

Council approves downtown Center for the Arts and Theater

BY JENNIFER S. McDONALD
C & G STAFF WRITER

ROCHESTER — The Rochester City Council gave its blessing Sept. 11 for the possible creation of a Center for the Arts and Theater downtown.

Pat Botkin, a member of Rochester's Legacy Steering Committee, said plans

are in the works for a nonprofit cultural/art center that could possibly become the core of the Rochester community.

"The center would be an integral part of downtown Rochester," Botkin said. "It would support the merchants already there, and you would have a flow

of people all during the day and in the evening."

Committee members are eyeing a three-acre parcel at Third and Water streets, which may encompass the campus-style facility, Botkin said.

"We have a land owner who is
See CENTER on page 11A

Rochester stabbing case heads to circuit court

Suspect waives preliminary examination

BY JENNIFER S. McDONALD
C & G STAFF WRITER

ROCHESTER — An 18-year-old Rochester Hills woman is headed to trial in Oakland County Circuit Court after allegedly stabbing an Oakland

Center

from page 3A

extremely supportive of the project," Botkin said. "We have joined the Nonprofit Centers Network and we have the support of the Downtown Development Authority."

The center would become a new home for the Paint Creek Center for the Arts and the Center for Human Services Organizations, and could serve as an incubator for fledging businesses.

"(The Paint Creek Center for the Arts) doesn't have enough classrooms or gallery space, and they have foundation problems," Botkin said. "They are in desperate need of a new home. We felt the vision is right and the time is right,

a group to move this project forward."

Planning for the project started in mid-July. Members of the 12 person volunteer committee put together proposals, assessments and fundraising ideas, Botkin said.

Even though there are no figures yet to discuss, Botkin said a similar center, which was built in 2004 in Canton, cost \$11.5 million, and the township funded \$4 million of that.

Council members gave their full support, voting 7-0 to allow Rochester City Manager Ken Johnson to serve as a resource for project.

"I've been the city manager for a long time. I'm very familiar with the financial workings within the city," Johnson said. "The Steering Committee wants to consider

can invite me to whatever meeting they would like and I'll show up to offer anything I can."

Councilman Jeffrey Cuthbertson enthusiastically gave his approval.

"This is something that has been discussed for the better part of a decade," Cuthbertson said. "I'm thrilled a group has finally put together a plan and gained momentum to put together this project."

Councilman Thomas Werth agreed.

"This may be one of the most important projects for Rochester since I've been here," Werth said. "It's beneficial to the city, not only in finances, but in cultural aspects. That's what makes a city so unique."

You can reach Jennifer McDon-

ROCHESTER POST, September 14, 2006 - 11A

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STERLING HEIGHTS — The man police suspect of shooting and killing a 7-Eleven store clerk will likely be arraigned on murder charges this week after U.S. Marshals captured him in Racine,

New arts center in talking stages

BY ANNETTE KINGSBURY
STAFF WRITER

Saying that "the vision is right and the time is right," Pat Botkin presented a vision for a nonprofit downtown center for the arts to Rochester City Council Monday.

Botkin, managing director for The Private Bank and chair of The Legacy Committee, provided the council with a rendering of what the facility could look like at the proposed location, a three-acre vacant site at the northeast corner of Third and Water streets next to the Western Knitting Mills building. She said the landowner is "extremely supportive of the project" and the Downtown Development Authority has verbally committed to building a deck on a nearby parking lot if the art center goes forward.

"This is not unique. There are over 200 successful models and we are in the process of contacting many of them," Botkin said. "We are really in the fact-finding stage."

Botkin said the steering committee has formed four committees to look into various components; such as financing, land acquisition, building feasibility and lining up organizations that would use the building. The 12-member steering committee includes Rochester Councilwoman Karen Lewis; Peggy Hamilton, executive director of the Community Foundation of Greater Rochester; businessman Bill Potere; Downtown Development Authority Chairman Marty Sibert; Boyd Farnam, chairman of the Paint Creek Center for the Arts executive board; Sheri Heiney, executive director of the Rochester Regional Chamber of Commerce; builder Frank Rewold; architect Peter Stuhlfreyer; John Foveñesi; Ed Golick; and Tom Mines.

The facility is expected to house the Paint Creek Center for the Arts, a small performing-arts theater, gallery space and offices for local nonprofit organizations.

"This center, based on its location, could be an integral part of downtown Rochester, supporting the businesses that are already there," Botkin said.

