

The Renovation of 2002-2005

A major expansion and renovation was to be accomplished in phases so the Library could continue to serve the community throughout the duration of the project. To allow for needed additional on-site parking, the Library acquired 65 feet of space from the adjacent playground. Phase one began in the fall of 2002. It involved the relocation and reconfiguration of the playground and the demolition of the west wing. The area under the wing was excavated and a lower level constructed to house the Technical Services Department, staff and storage rooms. Above it, the new Children's area was constructed. New additions were wrapped around the existing Adult Services area. During the second phase, a new main entrance on Wyckoff Street, a new lobby and Circulation area, a media room, and the new Adult Services area were constructed. The third phase of construction renovated the south side of the building, adding new administrative and business offices, an art gallery, a quiet study area, a librarians' office and the new Teen area.



FACING OUR FUTURE

Special Public Meeting at the Library Tuesday, June 19th at 7:30 p.m., to Discuss Plans to Improve and Expand the Library Building

THE ISSUES
 "Our library is facing a number of challenges in terms of expanded collections, increased population, and changing media and technology, all of which require additional space," said Library Director Paul Elsener. "Although we have made many changes and improvements in the past, we have grown to the point where every square foot of our building is in use. We are simply out of space."
 Because the Broadway School facility was not originally designed to be a library, limitations of the building's configuration present a number of architectural barriers that

prevent flexibility for space reallocation. "No amount of rearranging will give us the additional space that we need to meet the growing patron demand for service, materials, and computer equipment," said Board of Trustees President Barbara Hummel-Rossi. "Further, the serious building systems problems that we are experiencing cannot be addressed by a patchwork of repairs; and our building is not compliant with the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)."

THE PLAN
 Last winter the library sponsored a number of focus group discussions that provided residents with the opportunity to share their opinions about the proposed plan. The feedback gathered from these groups was compiled into a comprehensive report and carefully reviewed by the Board of Trustees. "We are committed to developing an improvement plan that is reflective of our community's input," said Mr. Elsener. "From increased space to improved services and building system upgrades, the proposed plan will seek to benefit all age groups of the Harborfields community."
 The proposed plan calls for the addition of approximately 6,000 square feet of basement space and 9,000 square feet of space on the main floor. Children's services, adult services, audio-visual, and quiet study space will all be increased, and shelf space will be expanded for library materials and collections. The plan will also address basic building systems including heating, ventilation, and electrical system upgrades, carpet and floor replacement, window replacement, improved lighting and insulation, and network infrastructure upgrades. Available parking will be increased



and a new main entrance will be constructed on the north side of the building.
 Still to be determined is the orientation of the new parking area. Two plans have been developed - one utilizing the front of the library and the other on 65 feet of property located behind the library. The Board eagerly looks forward to opinions from our residents on these proposals (see back page for two options under discussion).
THE COST
 The total project is estimated to cost approximately \$8.3 million. The Board of Trustees will apply \$500,000 of library contract monies (received from Elwood residents over the past two years) to this cost, resulting in a total bond amount of approximately \$7.8 million. This bond, anticipated to be paid back over a 30 year period, will cost the average household \$89 per year in increased library taxes, based on current estimates. This translates to a cost of approximately \$7.41 per month.

HARBORFIELDS PUBLIC LIBRARY
 31 Broadway
 Greenlawn, NY 11740
 June, 2001

ECRWSS
 Postal Customer

Non-Profit Org.
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Permit # 29
 Greenlawn, NY
 11740

As the Library's collections, services and programs continued to expand, the Library Board of Trustees began to consider a major renovation. An informational brochure was mailed to the community.

ISSUES AND SOLUTIONS

The "what" and "why" of our process.

Issue: Space
 The Harborfields Public Library moved to the Broadway School facility in 1977. Since that time, the scope of library services, resources, and volumes of information has increased dramatically. As we have added more and more technology, we have reduced seating and decreased the amount of available floor space. Tables that used to seat four people are now used for computers, and we have run out of room to expand the collections of books, VHS tapes, DVDs, CDs, and books on tape. In spite of careful collection management, our shelves are filled well beyond maximum capacity, and although we have attempted to store materials in various staff offices, there is absolutely no place left to add shelves. Additionally, the Children's Room is extremely crowded and unable to meet the demands of a growing student population. The building has no basement and lacks sufficient storage space for such things as program materials and archival materials.

Issue: Building Systems
 The current Library was not originally designed for year-round operation, nor was it designed for energy efficiency. We struggle with heating, ventilation, and cooling problems throughout the year. Lighting throughout various parts of the building is inappropriate, windows in various locations are leaking, and sections of the floor in the fiction area have developed soft spots due to the fact that the floor was not originally designed to hold the weight of the book stacks. Both our reference stacks and our quiet study area are not compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Additionally, there is no handicapped access to the meeting rooms.

Solution:
 The proposed plan will address a number of basic building systems including heating, ventilation, and electrical system upgrades, carpet and floor replacement, window replacement, improved lighting, improved insulation, and network infrastructure upgrades. The remodeled building also will be fully handicapped accessible according to the Federal Americans with Disabilities Act standards.

Issue: Parking and Traffic
 Available parking is insufficient to meet patron demands. Library patrons are forced to park on the street on a daily basis. We carefully schedule programs and events in consideration of this issue; however, the problem still exists.

Solution:
 The current staff and technical services area, on the west side of the building, will be demolished and replaced with a new addition that will result in a net increase of 9,000 square feet of space on the main floor. Approximately 6,000 square feet of basement space also will be added. Spaces for children's services, adult services, and audio-visual materials will be increased, and spaces for quiet study and storage will be expanded. Children's services shelf space will increase by more than 100%, and adult services shelf space will increase by approximately 50%.



Alternative Solution 1
 New construction resulting in an additional 9,000 square feet of space on the main floor and 6,000 square feet of basement space will be constructed within the boundaries of the existing building.

Approximately 65' of the property behind the library would be used for additional parking and traffic flow.

The balance of the property - approximately 85% of the current total - would be cleaned up and preserved, forever, as open space.

Please Join Us!

Tuesday, June 19th
 6:45 p.m.
 Harborfields Public Library
"Behind the Scenes" Library Tour

Tour parts of the library rarely seen by the public and learn more about space and building issues that need to be addressed. (Please register with the reference desk for this tour.)

Tuesday, June 19th
 7:30 p.m.
 Harborfields Public Library
 The Harborfields Public Library will be hosting an informational meeting to provide residents with the opportunity to learn more about the library's expansion and improvement plan. Residents are encouraged to attend the meeting and to provide important feedback and discussion concerning the plan.



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