



**West Springfield**  
PUBLIC LIBRARY



*The New*

## **WEST SPRINGFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY**

*"The library is not a shrine for the worship of books. It is not a temple where literary incense must be burned or where one's devotion to the bound book is expressed in ritual. A library, to modify the famous metaphor of Socrates, should be the delivery room for the birth of ideas -- a place where history comes to life."*

*- Norman Cousins*

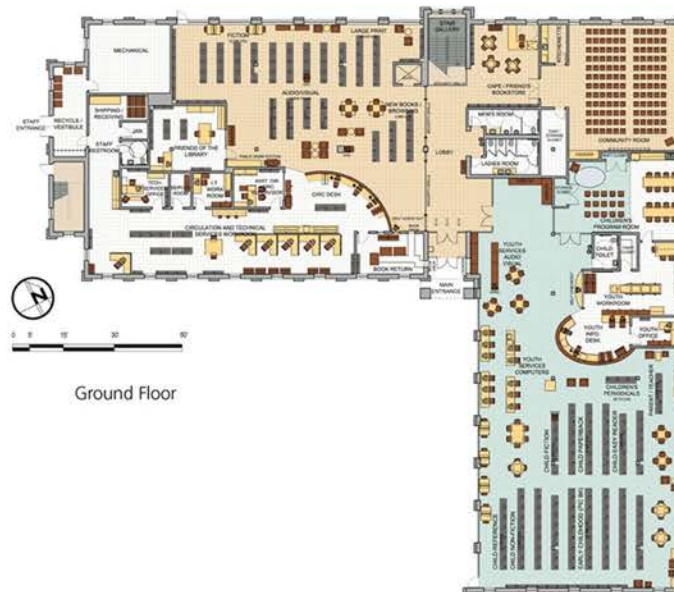
## ABOUT THIS PROJECT...

The West Springfield Public Library was built in 1916 with support from the Carnegie Foundation. The original building was 2,650 square feet and underwent expansions in 1958 and 1977, increasing the building to its present size of 19,300 square feet. Today, the library is not fully ADA compliant, has insufficient parking, inadequate patron seating, lacks a programming room, has limited staff work space, and an inflexible layout which hampers current and future operations. Library Trustees initiated space studies in 1991 and 1998 and site studies in 2000 and 2005. All studies concluded that the library has outgrown this space and has no viable options for renovation or expansion on the current site. In the fall of 2010, the town's Planning and Construction Committee (PCC) unanimously voted in favor of the Architect's recommendation to relocate to a new site approximately one mile away. The 2.78 acre property houses an elementary school slated to be decommissioned as reported in the 2005 School Committee's Building Master Plan. A coordinated effort by Library Trustees and numerous elected and appointed town officials is now underway on the construction project.

## WHY MITTINEAGUE?

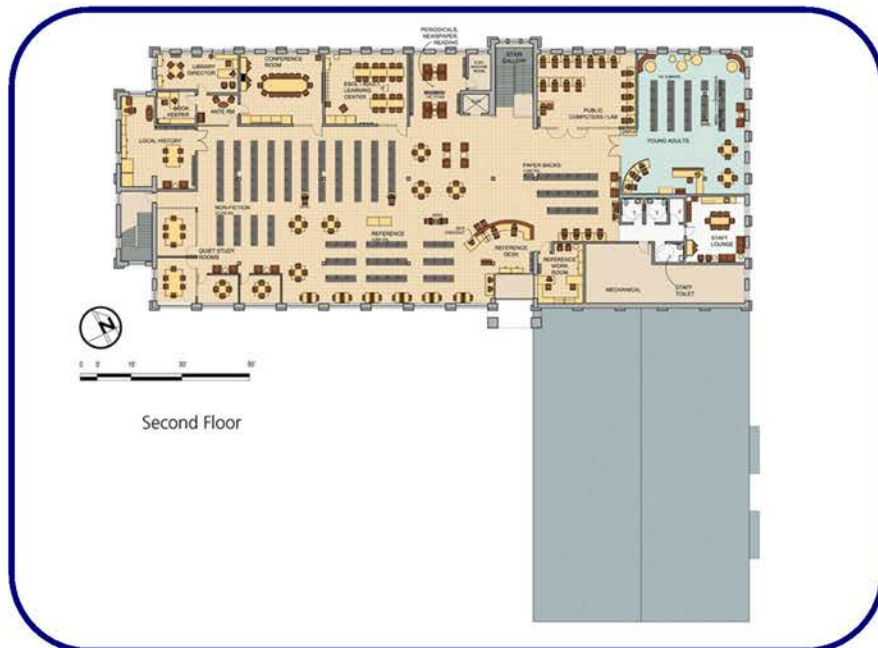
Never losing sight of the increasing demands of service needs in the community, the Library Trustees established a site selection committee in 2005. The committee was comprised of seven residents and chaired by a former town planner; they were charged with the task of finding the best location that was easily accessible to the maximum number of users. Notices were posted in local papers asking for public input and available sites. The committee visited, evaluated, and ranked five sites. Two sites were recommended in late December 2005: the current site and 26 Second Street, the location of Mittineague Elementary School. In mid-2005 the school committee had included in their Building and Facilities Master Plan the decommissioning of both Cowing and Mittineague schools.