She sought, and the council unanimously approved, the appointment of Rochester City Manager Ken Johnson as a consultant to the steering committee.

"What else do you need from us?" asked Councilman Jeff Cuthbertson. "This is fantastic."

"There will be a lot and I'm sure a lot of it will be financial," Botkin replied. "But right now I don't have anything concrete. ..."

"It will have to be a collaboration of everyone in the area. And I think it is a doable project."

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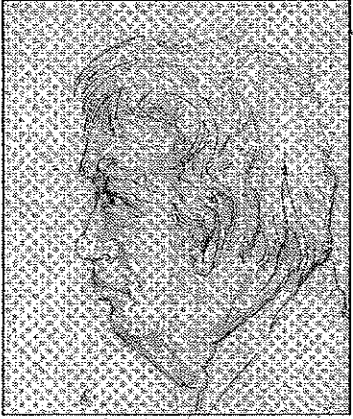
arching band during Wednesday's Senior Day picnic at Bloomer Park in Rochester Hills. For a see page A3.

Police seek bandit who robbed bank twice

BY ANNETTE KINGSBURY
STAFF WRITER

Sheriff's deputies were meeting with an FBI Thursday afternoon, talking about Monday's Rochester Hills bank robbery, when they learned the same bank had just been robbed again.

"The call came out and my first thought was the watch made a mistake," said Lt. Ray White. The National City Bank branch on Rochester just north of Hamlin was robbed at gunpoint Thursday at about 2:55 p.m. and Tuesday at 3:15 p.m., three years to the day after it had previously been robbed. Based on what employees told them, police believe the same man committed all three robberies. "We have a few people we're looking at but no



A witness helped police with this sketch of the man who is believed to have robbed the same National City Bank branch in Rochester Hills twice last week.

PLEASE SEE BANK, A6



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New Community Foundation funds focus on 'Legacy' plans

Have you heard the buzz about an exciting new opportunity for downtown Rochester or read some tantalizingly short articles mentioning something called "The Legacy Project?" Want to know more?

The project was born out of the Rochester Regional Chamber of Commerce's Leadership Greater Rochester program. In 2006, Leadership class participants decided to undertake a class project that would provide a lasting benefit to the Greater Rochester area.

The timing was perfect for such a project because several different events that impact our community converged: Rochester had just been named the 39th best community in the whole country and our people were naturally excited.

In late 2005, Neighborhood House had convened a "Community Concerns" meeting to draw attention to unmet local

human service demands which would potentially exacerbated by the downturn in Michigan's economy. Paint Creek Center for the Arts and the Rochester Avon Recreation Authority were discussing plans for new facilities to better serve the thousands of users in their programs. Finally, the idea of a community theater had been percolating for quite some time.

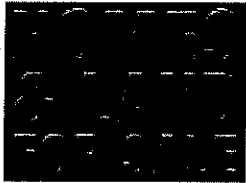
The Leadership class project recognized the power of combining all of these individual needs and began looking for one solution. "The Legacy Project" -- a multi-use cultural center was soon born. In addition to the actual facility, the goal of the project is to enable participating organizations to return their focus to their primary missions while benefiting from shared facilities and interactive synergies with other relevant organizations.

The Community Foundation of Greater Rochester is playing a central role in this drama with the creation of two new funds. A Non-Endowed Fund will be used to acquire the land and finance the construction of the facility. The Legacy Project Endowed Fund will provide funds for ongoing maintenance of the center.



Tom Mines

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It is worth noting that participating non-profits will be tenants of the facility but will not lose their organizational identities. Each will continue as independent organizations carrying out their unique missions.

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To launch this new project, the Legacy Project sought out the help of Rochester-area service clubs. Rochester has often been the beneficiary of the clubs' long tradition of improving our quality of life through community service. The Kiwanis Pavilion, The Lions Shelter and Rotary Gateway Park are often the location for community activities and are just three visible symbols of that past service.

But it has been some time since multiple service clubs came together in a common pursuit. The Legacy Project presents just such an opportunity. Rochester Rotary, Rochester Kiwanis, the Rochester Regional Chamber of Commerce joined the Community Foundation in establishing the Non-Endowed Construction Fund with recent contributions. Other non-profit members of CORE are currently considering what their role will be in this effort.

