

# Library from page 1A

that it is a good time to ask for a tax increase," Plummer said. "This thing has dragged on since 1989."

## Proposal lost in 1989

When the proposal did go before the voters in November of 1989, two unpopular state tax proposals were on the ballot. The proposal, which asked for a 1.5-mill increase, lost by 216 votes out of about 20,000 cast.

"They (Proposals A and B) so infuriated people that they turned out to vote it down," he said. "I think that hurt us."

Proponents of the proposed new library hope that voters see it as a community resource rather than a luxury.

"We just don't have the physical space to accommodate our needs, both in terms of our collection and new technology, such as

computers, to continue to provide the services we do," said Pappal.

Pappal said that in 1972, when the current Farmington Hills branch was built, the boom in population for the area had not been anticipated. The Hills branch (about 38,000 square feet) and the Farmington branch (about 18,000 square feet) are already inadequate for the need, Pappal said.

"We have about 60,000 library card holders in a total population of about 85,000 people," she said. "You have to figure that growth will slow down and that we'll top out at about 100,000 (in population). The new library would be about 80,000 square feet. Libraries should be about one square foot per person in the area served."

## Population boom

The population of Farmington

and Farmington Hills combined increased from 57,096 in 1970 to 79,882 in 1990, an increase of about 40 percent.

About 85 percent of the Farmington Community Library's patrons are from within the library's district. Pappal said the library is an often-used resource for business people from other communities who work in Farmington or Farmington Hills. And because of reciprocal agreements with other libraries, residents may use libraries in other communities.

Pappal said the library board looked into building an addition to the main library, but found that on the existing land, that would be inefficient and would not address parking. A third branch was considered, but the cost of duplicating materials would outweigh any gain in space. "Six firms have looked into

building an addition," she said. "But there were a lot of problems. A third branch would cost more for maintenance and we'd have a lot of duplication."

Both city councils and the school board have endorsed the ballot proposals. Farmington Schools Superintendent Mike Flanagan said about 90 percent of Farmington Schools students go on to college, and the library is an important resource for them. But as important, he said, is the library as a lifelong resource.

"We're trying to create a community of learners," Flanagan said. "Learning is lifelong."

Pappal said the Friends of the Library, who number about 1,300, plan to go door-to-door to work for the proposal.

The additional .33 mills would cost a taxpayer with a house having a market value of \$100,000 an additional \$16.50 a year.

# Tipping from page 3A

also can benefit from waiting on friendly tables from the opposite sex.

"I have a group of 16-year-olds who come in," said Jim Bold, a waiter at Pizzeria Uno in West Bloomfield. "If I'm messing and joking with them I know I'll get a better tip. Or a group of ladies out for the night — they tend to be friendly and tip well."

## Not so special

Coupons and specials often drive down the amount of tips, which waiters and waitresses rely on almost entirely for their take-home pay. (Hourly wages take care of taxes, and that's about it.)

Customers, often senior citizens on fixed incomes, tend to leave tips based on adjusted (post-coupon) bill totals. And that's a no-no, Giroux and others agreed.

"People should remember to tip for the entire amount because

that's the amount of service they're getting," Giroux said.

Another downer for wait persons is to see someone pull out a calculator or card to figure exactly what they should leave. Wait persons across Oakland County mostly agree that too many people base tips on the bill rather than service itself.

Steak and Ale's Hungerman, conceding a struggling economy might keep her tips in the 12-13 percent range, said restaurant specials often eat into what waiters get. "They'll order a prime rib special for \$8.95 and a glass of ice water, then leave a dollar and think that's good."

## Teens and tips

Groups of teenagers either can leave outrageously high tips or

next to nothing.

According to Bold, when a party of teenagers floes to Pizzeria Uno, he sometimes has to divide a basic order of pizza, pop and ice water into individual checks. "Either they can't figure it out or they don't want to get stiffed by one of their friends."

He said teens often order based on the amount of money in their pockets and "they tip what's left."

Although Hungerman estimated a group of teens might leave a 10 percent tip, young couples are better tipsters. Either they have more spending cash for date nights "or he's trying to impress the girl," she noted.

Mary Venuk, a waitress at Senor Frogg's in Rochester, said younger teens just don't have

much money to begin with or an understanding of what others do to earn it. "Since they're too young to work, they don't value the money and what people are doing for them."

## 'Cheers' clone

The "regulars" translates to better tips, whether at a family diner or full-service restaurant.

Becoming "part of the table" by conversing with guests, and not just taking orders, is another important ingredient in the tipping game, Venuk said.

Hungerman said good attitude often is repaid when a customer "asks for you by name. That's the best compliment you can get. That's worth half the tip right there."

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