As the planning and design process moved forward, four additional sites were evaluated and on October 4th 2010, the Planning and Construction Committee voted unanimously in favor of the Mittineague Elementary School location as the site of the new library.



## THE TIME FOR A NEW LIBRARY IS NOW!

The existing library facility of 19,300 square feet does not provide adequate space to house the library collection. It cannot provide adequate community space for programs or meetings and there is insufficient parking to accommodate library patrons. The building cannot sustain services requiring computers or technological equipment beyond the most basic level. Library trustees and administration have spent the past 20 years making every affordable improvement to this facility in order to improve conditions, but the existing site cannot sustain adequate library services. There is simply not enough land at the present location to enlarge the building and provide parking.



## WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE CURRENT BUILDING?

- **The building is not handicapped accessible and lacks an elevator to the mezzanine level; opening the town to lawsuits for non-compliance of ADA requirements.**
- **There is inadequate space to meet the service needs of the community.**
- **The library does not have a separate meeting room for programs and events.**
- **There is no space to expand computer services.**
- **The age and condition of the building makes repairs difficult and expensive.**
- **The building is not energy efficient.**
- **There is insufficient parking and no room to expand on site.**
- **There is insufficient workspace for staff.**
- **There are numerous acoustic problems in the building.**
- **There are pest and mold problems that require constant attention.**

## Capital Campaign

The library is committed to raising at least 2 million dollars for the upcoming Capital Campaign. This effort will lay the foundation for more organized and strategic fundraising in the years to come.

The Trustees have also appropriated two unrestricted trust funds to the capital campaign fund for a total of \$155,000.

The Friends of West Springfield Public Library have committed to raising \$100,000 toward the capital campaign. They began fundraising efforts in 2004 and have raised a total of over \$79,000 to date.

## PROJECTED FUNDING SOURCES

FUNDING SOURCE	SECURED (In-hand)	PROPOSED	TOTAL
Tax Levy or General Funds			
Bonds		\$4,248,595	\$4,248,595
Accumulated Capital			
Construction/Improvement Funds			
Library Trust Monies	\$156,433		\$ 156,433
Sale of Library-Owned Assets or Artifacts, with Permission of Town Meeting	Sale of Artwork	Sale of Artwork	Sale of Artwork
Gifts/Fundraising	\$ 81,667	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 2,000,000
Federal Funds			
MPCLP Planning Grant	\$ 60,000		\$ 60,000
MA Public Library Construction Program Construction Grant (this proposal)		\$6,503,372	\$6,503,372
Other State Funds - State Aid	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000
Value of Donated Land (up to \$800,000) or Value of Purchased Land and/or Building.	\$182,800		\$ 182,800
Other (Community Foundation and Kresge Challenge Grants.)		\$ 260,000	\$ 260,000
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$510,900</b>	<b>\$13,041,967</b>	<b>\$13,441,200</b>

## WHO CARES ABOUT LIBRARIES TODAY?

Everything can be downloaded onto an eBook, right? Well, not exactly. While eBooks are a wonderful alternative to print, they are not free...and the content which you purchase from Amazon and Barnes and Noble will cost you quite a lot more than a trip to the library.

Your public library has evolved with the times and remains a relevant and vital part of the community. The same arguments that people used 15 years ago to proclaim the death of public libraries when the internet came into widespread use, are now being applied to eBooks.

Since the recession began in 2007, the library has experienced a sharp increase in traditional library services. Checked-out items for calendar year 2010 were up over 11% from 2006 and inter-library loan transactions increased nearly 10%. In addition, there is a marked increase in demand for enhanced library service such as ESOL classes, computers, technology training classes, children's programming and outreach services and more foreign language materials.

By changing with the times, libraries remain important community centers providing services and programs to patrons of all ages, income levels, and interests.

## BY THE NUMBERS

<b>Hours Open Per Week</b>	<b>64</b>
Number of items circulated in 2010	254,865
Number of items the library owns	114,282 (Jan. 2011)
Number of public computers	17
Number of hours patrons spent on computers	23,371 hours
Number of computers in new library	42
Current square footage in library	19,300
Number of seats in existing library	106
Number of seats in new library	166 (+133 in meeting room)
Square footage in new library	33,540
Number of parking spaces at new library	115



Parking lot entrance

## WILL THE LIBRARY NEED MORE STAFF?

The long term answer is unknown, but we recognize and acknowledge the challenge of increasing the building from 19,000 to 33,000 square feet with the same number of staff to provide services. We will rely on technology more than ever to help us do more with less and to allow us to have more time to work with patrons directly. This building will have ample space to allow the library to partner to a greater degree with local groups and organizations to help us expand our reach into the community.

## MASSACHUSETTS PUBLIC LIBRARY CONSTRUCTION GRANT

The town of West Springfield has a unique opportunity to receive more than 50% of the eligible project costs for the construction of a new public library by participating in this grant program. Cities and towns all over Western Massachusetts have received grants for the construction or renovation of their own library; and the citizens of West Springfield deserve the chance to apply for these funds.

The new library will also incorporate many “green building” features in order to meet our environmental goals; which are to lower energy usage, decrease waste generation, decrease water usage, improve the use of natural and renewable resources, and lower overall harmful emissions in the products used in the construction and the operation of the building.



View facing Westfield Street