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."

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.

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 government turns to local governments when funds dwindle, Lauboff said.

The State of Michigan distributes a portion of sales tax revenues to cities, townships, willages 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

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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 Stove 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.

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

Programs from page A1

While the library offered scheduled learning activities for preschoolers in the past, the new Smart Start program will be 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 hill 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 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 conters, 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.

the old section will be upgraced as well.

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

Among the highlights planned then all the dust settles:

A larger reference area.

Study areas wired for le outer users to connect to the

A new media room that will

A video conference center for

D people.

A skylight walkway that will onnect 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 win-

dow.

A Farmington history room
will be added and a part-time
archivist will put the collection
in order.

in order.
"We have a huge number of photos and data that can't be

replaced," said Papai, adding the room will be called the Heritage Collection. "It will be a combination of genealegical and historical information."

The director said one-third of the room will be dedicated to documents that need to be preserved in a climate-centrolled setting.

Other highlights of the new library focus on the artistic, including sethed glass walls, stained glass in the children's area and a 30-by-60-feet woodlands scene embossed in cast aluminum to be set up behind the new circulation desk. The scene was captured at the Woodland Hills nature park in Farmington Hills.

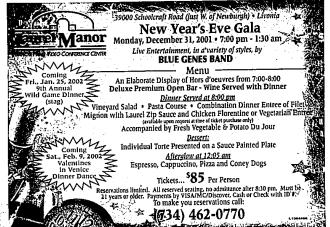
Library from page A1

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 the Chiefers's Department. It is planned as an area for preschool children to learn reading readi-ness skills. In direct response to patrons' requests, the children's area will expand by more than 5,000 square feet.

Generations

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.





Dr. Eric M. Schiffer

announces the relocation of his new office.

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