

Expansion proposed

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within the existing space for the next five years. But planning now for the future is essential, Papai said. "We cannot suddenly wake up in 1992 and decide this building is inadequate. We must begin planning now."

THE HILLS branch is the one targeted for expansion because the 18,000-square-foot Farmington branch, 23550 Liberty — also running out of space — cannot be expanded because it is at the maximum size for the lot on which it is built.

When the Hills branch was opened in 1972, it was just the right size. And it was designed to accommodate expected community growth.

But no one guessed that the Farmington area — particularly Farmington Hills — would grow at the rate it has.

That growth — in population, library services, book collection and public demand — is pushing the existing 39,000-square-foot Hills branch to the limits.

Population, estimated at 69,978 (Hills, 48,656; Farmington, 11,022) in 1980, is expected to grow to a total 83,840 in 1990 and 93,744 by the year 2005. But Farmington-area residents

also have outstripped national averages in use of library services.

RESULTS OF A survey conducted in May 1985 by Nordhaus Research Inc. of Southfield show that 60 percent of the residents are registered library users and 13 percent of those who don't have a library card still consider themselves users — either using someone else's card or having someone borrow materials for them.

Library services provided to the community also have increased in a premium on space at the Hills branch. For example, reference services — representing the greatest increase — have expanded 194 percent; books, 62 percent; and circulation, 47 percent.

Though new services and materials — video, computers, for example — are becoming an increasing part of the library scene, books continue as the priority, Papai said.

The library system has 154,000 books in its collection, which works out to 2.07 books per capita. This year, 13,500-14,000 new books will be added. The collection is expected to grow to approximately 270,000 books (\$75 books per capita) by 2005.

What that means in space is that with a storage capacity of 15 volumes per square foot, 14,443 square

feet is needed to house the system's expected collection in 2001, Papai said.

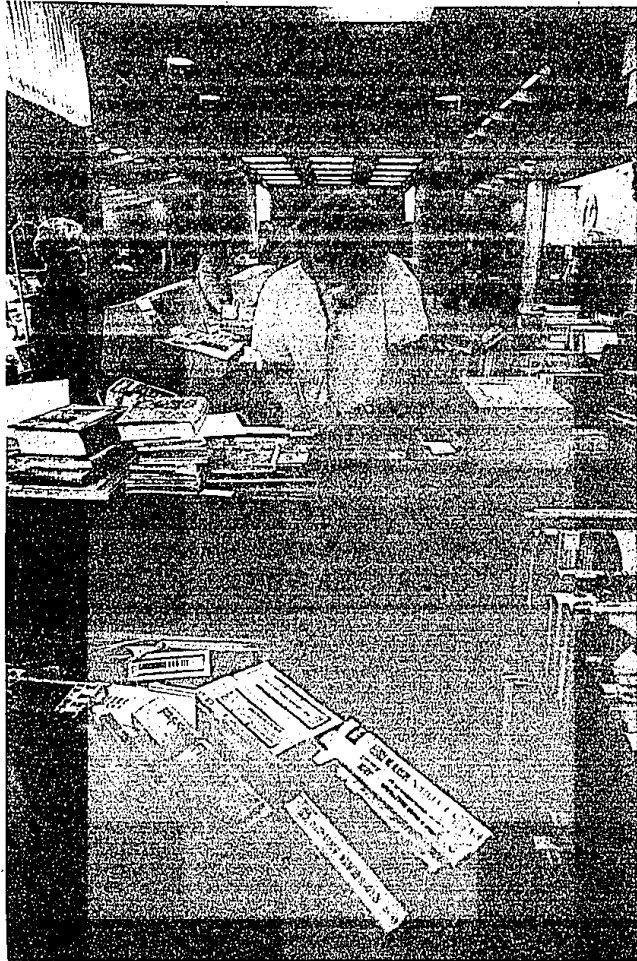
IN ADDITION, more space is needed for records, microfilm and computers. Non-print collections such as video cassettes also have placed a demand on space.

The library's expanding system and changing patterns of library use also have affected the Hills branch's seating capacity. Space for reader seating has been encroached on in the adult and reference areas; increasing use of computers and microfilm has taken space formerly used for seating.

But more space for the current and expected growth in staff and volunteers is needed. Work space, lounge and locker facilities should increase proportionately with staff growth, TMP Associates said.

The architectural firm maintains that 25,000 square feet of additional space will be adequate — for increased services, collection, population and staff — through the turn of the century.

"I would assume your present growth trends in collection size will tend to level off at that point," said a TMP representative. Yet the representative admitted that "we did not look at the ultimate growth limits in Farmington Hills."



RANDY BOSTON/Staff photographer

It's not unusual for library staff such as Lorita Oro, library assistant, to be surrounded by cartloads of books. The circulation desk is

considered one of the best examples of cramped quarters in the Hills library branch.

5-year library plan presented

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

When talking about the next five years, Farmington Community Library officials know exactly what they want.

Their plans are documented in a five-year action plan presented to the Farmington and Farmington Hills city councils Thursday.

Work on the five-year plan began in the fall of 1985 with studies of staffing needs, facilities, demographic projections and other items that directly or indirectly affect the library and its services.

The plan addresses public services, facilities, management and staff. The plan also calls for an expanded Hills branch, increased staffing and better salaries, increased book collection and other services.

Under goals developed for services, a priority is to improve the library's book collection and to incorporate other types of materials into

the collection.

OTHER GOALS under public services include offering free minutes of use on the library's after-hours electronic database reference services. Computerizing the traditional card catalog is another goal.

Library officials also would like to re-evaluate its current program offerings and begin to increase extension service visits to the aged, homebound and handicapped.

