

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Q: Why are we building a new library in Crozet?**

**A:** The Crozet Master Plan adopted in December, 2004, established an expanded downtown library as a critical community priority. The current Crozet Library, which is 1,900 square feet in size, was determined to be inadequate for the community's current and future library needs. The master plan envisioned a new downtown library that could provide improved library services and also could serve as an anchor for a revitalized downtown Crozet - a major public sector investment and visible presence that would help support critical infrastructure improvements like parking, sidewalks, and the new Main Street.

**Q: Where exactly will the new library be located?**

**A:** The new library is being constructed at the corner of Library Avenue and Crozet, next to B&B Cleaners.

**Q: Why was the downtown location selected for the Crozet library site?**

**A:** Conversations about the new library occurred in a very significant way during the Crozet Master Plan process between 2002 and adoption of the plan in 2004, with a primary focus being on what positive contributions a new library could bring to the Crozet community as a visible presence and major public sector investment. 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 expanded opportunities for economic vitality for existing and new downtown businesses.

As part of the initial phase of the project, 13 sites were identified and evaluated on a number of criteria. Those criteria included the strong community preferences established by the master plan; operational requirements specified by the Jefferson-Madison Library Director, Crozet Library Branch Manager, and the Library Board; objective evaluations conducted by independent consultants regarding transportation impacts and economic opportunities; and successful best practices for library projects in other communities. Following a public meeting and extensive citizen input regarding the location of the new library, the Board of Supervisors selected the site, just south of The Square to best fulfill the intent of the master plan for the new library location.

**Q: How will the library support Downtown Crozet and fit with other downtown projects?**

**A:** 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 Library Avenue, and the Crozet Avenue 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. Much of the work that is underway right now for these infrastructure projects is achieving important and necessary milestones for the construction of the library.

**Q: How big will the library be?**

**A:** Based on the analysis of service area and population projections, staff recommended planning for an eventual 20,000 square foot library. Given the construction savings that can be realized by building the necessary square footage upfront together with the library's commitment to provide funding to keep the project close to its original budget, the Board of Supervisors directed that the building be designed and built at 23,000 square feet with the understanding that the space beyond what is currently required by the library be dedicated to a temporary compatible community-focused use until it is needed for library functions. The new library will exceed Virginia State Standards for size on opening day and is projected to meet the State Standards until 2026, at which point the library may expand into additional floor space on the lower level.

**Q: What is the service area of the new library?**

**A:** The Jefferson Madison Regional Library approach for determining library service areas encompasses that area that falls within a six-mile radius around the library location. When a six mile radius is drawn with the library site as the center point, the circle includes the entire Crozet Development area and some adjoining rural areas. Beyond that six mile radius, the Crozet library will provide expanded services and opportunities for the entire Western Albemarle community.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Q: When will the new library be completed?**

**A:** Construction is currently underway. The library is scheduled to be completed by July 2013.

**Q: What will happen to the old library?**

**A:** No decision has been made yet about the future of the current library structure. A determination of the appropriate future use for the building will be made in close consultation with community preferences after the new library is finished and open to the public.

**Q: Will the library have any kind of special environmental features?**

**A:** In February, 2007 the Board of Supervisors expressed unanimous support for pursuing LEED Certification for all newly-constructed County buildings including the Crozet Library—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 is the County's first complete new building designed to be LEED Certified, and LEED - Silver level certification is expected.

**Q: What kind of functions will be in the library?**

**A:** The library will feature adult and children's books, videos, audio books, internet stations, and public meeting spaces and other features that meet the needs of the Library Board and the desires of the community. The library project when completed will also provide significant community meeting and gathering space that will house a variety of public functions.

**Q: How can I stay involved in the library project?**

**A:** There are lots of ways to stay involved in the library project. Regular updates will be posted to the library page on the Albemarle County website at [www.albemarle.org/crozet](http://www.albemarle.org/crozet), and 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](http://www.albemarle.org/Amail).

**Q: Who can I contact at the County if I have questions?**

**A:** The Albemarle County staff contact for the library project is Trevor Henry, Director of Facilities Development, who can be reached by email at: [thenry@albemarle.org](mailto:thenry@albemarle.org).