

The Crozet Library

www.albemarle.org/newlibrary

Project Background

The Crozet master planning process established a new and expanded public library in downtown Crozet as a critical community priority. Based on their input into the master planning process, citizens strongly preferred to place the new library in the heart of downtown to provide a focal point for community activity and expand opportunities for economic vitality for existing and new downtown businesses.

As demonstrated in other communities, today's public libraries are more than technology centers, book repositories, and quiet reading spaces, they are also focal points for community gathering places and activity centers.

The primary mission of the new facility is to serve the

library needs of the defined Western Albemarle service area with a concerted focus on both existing and emerging technologies and solutions that will support the library's programming and best serve its patrons.

The planning and design team will work closely with community members to preserve and enhance the existing character of downtown Crozet and to incorporate features and elements into the library project that will represent and honor Crozet's heritage.

Construction of the library supports a host of infrastructure projects that have multiple benefits for the public including the sidewalk project, shared public parking for downtown, construction

of Main Street, and the streetscape project.

The library project uses public investment to stimulate downtown activity and economic vitality and represents a significant commitment to revitalization directly in the heart of downtown Crozet.

Highlights

The library will be constructed on a two-acre site in Downtown Crozet.

The Board of Supervisors has approved a 20,000 square foot building to include community meeting space and other public uses.

Schematic design is underway under the guidance of a Steering Committee which includes Crozet citizens

Going Green with LEED Certification

Property has been purchased in Downtown Crozet for the new library, and the Board of Supervisors has approved construction of a 20,000 square foot library building.

The library building will include space for complementary uses such as public

meeting rooms and community space.

In February of 2007, the Board of Supervisors supported pursuing LEED Certification for the Crozet Library and other County buildings. LEED stands for Leadership in Energy and

Environmental Design and is a nationally accepted rating system for designing and building green buildings.

The new Crozet Library will be the County's first planned LEED Certified building project.

Next Steps

In April, 2008, the Board of Supervisors approved the formation of the Crozet Library Steering Committee. The committee's charge is to oversee the schematic design phase of the project. Formal design will take place from January through December 2009, and bidding for construction will be held December 2009/January 2010. Construction is expected to begin in the spring of 2010, with completion scheduled for late summer of 2011.

Community Involvement Opportunities

Check the Website

Because of the critical nature of the library as a community focal point and activity center, citizens need to be engaged in the project to ensure its success. The project consultant will work with the County to solicit community input through a comprehensive public participation effort. Regular updates will be posted to the library page on the Albemarle County website at: www.albemarle.org/newlibrary.

Sign up for E-Updates

Interested citizens are encouraged to sign up for the Crozet A-Mail list, which is an e-news service that delivers information about Crozet projects like the library directly to your email. You can sign up for A-Mail by going to the County website at www.albemarle.org/Amail.

Look for Newsletters and Attend Public Meetings

We will be distributing regular printed newsletters as the library project moves through conceptual and final design and into construction. We will also be scheduling frequent public meetings, open houses, and informal opportunities to meet and talk with county staff and the consultant to provide feedback on the project.

Contact Information

The Albemarle County staff contact for the library project is Bill Letteri, Director of Facilities Development, who can be reached by email at:

bleteri@albemarle.org.

Summary of Major Project Milestones to Date

- Downtown library endorsed by adopted Crozet Master Plan – December, 2004
- Purchase of Harris property for establishment of new Main Street – March, 2006
- Selection of project architect – September, 2006
- Contingent contract on Amato property – September, 2006
- Consultant meetings with stakeholders on library site – September, 2006
- Public meeting on library site selection – October, 2006
- Board work session on library site selection – November, 2006
- Purchase of Amato property – December, 2006
- Topographic surveys/alignment studies for Crozet Avenue and Main Street – initiated January, 2007 – completed June, 2007
- Board of Supervisors establishes library building at 20,000 square feet – March, 2007
- Downtown Zoning project begins – May, 2007
- Consultant selected for Crozet Avenue/Main Street Streetscape project – May, 2007
- The streetscape project that will create New Main Street and access to the Crozet Library gets underway – August, 2007
- Structures on the Harris property are removed as part of site preparation for the library project – March, 2008
- The Board of Supervisors appoints a Steering Committee work with County staff and the project consultant during the library's conceptual design phase – May, 2008
- The Board of Supervisors adopts the downtown zoning ordinance for Crozet that establishes the conditions necessary to design and construct the library as envisioned in the Master Plan – June, 2008