To be successful, The Legacy Project must be a broad-based opportunity of the people, for the people and by the people of the greater Rochester area. There's no need for Rochester to settle for 39th. Our eyes are fixed on being No. 1 -- the best place to live in the whole United States.

Tom Mines, a Rochester resident and Realtor with Century 21 Sakmar, is a graduate of Leadership Greater Rochester and a member of the Community Foundation's Board of Trustees.

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Originally published January 7, 2007



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Downtown art center plans moving forward

BY ANNETTE KINGSBURY
STAFF WRITER

The Rochester Downtown Development Authority is negotiating to purchase property on Water Street at Third for the future home of a multipurpose art center.

The DDA is negotiating on behalf of a steering committee that is in the process of seeking nonprofit status, said Pat Botkin of The PrivateBank, who chairs the committee. The property, a vacant parcel located just south of the Western Knitting Mills building, is owned by a group that includes local developer/builder Roy Rewold, Botkin said.

Last year, the committee unveiled a vision of a multiple-use, nonprofit center for the arts in downtown Rochester. Since then, the group has been looking for funding for the facility, which is expected to be a public-private partnership. Early plans call for a theater for live performances, an art gallery and offices for local nonprofit organizations. The building is expected to

include a new home for Paint Creek Center for the Arts, which is currently housed in a 19th century building on Pine Street. The DDA has already agreed to provide parking at an existing lot on Third Street if the center becomes a reality.

An art center was proposed more than a decade ago for the then-vacant knitting mills building, which today includes a restaurant and office space. Supporters are now focusing on the lot next door.

Botkin said both a non-endowed and an endowed fund have been established with the Community Foundation of Greater Rochester, and tax-deductible donations have come in to both funds. She said getting the property under control was crucial, so the DDA is negotiating on behalf of the committee while its own nonprofit status is being sought.

"We wanted to move forward on this because we thought it was important,"

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she said.

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One avenue of grant funding being pursued is the state's Greenways Initiative.

"Part of our overall plan will be to extend the pocket park that is behind the mill south along the creek," Botkin said. "This project will tie in the various communities -- Rochester, Rochester Hills and Oakland Township -- all along the pathway."

But in order to qualify, "We need a legal entity," she said. "Obviously this has to be our first step and we are pursuing that as soon as possible." Other grants also are being researched.

At some point there will be a presentation on the art center, which has thus far progressed quietly and with a minimum of publicity -- by design.

"We hope to have some public forum," Botkin said. "We think the majority of our fund-raising will come from private donations."

John Anderson, executive director of the Rochester Avon Recreation Authority, has attended a few steering committee meetings. He said RARA could become a tenant of the new facility and he was invited by the committee to participate in its discussions.

"I think they have some people that are going to make it happen," he said. "I think the concept looks good. It's going to be a plus for the community; it's going to be a beehive of activity. They're looking to make it more than simply a theater venue. They're looking at tying in community to it."


Though discussions are still in the early stages, Anderson said the committee is looking to philanthropy, not taxpayers, to fund the project.

Botkin said interest among the participants remains high and the committee isn't in any hurry.

"There seems to be a great deal of enthusiasm," she said. "We just want to make sure we don't want to hasten into something. We want to do it correctly."

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Feasibility study planned for downtown Rochester art center

By Annette Kingsbury
Staff Writer

The city of Rochester has agreed to pay for the first portion of a study to determine the feasibility of a proposed downtown arts center.

City council agreed to spend \$30,000 for the first phase and up to a total of \$50,000 toward the estimated \$100,000 price tag of the two-phase study. Earlier this month, council agreed to reserve \$250,000 toward a challenge grant for the project. The Rochester Downtown Development Authority is negotiating for property for the center.

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"What we've decided as we've gotten to this stage and before we ask the DDA to go forward ... is we really need to do a professional feasibility study," said Pat Botkin, acting chair of the Legacy Committee, which is studying and raising funds for a multi-use, multi-tenant art center at Water and Third Street.

"All of us have a gut feeling for what we feel

the answers should be, but we need an expert to come in," Botkin said. "As much as we might want this, it has to be based on some specific data."

Botkin said \$10,000 has already been raised and donations are being accepted by the Community Foundation of Greater Rochester while the Legacy Committee works on acquiring nonprofit status.

Phase one of the study will shape the size of the theater and include a needs assessment, demographics, cultural analysis, potential partners and goals.

