

Budget features expanded book collection

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"It's still an excellent budget," Papal said. The proposed budget represents about a 10-percent increase

over last year's \$1.5 million budget, she said.

Farmington and Farmington Hills' shares of the library budget are based on each city's total state

equalized valuation. In 1986-87, Farmington will pay \$153,192 and the Hills will pay the greatest share at \$1.17 million. Other library revenues comes from state penal fines,

state aid, fines, fees and lost book fees, and other miscellaneous sources of revenue, such as auditorium rental and memorials and gifts.

One of the most significant items in the proposed budget is the planned beefing up of the library's collection. The city managers reduced the original \$175,000 book budget request to \$160,000. Last year's book budget was \$133,500. In 1984-85, approximately \$97,000 was spent on books.

LIBRARY OFFICIALS planned to buy 40 reference materials; 9,500 books will be proportionately reduced, Papal said. If additional money is available in the library's other sources of revenue, original purchase plans will be maintained.

Increasing the library's collection is included in a still-incomplete five-year growth plan that officials are developing. Farmington and Farmington Hills city councils last year requested the five-year plan, to be completed in time for budget preparation. "But it was impossible to develop it in that short of a time period," Papal said.

The plan's new deadline is December 1986, with a presentation of the plan to both city councils in January 1987. "We're looking at what we need to meet the public's need in the year 2,000," Papal said.

The plan will include future capital expenditures, future expansion proposals, assessment of facilities, staff, programs and services.

"One of the assignments to staff was to complete documentation for collection development," Papal said.

Staff is identifying what is needed — subjects that have insufficient materials, as well as replacements for materials that have been lost, stolen or discarded. The library's computerized circulation system is enabling staff to "identify pockets of needs," Papal said.

STAFF IS also keeping track of public requests for materials that the library cannot fill.

In paring the library's proposed budget, city managers trimmed \$18,000 off payments to the retirement system and \$3,000 off heating expenses. City managers requested transferring \$25,000 from the library's fund balance to the general budget, Papal said.

Also significant in the proposed library budget include the hiring of a professional librarian. Both city councils in March approved the addition of two children's librarians.

"Due to large staff turnover in fiscal year 1984-85, the library must address the disproportionate balance between professional and clerical staff," Papal said in her budget report to councils.

"The restoration of three professional positions is critical in terms of excessive staff workload and potential deterioration of services."

The proposed library budget also includes \$20,500 to finance the opening of the Farmington branch library on Sundays, September through May. For the first time in several years, Sunday hours were revived last December at the Farmington branch.

THE PROPOSED budget does not include a subsidy for the computerized reference services because for the first time since the system was established in 1983, it is expected to pay for itself through user fees, Papal said.

Rental of video cassette movies is expected to follow suit. Enough revenue is being generated through cassette rental to continue buying new movies. The type of movies bought are in many cases those that cannot be found in video stores, such as National Geographic, Papal said.

Although the city managers also

adjusted the proposed 1986-87 District Court budget, only \$5,000-\$6,000 was trimmed from the request of Judges Margaret Schaefer and Michael Hand for a budget of \$618,660. The proposed budget totals \$698,441 — a 10-11 percent increase over last year's budget.

The proposed court budget reflects the addition of a full-time clerk in the criminal division as well as an additional part-time magistrate, clerk-typist and court reporter.

Increased caseload, particularly relating to Farmington Hills felony, ordinance and civil infraction cases, prompts the need for additional clerical help, Schaefer said. The judges also are expecting more increases in the caseload if the Farmington Hills City Council authorizes the hiring of additional police officers in 1986-87.

"WHILE WE recognize the need for them (additional police officers) in our growing community, inevitably this translates into further increases in the caseload and work of the court," the judges wrote in a budget report.

An additional magistrate is requested for one day a week to handle traffic matters, arraignments and hearings required to issue arrest and search warrants. The court currently has a part-time magistrate who works two days a month, Schaefer said.

Other than a portion of the judges' salaries that are paid by the state, the majority of the court budget is funded by Farmington and Farmington Hills. Each city's share of financing is based on population and the number of cases originating from each city. In the proposed budget, Farmington will pay \$153,192 and the Hills will pay the greatest share at \$480,516.

Senior housing School is renovated for apartments

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but from West Bloomfield, Southfield and Birmingham as well, Lipkowitz said.

Farmington-area American House residents will fill rooms with their own possessions and furniture, adding personal touches.

"How can you tell people who have been productive . . . for years, how can you say 'you have to go live somewhere and sleep in someone else's bed'?" she asked.

Some residents even bring pets, which are allowed. In addition, some American Houses have "house cats" there to be loved by all.

Each resident, or resident couple, has a private room with bath, receives three meals each day and routine room cleaning plus regular personal laundry service for \$1,200 per month. Their stay is on a month-to-month basis.

OTHER AMENITIES in Farmington will include a common living room with fireplace, two libraries, and residents will enjoy a barber and beauty shop. The interior halls and common areas will be furnished with antiques and "special things," and Lipkowitz looks forward to furnishing the long porch on the building's front, where it can be enjoyed in better weather.

Most American House facilities stay at a 60-room capacity, considered small to medium-size, according to Lipkowitz. "If you get really big, you lose touch," she added.

The size encourages independence through a caring staff, Lipkowitz said. She makes sure she knows families as well as she knows residents. While playing the roles of counselor and caretaker to the residents, she also becomes friend to many.

There is no job description for her position which changes frequently from hour-to-hour and day-to-day. "This is not a 9-5 job," she stressed. "You can't close the door and lock it



DAVID FRANK/staff photographer

Barbara Lipkowitz (above) is finishing up her work at a Rochester Hills American House Retirement Residence. In June, she will come to Farmington Hills to manage the new American House on Middlebelt.

behind you." She discusses the many 3 a.m. phone calls and necessary visits at untimely hours to her "second home."

JOB REQUIREMENTS are based more on a person's attitude, she said. "You have to care and have your own life in order so you can care for someone else."

When not handling a serious situation at the American House, one might find Lipkowitz hovering over a newborn litter of kittens, planning a monthly ethnic dinner for the residents, completing her necessary administrative work, or having a wheelchair race down the hall with a lively resident.

Her "very special" residents are mostly ambulatory, but most need "some extra attention," she added. "Their wisdom and humor is wonderful. Most people don't understand

what a valuable asset we have" with older people.

Death is something of which residents and workers at the American House must be aware. According to Lipkowitz, most concerns are not with residents, but with their families and the employees.

"Sometimes, it's just time to let them go," she said, philosophically. "They accept it — you and I are the ones that have trouble dealing with it. We are much more fearful of it than they are."

"You have to respect it. Dying is part of life."

About role reversals that are sometimes played as people get older, she said, "It's a hard role to play. When I see them coming to me for help, it hurts me because I used to go to them for help."

"Emotionally, you hate to see it happening — intellectually, you know it's happening."

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