

# State revenue cuts affect Farmington, Hills budgets

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"It all rolls downhill, and we're the last stop on the food chain."

That's how Farmington City Manager Frank Lauhoff describes huge cuts in state revenue sharing, which will impact the budgeting process for his city and in Farmington Hills.

The federal government balances its budget on the back of state government and state government turns to local governments when funds dwindle, Lauhoff said.

The State of Michigan distributes a portion of sales tax revenues to cities, townships, villages and counties six times a year, based on a formula that includes population and overall tax base. This year's economic slow-down has, naturally, reduced those revenues.

In Farmington, state aid will be \$140,000 less than projected. In the Hills, \$9 million in state revenues will drop to \$8.1 million.

"We budgeted pretty conservatively," said Hills City Manager Steve Brock, "but it's even lower than that."

He doesn't expect any resulting budget cuts to cause a great deal of pain. Brock said officials will likely end up trimming about \$100,000. They may delay purchase of a vehicle or ask every department to come up with a small spending cut.

"It depends on what the revenue side does in other places," he added.

Lauhoff said the \$140,000 figure is just the latest in a series of projections he's seen. "It makes it almost impossible to determine where we're going to be at the end of the year. We'll have to wait and see."

# Programs from page A1

While the library offered scheduled learning activities for preschoolers in the past, the new Smart Start program will be a way for a parent to help the child improve his or her reading skills whenever they visit the library.

"It institutes a key role the library needs to play - getting kids' reading readiness skills developed," said Papai.

Learning Activity Center programs consist of a thematic storytime and hands-on learning stations. The stations are designed to be developmentally appropriate for specific ages.

In these programs, parent and child work together, reinforcing the library's belief that the parent is the child's best teacher, Papai said.

The director visited the Minnesota's Children's Museum and the Center of Science and Industry in Ohio to get some ideas for the permanent learning center.

"It was very interactive," she said of what she discovered. "We looked at what they were doing to help children learn."

Besides the new permanent learning centers, the library is planning plenty of improvements for adults and young people.

The library's existing 38,000 square feet - built in 1972 - will be enhanced by the addition of 34,000 square feet.

"We're redefining all the space," said Papai. That means the old section will be upgraded as well.

Voters in August 1998 approved a .6-mill tax increase for the library expansion. The nearly \$2 million a year proceeds will be split between construction costs and operating expenses.

Among the highlights planned when all the dust settles:

- A larger reference area.
- Study areas wired for laptop computer users to connect to the Internet.
- A new media room that will hold 300 people.

- A video conference center for 10 people.
- A skylight walkway that will connect the old library with the addition.
- An information commons with 24 computers.
- A computer training center with 20 computers.
- A business collection with five computers.
- A fireplace with artistic tiling set by artist John Glick.
- A public lounge.
- A drive-thru drop off window.
- A Farmington history room will be added and a part-time archivist will put the collection in order.
- "We have a huge number of photos and data that can't be

# Library from page A1

The money raised will be used to fund the Smart Start area in the Children's Department. It is planned as an area for preschool children to learn reading readiness skills. In direct response to patrons' requests, the children's area will expand by more than 5,000 square feet.

Forms will be available soon to fill out the tile inscriptions. Each line on the tile will be up to 18 characters. One line costs \$100; two lines, \$125; three lines, \$150.

Call the library at (248) 848-4301 for more information.

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**MORE ON BEING STIFF**

I have discussed stiffness previously. I noted that morning stiffness in rheumatoid arthritis occurs because the joints need increased rest, and do so by restricting movement at night. The results are an inability to move freely in the morning; most affected are the hands and feet.

Other columns have considered the stiffness of polymyalgia rheumatica. In such instances, the problem resides in the shoulders and thighs; movement is difficult almost anywhere in the body.

This column will focus on the stiffness you feel when you first arise after sleeping for a time, as short as 20 minutes or as long as an hour or more. You find starting motion is difficult, and your initial steps are unsteady, slow and awkward. You move in half bent over postures.

What is happening is that the tendons in your legs, mainly the quadriceps and hamstring muscles, are unable to respond to the sudden command to contract. The reasons are twofold: 1) while sitting you have not moved in your chair, and 2) your leg muscles are not able to respond with a smooth coordinated contraction. You are not developing arthritis. Rather, you are showing evidence of incomplete physical conditioning.

As we grow older, we limit our physical activity and conditioning to an extent we do not realize. Sitting in the chair without moving is a way to gain extra rest that we need because our stamina is not at a proper level. The difficulty with initial steps reflects the same lack of conditioning.

When you experience stiffness getting up from a chair, don't bring the problem to the doctor's office, take it to a gym.

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