If the conclusion reached is a positive one, the study will advance to the second phase, which will identify comparable projects, suggest governance for the building, identify staffing requirements, project rents and user fees and an operating budget, as well as potential economic impact and fund-raising strategies.

"This is a very detailed study but it gives us the type of information we need

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to move forward,” Botkin said.


Council members, who have expressed strong support for the project, agreed that the study is an important next step. In the end, they were only divided on how much money to commit, with a 4-3 vote favoring the \$50,000 ceiling instead of a \$30,000 commitment.

Mayor Stuart Bikson said it's now time for private donors to step up forward.

“The city and the DDA have shown tremendous support, tremendous psychological support,” he said. “I'd frankly like to see some private support, because the government's done a lot.”


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OAKLAND COUNTY

City envisions multiuse theater, center downtown

By LAURIE PUSCAS
Special to The Oakland Press

A multiuse performing arts theatre and center is envisioned for downtown Rochester.

"The Legacy Project could incorporate classrooms, art studios, dance studios, a theatre and gallery area as well as

ROCHESTER

a centralized location for nonprofit offices," said Pat Botkin, chairwoman of the Legacy Project and managing director of The Private Bank in Rochester.

"A lot isn't concrete," she said. "We have visions for concerts, a town hall series and even a fine-arts festival."

It could become home to the Rochester Symphony and the Avon Players theatrical company, Botkin said. The Rochester Avon Recreational Authority and dance companies in the area would have a place to have their dance recitals.

Conceptual planning of the Legacy Project is under way. The proposed location at the northeast corner of Water Street and East Third Street was identified in the East Side Design Study.

"It is an ideal location," Botkin said. "The Downtown Development Authority already owns a parking lot across the street that would be perfect for a parking deck."

Botkin and members of the committee have visited venues in other communities to gain insight. "We visited the Midland Center for the Arts. It is an older facility, but it is a mixed use. We also went to a facility east of Lansing that is

shared between Charlotte Community Schools and the community."

The Jackson Hole Center for the Arts in Jackson Hole, Wyo., was built on "approximately the same size parcel we have here in Rochester," said Botkin. That facility includes an arts and education pavilion with dance and art studios, along with a recently completed performing arts center.

"We need to do a professional feasibility study," Botkin said. "All of us (on the Legacy Project committee) have a gut feel for the project, but we need an expert to come in and do a survey of the demographic region and desires of the citizens. It needs to be based on concrete data."

She added that the group also needs to know what people want and how much they are willing to pay for it.

A professional consultant group will be hired to conduct the study after interviews and reference checks, Botkin said.

Based on preliminary talks with consultants, part one of the study would be a needs

assessment with a cost of \$25,000 plus expenses. Part two would be another two- to three-month study and another \$25,000 plus expenses, said Botkin. "It will give us some hard data based on other venues across the United States. It will look at staffing and project rental and user fees."

It will identify tenants that will be partners, use by other nonprofit groups and rental of the facility for commercial use. It will include an analysis of the economic impact, such as what will be put back into the economy in the region, Botkin said.

The cost of the complete study will be in the range of \$100,000. The Rochester City Council has agreed to pay \$30,000 to cover the fee in part one and go toward additional expenses. Another \$20,000 has been pledged toward part two if part one results are favorable. This money will come from the city contingency fund.

"I assume the study will all be public; we will want to post it on the Web site," said Councilman David Becker.

Councilwoman Penny Crissman agreed, stating the only exclusion might have to do with land acquisition that would be discussed in a private session.

Botkin will be approaching Rochester Hills and Oakland Township for their financial support, as well as seeking private donations.

"Weekly we are getting calls, we are reaching out and others are reaching out to us," said Botkin. We have already raised \$10,000 in private donations, added Botkin.

The Legacy Project committee has applied for, but does not currently have a nonprofit status. In the meantime, two funds, endowed and non-endowed, have been opened with the Community Foundation.

"We can ask for grants through the Community Foundation until we get approval of the 501 C3 nonprofit designation," Botkin said.

"We are leaning toward ownership by the 501(c)3 entity rather than an inter-local agreement," said Botkin. "That would not mean we would not have representatives from the three communities, the DDA, the major users and citizens at large, but it would make it independent." Botkin said the structure could change based on the consultants recommendations.

Teen charged with terrorism will get psychiatric exam

By MICHAEL P. McCONNELL
Of Journal Register News Service

An Oak Park teen charged with terrorism after he e-mailed a bomb threat to his high school, according to police, was ordered Tuesday to undergo a psychiatric exam to determine whether he is competent to stand trial.

