

# Millage from page A1

Besides the new addition, the morning circulation desk would move into the central breezeway. That would bring more quiet to the study areas. In addition, there would be more space for magazines and out-of-town newspapers, more general seating, more computers, more best-selling books. More of just about everything.

"It's a lot of value for a relatively small amount of money," Papai said. Several residents visiting the Hills branch Monday agreed.

"I hope it passes," said Farmington Hills resident Brenda Berkowitz, reading in the non-fiction section. "This is a fabulous library. My son's downstairs right now playing on the computer (in the children's department). I want to do everything I can to support this."

Another parent, Helen Yellian of Farmington Hills, also likes the library. But she thinks the tax might help buy better computers. "We need more computers. We need to improve the kids' computers. They're not very good, they're not very speedy."

Improving the branch also is on the wish list of younger patrons, such as 16-year-old Julie Baumgartner, a Farmington resident who attends Birmingham Marian High School. She was doing research.

"I think it (the tax) is a good idea," Baumgartner said. "The library is really crowded. If it expands, more people would be able to access more things."

Baumgartner also would be able to log on to computers more quickly and more regularly than she does now, she said.

Meanwhile, Papai said improving and expanding the aging facilities is the best way to handle a

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**Beverly Papai**  
—Library director

continuing growth in both consumer use and expectations.

One reason for the high expectations is the high education level of people served by the library: 42 percent of residents in Farmington and Farmington Hills have at least one college degree, she said.

"They have high expectations for the public schools and high use of the public

libraries," said Papai. "Not just for their children, but for their own use."

Another factor is that Farmington Public Schools also places a high value on libraries, with each school building operating media centers staffed with professional librarians. Many of those students also go to the libraries to do homework projects.

"So we provide services to the same clientele, who pay the same taxes," Papai said.

The tax would enable the district and library to work together even more efficiently than they currently do, because of the installation of fiber optic links.

Senior citizens and pre-schoolers would also enjoy improved facilities. For the older generation, there would

be a larger space for big-print books as well as additional, more-comfortable room to browse and visit with friends who regularly come to the library, Papai said.

And more senior citizens are discovering computers.

The children's library would also benefit, with newer picture books replacing well-worn and even obsolete titles.

"It is very used, it's used constantly," said Hills employee Essie Chynoweth, who works in the children's department. "Unfortunately, little hands are not like adult hands."



At the helm: Farmington Community Library Director Beverly Papai

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# PARISIAN



- Aug. 4 Library Millage**
- If passed, the millage will bring the following changes:
- More books, including larger fiction and nonfiction collections, more best sellers, and newer children's books
  - More AV materials, including books on tape, videos, CDs and CD-ROMs
  - More business and investment resources
  - More computer stations with Web browsers
  - Increased dial-in lines, so more patrons can dial into library catalogs and databases from home
  - Increased quiet study space
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