

LIBRARY HAPPENINGS

Farmington Community Library offers the following events in October:

LONG TERM CARE

Rhonda Kotzen, MS,PT, will present a workshop to explain long-term care, protection of life savings, insurance, Medicaid, Medicare and more from 7-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 2, at the Farmington Branch. For reservations, please call 474-7770.

WHALES OF WORLD WAR II

Join local Navy veteran Robert Rogers as he recounts his experiences in World War II at 2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 14, at the Farmington Branch Library. Rogers, who was a part of the D-Day invasion landing at Utah Beach in June 1944, will present highlights from his book *Whales of WWII*, which focuses on the non-

gory aspects of war with pictures, maps and personal recollections. For more information or to register, call 474-7770.

THERE OUGHT TO BE A LAW

Learn about free resources on the Internet and in print to research legal questions, including references designed for the layman from 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 17, at the Farmington Hills Library.

BEYOND POINT AND CLICK

Volunteer instructor Michael Lewis conducts a computer discussion group focused on aspects of online issues and considerations for those who already have experienced some navigation of the Internet. Classes are at 2:30 or 7 p.m. Wednesdays at the Farmington Hills Library. Call 553-0300 to register.

GREAT BOOK DISCUSSION

Join the reading enthusiasts for a discussion of *Bhagavad-Gita* at 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 18, at the Farmington Hills Library.

POPULAR BOOK DISCUSSION

Join friends and neighbors for coffee and a discussion of *A Scott Berg's Lindbergh* at 10 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 4, at the Farmington Branch Library.

RESPONSIBLE BABYSITTING

Young adults, 10-17 years of age, can learn the ins and outs of working as a sitter from 7-8:30 p.m. Thursdays, Oct. 4, 11 and 18, at the Farmington Hills Library. A certificate is awarded to participants who complete: "Planning Babysitting/Emergency Situations," "Infant Care" and "Interacting with Children." Call 553-0300 or 474-7770 to register.

Sweet Dreamzzz seeks volunteers

Sweet Dreamzzz is seeking volunteers to kick off its annual project of helping inner city Detroit children have a good Christmas.

Sweet Dreamzzz is at 31691 Grand River, west of Orchard Lake Road.

It's a nonprofit organization

formed by a group of Farmington Hills women to provide children from six Detroit elementary schools with Christmas presents.

The presents include everything for a good night's sleep, hence, the organization's name. Each child will receive a sleeping bag, toothpaste, toothbrush,

book, hat, mittens and stuffed animal. Gifts are collected in fall and distributed during parties at the schools held in December.

For more information, call Sweet Dreamzzz at (248) 478-3242.

Bus stop from page A1

The stop at Strathmore and Kennedy was in place for nine years, before being moved to bus 13 Mile Road at the start of this school year. District officials want all bus stops to be on main roads. In the early 1990s, most secondary bus stops were moved.

Because school children also witnessed the scene in 1992, the school district moved the bus stop into the subdivision. Farmington Hills Police Lt. Gary Howald said the 16-year-old female driver of a Jeep made a left turn onto Strathmore and struck the motorcyclist. The report included statements from 12 children ages 10-13 and another 16-year-old.

But that was more than eight years ago.

"We're not dealing with the same kids," said Cheryl Cannon, director of business, finance and operations.

The transportation department is concerned about visibility within the subdivision. "We have to have a clear view of the bus," Cannon said. Traffic accidents are not a criteria, she said.

Greenberg and several of her neighbors, including Debbie Callan, Patty Marshall and Rhonda Katz, have safety concerns. "Until you get up to 13 and Strathmore, there is such a blind spot," Greenberg said. "You have to get all the way up to the intersection to see if anybody is coming up the hill."

They were surprised when they received notice of the bus stop change after school ended last summer.

"We reviewed all of our secondary bus stops last year to make sure they were in compliance with our policy," Cannon said. "We're trying to administer this policy fairly."

A matter of policy

The policy allows a change to be made if there are extraordinary circumstances or health reasons. There's a need for consistency throughout the district, Cannon said. "Whether they agree with the policy or not has nothing to do with it."

Most bus stop changes that followed appeals hearings last year were at the elementary level, Cannon said. "About three or four stops were changed last year out of 10 to 12 hearings," she said.

She calls the five-year-old appeal process effective. "The whole idea is to have two of your peers and two principals."

Bob Kovar, assistant principal of Power Middle School and member of the appeals committee, studied the 13 Mile and Strathmore case. Though good points were raised, he said, they weren't enough.

"I kept looking for something compelling and I couldn't find it," Kovar said. "I kept looking for a compelling fact issue. They didn't present a special circumstance. I thought it was a fair hearing."

Cannon said in addition to staff members, the district asks parents who are active in the school district to serve on the appeals committees. "We try to schedule the hearings later in the afternoon, and it is possible to set up a conference call on the speaker phone," she said.

As for criticism that children will be standing in the street on 13 Mile, Cannon said they were standing in the street at Strathmore and Kennedy, the previous location, because there are no sidewalks.

The subdivision parents also see inequality because middle school parochial students are picked up within the subdivi-

sion. All students in kindergarten through fifth grade are picked up inside subdivisions, Cannon said. It wouldn't make sense to pick up the older parochial children, going to the same school, on a different bus, she said.

The district has about 990 morning and afternoon bus stops for secondary pickups.

Val Costello, one of the parents on the advisory committee who heard this case, felt the decision was already made when she walked in.

"When I left, I was angry," Costello said. "It was time out of my day. I thought it was worthless. I will never serve again. It was a charade."

Greenberg agreed: "They wasted our time."

"It was a sham," Callan said. "The rigidity offends me so. If you are going to take my time and say there is due process, then there should be due process."

Sue Bremer, a parent who sat on an appeals committee four times, didn't find fault with the process and said she relies on the district's written policy to make decisions. "I have my manual and that's what I go by," Bremer said.

Parents feel that manual isn't enough to protect students.

"Where in the school policy does it say safety for kids?" Marshall asked.

Parents also spoke with Farmington School Board Member Priscilla Brouillette, someone they say they know and like. Brouillette said she both drove through the area and spoke with Bill Toussley, the transportation director. "It's not a valid complaint," Brouillette said. "I looked at it and it is safe. It's an emotional thing."

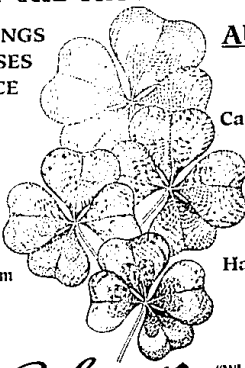
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