OAK PARK

Joseph M. Levin, 18, is jailed in lieu of \$1 million bond. Defense attorney Judith Gracey requested that doctors at the Ypsilanti Forensic Center evaluate Levin. She also indicated Levin has a learning disability.

Oak Park 45B District Judge David Gubow granted the request for a psychiatric exam.

Police say Levin sent an e-mail titled "columbine like" to the principal at Oak Park High School that she retrieved Jan. 22. The e-mail title references a 1999 shooting ram-

page at Columbine High School in Colorado in which two students fatally shot 11 people before killing themselves.

Levin was a student at C Park High for about a month before he was arrested, police say. Previously, he lived with his mother in Hamtramck where he attended school.

The terrorism charge against Levin is a 20-year one. The charge, while not connected to terrorist activities, is a recent law for crimes that instill fear or terror in others.

The e-mail Levin is accused of sending said the principal didn't have long to live and that a bomb would be going early that week at the school. "You will be dead ... and so will your students," the e-mail said, according to police.

Oakland County special prosecutor Keri Middleditch said the threat is not the typical false bomb threat students sometimes call into schools

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Downtown art center plans move forward

Council approves funding for feasibility study

BY JENNIFER S. McDONALD
C & G STAFF WRITER

ROCHESTER — Plans for the proposed construction of an art center downtown are moving forward, after City Council agreed at its regular meeting Jan. 22 to help fund the project's feasibility study.

Council agreed to spend an initial \$30,000 for the first phase, and up to \$50,000 toward the two-phase study, which is necessary to determine the project's success, Pat Botkin, chair of the Legacy Committee, said.

The center, which may be located at the northeast corner of Water and East Third streets, may go through a two-phase study. The first phase, which will cost an estimated \$25,000 and take two to three months to complete, will determine the demographics of the region, potential partnerships, the project's goals and a conclusion,

Botkin said.

If the conclusion of the first phase is favorable, the second phase, which will cost an additional \$25,000 and take the same amount of time, will delve into an operating budget, staffing requirements, projected rent and user fees, as well as fund-raising strategies.

"This is a very detailed study, but it gives us the type of information we'll need to move forward," Botkin said. "With this type and size of project, we only want to move forward."

Botkin said a total of \$10,000 has already been raised for the study, which may cost an estimated \$100,000. The Community Foundation of Greater Rochester is currently accepting donations and the Legacy Committee is working on acquiring nonprofit status.

"All of us have a gut feeling for what we feel the answers should be, but we need an expert to come in and do an analysis before we enter into any land contract," Botkin said.

Council members agreed that

the project will benefit the city, but disagreed on how much money to commit — \$30,000 or \$50,000.

"I can ... see the idea, but how do we structure the release (of money) at the end of Phase I not knowing what Phase I says?" Councilman David Katulic said. "It's really a tough thing to do to structure a motion beforehand. I don't think it will save any time."

Councilman David Becker disagreed, saying the extra \$20,000 will provide a "cushion" for the project, and give the Legacy Committee some "breathing room."

"If we are unsatisfied at some point we don't have to release that extra \$20,000," Becker added.

In the end, Council voted 4-3, committing \$50,000 to the project. Mayor Stuart Bikson, and Council members Jeffery Cuthbertson and Katulic voted no.

"I think a hard professional look makes a lot of sense," Cuthbertson said. "There are a lot of questions and having that expertise will be very useful."

didn't think we would be as good as we are, but I knew we would still be solid. What has happened, though, is that we are playing like a team quicker than I thought we could."

Campana admitted that when his team drew Cranbrook in the first game of the playoffs two seasons ago, his players were dejected and disappointed, maybe even a little fearful.

"I told them we would have to play them eventually, anyway," he said. "I think ever since that season,

we have come to the realization and accepted and welcomed the fact that we are going to have to play them in the playoffs.

"It is just a matter of persevering. It feels like every year we get that much closer. We came within an eyelash (5-4 in double overtime) last year, and hopefully this year is our turn. You hate to use the cliché that anyone can beat anybody on any given night, but it's true."

You can contact Mike Moore at mmoore@candgnews.com

Irish

from page 4A

Both squads are once again in the same pre-regional this year.

