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allowed library officials to push up the renovation of the Farmington branch instead of waiting a couple years down the road.

"By doing this now, we spent less than anticipated on the Farmington branch," Papai said.

The next step for the Hills branch is developing dollar estimates for the design plans. "The architects will specify what is to be constructed and what materials will be used," Papai said.

By March 2000, work will begin on a new parking lot west of the library. The existing parking lot will become a construction staging area.

"We will actually be moving the whole entrance," Papai said, referring to the existing library.

By late spring 2000 construction is expected to begin on the expansion. "The (existing) library will be open the whole time. Operations will continue as usual. We do not anticipate an interruption of service," Papai

said. Once the addition of about 34,000 square feet is complete, work will begin on the existing library.

"There are some dollar implications. We recognize certain consequences. We trimmed some things to save money," she said. Architects also reduced about 10 feet on two sides of the addition to bring it closer to original dollar estimates.

"Our goal is to give the public what they thought they were buying and to provide the maximum amount for what we sold bonds for," Papai continued. "When we are finished, we will have a building with flexibility for the future."

On top for the Farmington Hills branch is:

- Improved lighting inside and outside the building.
- Upgraded electrical and cable capabilities to accommodate information technology.

■ More general seating for adults.

■ A second, larger meeting room with cablecasting capabilities.

■ A room dedicated to youth programming.

■ Improved drive-up book return.

■ Increased dial-in lines for remote access.

■ Expanded preschool area with interactive learning stations, casual seating for adults, parenting collection.

■ An information commons, computer lab, increased youth area and improved handicapped and short-term parking, and a covered walkway.

■ Longer hours of operation.

■ A floor plan that reduces noise.

■ Small group study and tutoring rooms.

Council from page A1

Last spring, the council held a retreat at which they outlined their goals, one of which was to promote greater diversity.

"We discussed what it's going to take to get people from different cultural groups to participate in community groups" like the Parent Teacher Association, said Bob Maxfield, Farmington superintendent.

The PTA, one of the co-sponsors, is a group that could be greater diversified, Maxfield said.

"PTAs don't usually reflect the diversity of the student body," he said. "One of the themes of last year's diversity conference at Oakland Community College was 'we want you to join us.'"

Karen Bolson, co-chair of the Multicultural/Multiracial Community Council, said they want to send the message that

everyone is welcome in community groups, including the council.

"What we're looking for is to develop some strong ties with our community groups," Bolson said. "Not every community group is represented (on our council) though we have a very diverse community."

The council consists of school officials from the Farmington Public Schools and Mercy High School, city and police officials from both Farmington and Farmington Hills as well as other members of the community.

Committee members began meeting informally in the late 1980s. They have been meeting regularly since early 1990. They held their first open forum on diversity in 1993.

Upcoming Multicultural/Multiracial Community Council events include:

■ 8 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 11,

community forum on recruiting and training a diverse work force, co-sponsored by Farmington/Hills Chamber of Commerce.

■ 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 14, holiday luncheon with focus on Japanese culture, co-sponsored by the Japanese Business Society of Detroit, location to be announced.

■ 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 26, 2000, Rainbow Recognition breakfast at Costick Activities Center.

■ 8 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 10, 2000, community forum on diversity in high schools, Farmington Training Center.

■ 8 a.m. Thursday, March 9, 2000, topic to be announced.

■ 8 a.m. Thursday, May 11, year-end community forum, Farmington Training Center.

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