Under staff goals, library officials would like to improve salaries, bringing them up to the levels of other suburban libraries. In addition to improving staff training, efforts will be made to centralize the processing of all materials of the two branches at one location.

In addition to the proposed expansion of the Hills branch, library officials are committed to proceeding with necessary capital improvements. Projects are scheduled over a five-year period. Financing will

come from the library's capital reserve fund as well as the annual budget.

Other goals included in the five-year plan include ways to improve the library's management efficiency and efforts to secure grants to finance special programs and services.

IN ADDITION to the goals, the five-year plan provides a synopsis of the community, including average age, salary, library participation, occupations and education. The plan also includes results of a survey conducted by Nordhaus Research Inc. of Southfield. The research company interviewed staff and residents regarding the library and services.

Copies of the five-year plan, reviewed by a special citizens committee in November 1986, are available at the two library branches — 23550 Liberty, Farmington, and 32737 12 Mile, Farmington Hills.

short takes

If you recently opened a shop, captured an award, earned a promotion or are planning a new venture or project — and there's a Farmington-area business angle — we'd like to hear from you so we can share your news item with other Farmington Observer readers. Send items to Short Takes, Farmington Observer, 33203 Grand River, Farmington 48024.

● **NAMED ASSISTANT**

Cindy Plachta was named assistant account executive on the Weight Watchers account at Stone, August & Co.

The Farmington Hills resident will assist senior account executive Kelly Neill with client contact, account administration and staff coordination.



Cindy Plachta

Stone, August & Co., headquartered in Birmingham, is a multiservice communications company that provides its clients with a range of services, including marketing, advertising and public relations.

● **SEMINAR SET**

Buying houses is a common topic of conversation these days. It's also the topic of a special "Homebuying and Selling" seminar scheduled at the Farmington Community Center Wednesday, March 18.

Representatives from the banking, legal and accounting industries will speak about each area as it relates to the seminar topic and answer questions.

The seminar is sponsored by Thompson-Brown Realtors of Farmington Hills. More information can be obtained by calling 553-8700.

● **RECEIVES AWARD**

Henry Nickel of Farmington Hills was one of three University of Detroit alumni to receive a Tower Award for service to the university.

He is general manager of the transmission and chassis division, Ford North American Automotive Operations.

● **NOW A DIRECTOR**

Peter Mannix was named director of corporate strategic planning for Sisters of Mercy Health Corp., Farmington Hills.

As director, he will plan, organize, direct and evaluate strategic planning for the corporation.

Before joining Sisters of Mercy Health Corp., Mannix was director of corporate services for Health Management Services Inc., Syracuse, N.Y., and a hospital consultant with Herman Smith Associates, Hinsdale, Ill., and Robert Douglas Associates, Minneapolis, Minn.

Mannix has been a frequent guest speaker for the American Hospital Association. He has published articles in health care-related journals and books.

● **SHE'S APPOINTED**
Beverly Welas — Human Resources Department personnel operations manager at Botsford General Hospital, Farmington Hills — was appointed Region III director of the National Employee Services and Recreation Association.

A non-profit, professional organization established in 1941, NESRA is dedicated to the principle that employee services, fitness and recreation programs are essential to sound business management.

It is the oldest association in the human resources field, promoting programs that serve to improve relations between employees and management; increase overall productivity; boost morale and reduce absenteeism and turnover.

NESRA serves as a communication and resource network for 4,000 members nationwide. These members are responsible for maintaining a range of employee services, including wellness programs, discount services, preretirement planning, sports leagues, travel programs, employee assistance programs, fitness facilities, hobby clubs, community service projects and child care programs.

A member of NESRA for two years, Welas was also elected to the board of directors of the Michigan Employee Services and Recreation Association as director of public relations.

● **SALES AND EARNINGS**

Medar Inc. announced preliminary figures for the nine-month year ended Dec. 31, 1986. Sales were approximately \$17 million, up from

\$8.4 million in the comparable period last year.

The company expects that earnings per share will fall in the one-to six-cent range, on approximately \$1 million shares and share equivalents outstanding for the period. Earnings per share for the corresponding period in the prior year showed a loss of four cents, based on 5 million shares and share equivalents outstanding.

Medar previously announced that it was changing its financial reporting from a fiscal year (ending March 31) to a calendar year. The change was made to be more in phase with the order cycle of the firm's major customers.

Final audited figures for the nine-month year are expected to be announced in March. Sales for the quarter ended Dec. 31 are expected to total \$5 million, compared with \$2 million in the comparable quarter last year. Earnings per share for the quarter are expected to show a loss in the six-to 11-cent range, compared with a loss of nine cents for the comparable period last year.

"Medar's sales and earnings in the quarter ended Dec. 31, 1986, were lower than expected due to delays in shipments requested by customers," said Charles Drake, president and chairman. "But the major portion of the loss was due to the costs of integrating our recently acquired subsidiary, Industrial Development Systems, into the Medar operation."

Medar designs and manufactures computer-controlled automation equipment, including vision gauging and inspection systems, resistance welding controls, computer communications systems and automation machinery. Its customers include major companies in the defense, aerospace, automobile and appliance industries.

● **MOVING UP**

Karen Ayala was named account executive on the Whirlpool account at D'Arcy Masius Benton & Bowles/Bloomfield Hills.

Previously, the Farmington Hills resident was account executive and assistant account executive on the General Motors Paris account, and a traffic apprentice on the Pontiac account. Before joining the agency, she was media planner on several accounts at J. Ronald Gaffa Inc.

Ayala is a member of the Adcraft Club of Detroit and Big Brothers/Big Sisters.

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