"We want to play them," senior forward Doug Orzel, a Macomb resident who leads Prep with 24 goals and 17 assists, said of playing Cranbrook, still the state's top-ranked team. "Right now, everything is geared toward that. ... Our goal is to be a state champion, and I think everyone in our locker room agrees



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Recent events amply illustrate the fact that you need not necessarily live in the path of a hurricane like Katrina to be vulnerable to flood damage. New Englanders and Californians can both attest that heavy rains can wreak havoc just about anywhere in the United States. According to the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), about one-quarter of its claims are filed by people living outside high-risk flood hazard areas. Yet, according to an NFIP study, only one percent of homeowners living outside high-risk flood-hazard areas and only forty-nine percent of all U.S. single-family homes in these areas buy flood insurance. The rest may incorrectly assume that their homeowners insurance affords them protection against flood damage. It does not.

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their trust and their business with us, and we are committed to demonstrating that your confidence is well placed. Should you have flood insurance? At InPro Insurance Group, we have a comprehensive understanding of the insurance needs of homeowners because providing insurance coverage at compatible prices is our one and only business. We're located at 2095 East Big Beaver, Troy, where you will be treated with the courtesy and respect you deserve as a valued client. Call 248.526.3260 for more information or to schedule an appointment.

NOTE: Twenty to twenty-five percent of all flood-related insurance claims are made by people whose homes are in low to moderate risk areas.

E-mail your questions to:

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Where do you go to rehabilitate after knee surgery?

After my dad's knee replacement, the hospital gave us a list of places for him to recover and receive physical therapy. Then they gave us great advice: Ask the professional at each place for their expertise. That's when we chose Heartland. They not only had vast experience for my father's condition, they tracked his progress to tailor his treatment.

At Heartland, we carefully track patients' progress because we believe improving success begins by measuring it.

For more information about Heartland's track record, please call our location nearest you.

OAKLAND COUNTY

Board approves \$25K study on new arts, cultural center

By DAVE GROVES
Of The Oakland Press

Members of the Rochester-based Legacy Project are one step closer to learning whether their hopes of building a regional performing arts and cultural center might one day be realized.

The Oakland Township Board of Trustees voted unanimously Tuesday night to approve a \$25,000 contribution toward a project feasibility study.

Already bolstered by a \$50,000 contribution from the city of Rochester, the grassroots group now plans to seek a final contribution of \$25,000 from the city of Rochester Hills.

Legacy Project Chair Pat Botkin said the group hopes to hire a consultant to determine whether a public and private partnership could sustain a top-notch performing arts center that would become home to the Rochester Symphony Orchestra, various concerts, dance recitals, theatrical performances, film festivals, town hall lectures and other events.

"I think it's a tremendous idea on many levels," said Oakland Township Trustee Marc Edwards. He added that he felt such a facility could help Rochester become a prominent regional tourist destination.

Legacy Project members have identified a three-acre parcel of land at Third and Water streets in downtown Rochester as a potential site for the center. They have also received support for the concept from the Rochester Downtown Development Authority, which would consider building an adjacent parking structure to serve the facility.

"I think we would all benefit from this," Botkin told trustees Tuesday, suggesting that restaurants and a host of other area businesses would likely thrive with the added activity downtown.

Trustee Amy Boltz questioned how such a facility would be governed, noting that Rochester, Rochester Hills and Oakland Township have had difficulties in managing collab-

orative projects such as the Older Persons Center.

"That's the gorilla sitting in the front seat," she suggested.

Botkins said that while discussions about facility management are very much preliminary, she suspects a non-profit organization with representatives from each municipality and the community at large would be created.

Legacy Project members anticipate that funding for construction would be generated through private donors, while money to operate and maintain the facility could be generated through an endowment and event revenues. The size and scope of the facility will be determined by a consultant working with private and public organizations and individuals interested in using it.

Whatever its size, project supporters hope to build a truly captivating structure.

Legacy Project member Tom Mines said, "We would hope that this becomes one of the crown jewels of the area."

Contact Dave Groves at (248) 745-4633 or david.groves@oakpress.com.

ORION TWP. Meeting to offer genealogical help

The public is welcome to attend the North Oakland Genealogical Society's meeting at 7 p.m. Thursday in the Orion Room of the Orion

BRIEFING

Township Public Library, 825 Joslyn Road in Lake Orion. Help will be available to those starting out with genealogical searches.

