



New Library = New Advantages, Opportunities, and Choices for West Orange Residents

“The capacity to learn is a gift; the ability to learn is a skill; the willingness to learn is a choice.” Brian Herbert

Better Location

- Geographically centered in the township, more convenient for residents
- Jitney service
- Close to ShopRite

Green Environment

- Ample parking for **300+** vehicles (present library 32 spaces)
- Some space can be reclaimed for trees and garden beds
- Outdoor space for “Black Box” theater
- Utilization of an existing building



Bigger, Better, Healthier Space/Environment

- New HVAC and ductwork system for best indoor air quality
- Main programming room capacity doubles to 160 seats and is available when library is closed (**separate outside entrance**)
- **28%** increase in usable, flexible space
- Safe location for outdoor programming
- Children’s area is 2.5 times larger with dedicated programming room
- Teen space is 4 times larger with space for study, collaboration, and more YA books
- Quiet study rooms quadruple from 1 to 4, conference room increase from 0 to 2
- New furniture throughout, upgraded and comfortable with **device charging** capability
- Instructional space for ESOL/Lifelong Learning Literacies classes
- Separate room for server and IT services
- Separate room for West Orange Historical Archives

Improved, Additional Technology

- Conference, meeting, and programming rooms with technology for information rich and **interactive** presentations
- Upgraded wiring, wi-fi, intercom, and security systems
- Laptops for checkout throughout library
- Online instruction and virtual classes
- **Backup generator** in event of power outages



Financial Benefits

Cost effective: only \$203 per square foot. Our Library Construction Bond Act Grant (approved 11/9/20) provides \$3,098,217, matched by township’s partnerships with private developers of \$2.5 million, and \$598,217 of funds that have already been approved by the town council for use at 46 Mt. Pleasant will be applied to complete the full needs of **\$6.2 million** project.

These funds cannot be used for any other facility including our present library.

Averaging 160,000 annual visits, WOPL will benefit Essex Green Shopping Mall including ShopRite as an anchor. We anticipate that with a more central location, better amenities, more usable space, and more parking that these numbers will increase. The Return on Investment will be high.

With the 46 Mt. Pleasant Avenue being developed for 65 affordable senior housing units with a 7,500 square foot community center with branch library services, the project is a win-win for West Orange.