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TASTE, PAGE B7



THURSDAY  
July 28, 2005

# FARMINGTON Observer

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## Rec tax idea tees off council

BY PAUL R. PACE  
STAFF WRITER

State legislators are considering eliminating tax exemptions for golf courses owned by local governments.

For Farmington Hills, which recently opened all 18 holes of its newly redesigned Farmington Hills Golf Course, the idea is making city leaders hopping mad.

Hills Assistant City Manager Teri Arbenowske informed the city council this week that a working committee to devise ways to make up a \$100 million shortfall in the state budget are thinking of going beyond taxing municipal golf courses — they're even considering taxing other services that municipalities

provide. For example, program fees at the Costick Activities Center would be taxed. Legislators are considering the action as a way to make up for a proposed \$100 million cut in the state's single business tax.

The idea is being considered at this point by the House Tax Policy Committee, which includes Rep. Paul Condino, (D-Southfield) and Rep. Fulton Sheen, (R-Plainwell).

The Michigan Municipal League recently testified its opposition to any proposal that would tax public entities for providing recreational activities to their residents, said Arbenowske.

Farmington Hills Councilman Jerry Ellis said expecting residents to pay a sales tax to use their own facility is "ridiculous."

Farmington Hills Mayor Vicki Barnett said

residents already paid to have public recreation facilities built and shouldn't be taxed again to use them. The proposed tax would be added to the user fees.

Barnett asked Arbenowske to draft a formal resolution, stating the council's opposition to any bill that would tax city recreation services.

Barnett said she encourages residents to contact their state legislators to voice their opposition to the idea as well.

State Rep. Aldo Vagnozzi (D-Farmington Hills) said he would oppose any bill that taxes city-run golf courses.

"Hopefully, we'll come up with a better way to generate revenue," he said.

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## Film fest plot changes in encore year

BY SUE BUCK  
STAFF WRITER

The encore of Farmington's first film festival will change direction this year to fill more seats at the city-owned Civic Theatre.

The Farmington Funny Film Festival made its debut last fall and received mixed reviews. The festival largely featured independent films, which did not attract many families in the community.

This year, the festival has taken a new name and a new twist. The Farmington Family Film Festival will light up the historic Civic Theatre screen Nov. 5-6.

Also new this year, the film fest organizers want to hear from you. A survey, which continues through the end of July, asks which films should be featured during the festival.

So far, the leading vote-getter in the special survey is *Shrek* with 4.9 percent. A close second is *Star Wars* with 4.6 percent.

*Finding Nemo*, *Harry Potter* and *Willy Wonka*, are among the top five choices.

The results are based on entries received between July 14 and July 25. More than 250 people participated in the survey and offered almost 600 movie suggestions.

Ron Baker, who works for Marketing Communication Counsel, Inc., and Assistant Farmington City Manager Bill Richards, as members of the Civic Theatre Committee, also polled people in front of the theater during the recent Farmington Area Founders Festival.

"With the great response we have gotten from the surveys, we will be able to give the community something that they can genuinely enjoy," said Vince Pastue, Farmington city manager. "That's why it was important for us to get our residents involved."

The city hopes to attract more people to the festival.

In return for taking part in the survey, participants receive two complimentary passes to the Civic Theatre.

In the meantime, Scott Lesnek, assistant account executive at Marketing Communication Counsel, Inc., will work to develop a film schedule.

"I am trying to gauge when we show which film," Lesnek said. "We will probably show Disney in the morning and live action in the evening."

Movie lengths will also be taken into consideration when developing the schedule.

The committee expects to show about 20 films during the two-day festival. Ticket prices for each film will be the Civic regular price of \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for children.

### SURVEY SAYS

Baker found it interesting that people in the age range of 31-40 and 51-60 listed animation and Disney films as their first choice, just like children who were 12 years old and younger.

People who were ages 13-30 and 41-50 best liked Pixar/Dreamworks films such as *Shrek*, *Toy Story*, and *Monsters, Inc.*

Seniors over-60 preferred live action and romantic comedy.

The committee's research shows that within a 10-mile radius, there are 383,840 people and 152,631 households, 33 percent of which have children living at home.

### SPEAK UP

The surveys will be available through the end of July. One entry per person will be accepted.

Local residents may still submit their favorite film titles on-line at [www.farmingtonfilmfest.net](http://www.farmingtonfilmfest.net).

For more information about the festival, in general, call Baker at (248) 615-6480.

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## Skip turns the page

Books Abound  
owner to close  
store, focus on  
music

BY SUE BUCK  
STAFF WRITER

Even as Skip Rosenthal announced he's closing his book store, Books Abound, a door sign promotes the latest Harry Potter book is available at a discount.

Catering to the needs of every reader has been Rosenthal's livelihood for almost 20 years and that hasn't changed because he is ending a career.

His decision was carefully considered. "This is the right time to make a change," Rosenthal said.

His book store, located at 33336 Grand River, has been a mainstay next to the Civic Theatre.

Rosenthal wants to sell everything at a discount by Aug. 31. He then will decide whether to sell or lease the building. The book sale starts Aug. 1.

"I want to sell everything but I think that I want to keep my collection of



JERRY ZOLYNSKY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Skip Rosenthal, of Farmington, entertains parade watchers with his banjo during this year's Farmington Area Founders Festival. He'll close his downtown book store, Books Abound, on Aug. 31.

PLEASE SEE SKIP, A3

## Local history is just a click away

BY PAUL R. PACE  
STAFF WRITER

In a March 1939 edition of the *Farmington Enterprise*, the front page contains stories about the proposed widening of Grand River Avenue, how taxi service is finally coming to the area, and that a Farmington man recently purchased a Guernsey bull.

How times change. For fans of local history or those interested in genealogy, there's an exciting new feature offered by the Farmington Community Library and its Web site: [www.farmlib.org](http://www.farmlib.org).

If you have an Internet connection, you can read local newspapers published as

far back as 1888, said Gerald Furi, assistant director of the Farmington Community Library.

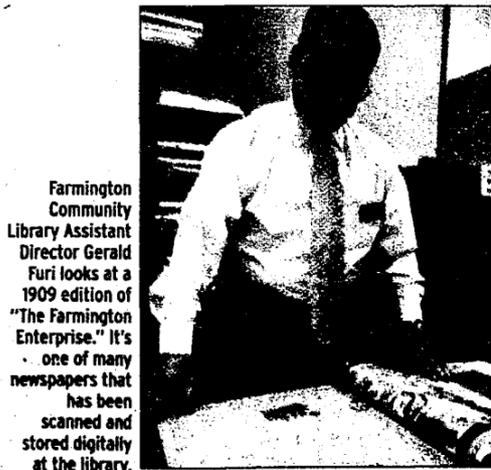
That's a lot of news. In fact, it's 512,000 pages of local news.

The newspapers can be found under the "Heritage Collection" on the main page of the library's Web site.

Local historian Brian Golden said an electronic collection of local newspapers is a fantastic concept.

"These things were not available before," he said. "If I wanted to research something, I had to go to the library, but this makes it more efficient to do my job as a researcher. It's much better."

PLEASE SEE HISTORY, A3



TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Farmington Community Library Assistant Director Gerald Furi looks at a 1909 edition of "The Farmington Enterprise." It's one of many newspapers that has been scanned and stored digitally at the library.

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Volume 118  
Number 90



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on the PINK Page



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