— Special writer Karen Auchterlonie

SOUTHFIELD Wheelchair pageant set

The Ms. Wheelchair pageant will be Thursday and Friday at the Southfield Civic Center Pavilion Room, said Monica Smith, the state coordinator for the contest. Tickets are \$25 individually and \$250 for a table for 10. Women ages 21 to 60 who use wheelchairs are eligible to compete for the title. To buy tickets, call Monica Smith at (313) 864-8876 or treasurer Erica Hill at (313) 587-1430.

— Staff writer Jerry Wolffe

WATERFORD TWP. Choir to visit church

The public is invited to the

free performance of the Naperville, Ill.-based North Central College Concert Choir at Central United Methodist Church in Waterford Township at 7 p.m. Thursday. The 44-voice touring choir is visiting the church, 3882 Highland Road, as part of a 10-day national tour to Michigan; Indiana; Ohio; Pennsylvania; Washington, D.C.; Maryland; and Virginia. Under the direction of Jeordano Martinez, the college's professor of music, the choir will sing a repertoire of secular and sacred music, including "Ich lasse dich nicht" by J.S. Bach, "The Promise of Living" by Aaron Copland and "I Love a Piano" by Irving Berlin, along with folk songs and spirituals. Several students will perform as soloists. For tour information, visit www.northcentralcollege.edu. For the church, call (248) 681-0040.

— Staff writer Carol Hopkins

LAKE ORION Council plans workshops

The Clinton River Watershed Council will host two workshops. Landscaping for Lakes and Streams runs 7-8:30 p.m. Thursday at the Orion Township Public Library, 825 Joslyn Road. To register, call (248) 391-0304. Design Your

Own Rain Garden runs 10-11:15 a.m. March 23 at the Carriage House of Meadow Brook Hall, at Oakland University in Rochester. No registration is required. For more information, call the Clinton River Watershed Council at (248) 601-0606.

— Staff writer Natalie Lombardo

WATERFORD TWP. Memorabilia on display

Mary Moore, a former player with the All American Girls Professional Baseball League, will display her memorabilia Thursday through May 15 at the Waterford Cultural Council. Moore, of White Lake Township, had an enviable first year in the league, which existed from 1943 to 1954. In 1950, she led the 1950 Springfield (Ill.) Sallies in home runs (3), RBIs (48), runs scored (65), hits (75) and total bases (96). In nearly two seasons, she had a lifetime batting average of .229. She also will have photographs and articles, including some from the 1992 movie "A League of Their Own," in which she took part. The exhibits will be displayed at Waterford Parks and Recreation Office, 2303 Crescent Lake Road, (248) 674-5441.

— Staff writer Carol Hopkins

TROY Employee: Man scammed library

An unknown man allegedly scammed a library employee out of \$20 and the Troy Public Library out of \$50 on March 8, police said. Troy officers said an employee reported that the man walked into the library at about 1:30 p.m. According to the employee, the man claimed he was doing community service and was assigned

to urinate on a police patrol car, police said. Neighbors called police at about 11:50 p.m. Monday after they saw the man drive into the driveway of a home in the 5000 block of Davers Street, north of Hatchery Road, then drive

POLICE BLOTTER

around the yard and by the garage before getting stuck. As police were conducting field sobriety tests — which he failed — the man tried to

bottles of alcohol as they could carry. Store surveillance video captured the crime. As deputies were responding to the 2:27 a.m. call from the alarm company, a deputy noticed a vehicle with a loud muffler go too fast on a turn. The deputy pulled the car over and found the instant lottery tickets and liquor, authorities said. The men, who are 48 and 29 years old and from Pontiac, had bits of glass on their clothing, authorities said. They were arrested.

W. Big Beaver, reported having their money stolen. According to police, a woman came to the station the next day to report that \$575 that was in a zippered pocket of her purse went missing after she left her purse unattended. A man also told police that he left the party to discover that his wallet, with \$3,000 in cash, was missing from his pocket. He told police that he remembered being bumped a couple times during the night by someone who appeared to be

was arraigned on a robbery charge, and Robert Dean Villalobos, 21, was arraigned on an armed robbery with knife charge after deputies say



Minton



men had made plans to pick up some items, believed to be drugs or alcohol, and the victim was robbed and sustained a stab wound in his leg on Dixie Highway north of Davisburg. The man got out of the vehicle and walked to a Kroger store that is about a half-mile or a quarter-mile away to call authorities. He was treated for his wound at a local hospital. Michigan State Police troopers followed the vehicle from an address in the