would be in favor of the Oxfordians." — Supreme Court Justice Harry A. Blackmun

For Tarpinian and Burris it all adds up to a conspiracy of silence and a hoax, in part, continued by the academic world which won't allow any departure from traditional discussion.

Scholarly discussion

Jill Armistead, a Tyndale Col-

lege professor who's taught Shakespearean classes for Tyndale College, said this was the first she heard about the de Vere theory. When she was a student, some presented a theory that Francis Bacon was the author.

She may include the theory in future classes. "I guess I will have to mention it if this group is meeting monthly."

Armistead said she isn't a scholar on the subject and encourages discussion with those who are. "It's debated as if it would matter somewhat," she said of the authentication.

Referring to her own Internet research, Armistead said though de Vere died in 1604, some of

Shakespeare's best works

weren't performed until after

1604. These include *King Lear* and *The Taming of the Shrew*.

"I'm a Stratford person," Armistead said. "I think he (Shakespeare) was a genius. Hamlet speaks to all of us."

Smith is considering putting a disclaimer on the display case

indicating the material presented should be considered a theory.

She is also willing to give equal space to others who may have other Shakespearean theories.

The Oberon Chapter of the

Shakespeare Oxford Society

meets at the Baldwin Library in

Birmingham. For information,

call (248) 548-4931.

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