

STEP-BY-STEP TOWARD A NEW LIBRARY BUILDING

Over the last weeks, we have taken a few more steps toward what we hope will someday be a new home for the Lowell Public Library.

On Thursday, May 19, we meet with the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) for a hearing on the library's request for a special exception which would permit us to build a new library across from Evergreen Park. The BZA felt that they'd like to have more information and scheduled a work session for May 3.

Architect Joel Blum of the Interdesign firm in Indianapolis, was present at a special meeting of the library board at 6 PM on that date to explain to the board the solutions to some of the concerns expressed by the BZA. Many of you were at that meeting and/or at the BZA meeting following at 7:30 PM. Roy Verkuilen, Permit Inspector for the Indiana Department of Transportation, was also there to answer questions concerning traffic.

I believe most of the questions were answered to the satisfaction of those present. If you could not make it to the meeting, please drop by the library and pick up a copy of our data.

The BZA will be meeting again on Thursday, May 17, at 7 PM to make their decision. We urge you to be there and express your opinion.

The Town Council will make the final decision. Their next meeting will be on Thursday, May 29 at 7:30 PM at the Town Hall. I hope you can make it.

The library board and staff have worked long and hard to find a suitable spot for a new library. People continue to raise questions about the site and we welcome the opportunity for dialog. Please see questions and answers elsewhere in this issue.

What's The Buzz?

LIBRARY BOARD

The regular meeting of the Library Board will be held on Monday, May 21. An executive meeting to discuss land and personnel will be held at 7 PM, with the regular meeting to follow at 8 PM.

ADULT PROGRAMS

Thursday, June 14

Blood Pressure/Diabetes Screening/Vision Testing

Shelby Branch 9 AM - 11 AM

Lowell Library 12:30 PM - 3 PM

FRIENDS PROGRAMS

Tuesday, May 15, 7 PM

Student Art Exhibit Reception. Prizes will be awarded. Works will be displayed from May 12 through May 18.

Wednesday, May 16, 6:30 PM

Friends will meet at Lowell Library at 6:30 PM to travel to the Shelby Branch. Meeting begins at Shelby at 7 PM.

June 14 - June 16

Thursday, 9 AM - 8 PM

Friday & Saturday, 9 AM - 5 PM

New paperback books for children. Profits help the library's book collection.

WE'RE SO EXCITED

BECAUSE WE'RE

WILD ABOUT READING

And you will be too. This summer's reading program is called Wild About Reading.

From June 11 through July 31, children of any age can sign up for the program at the Lowell, Shelby and Schneider Libraries.

The jungle theme will encourage the reading beast in your youngster to "devour" as many books as possible. If your children are not old enough to read for themselves you can read to them. This program truly encourages family literacy and togetherness.

A letter to parents given out when your child signs up will give you all the specifics, but here are a few highlights:

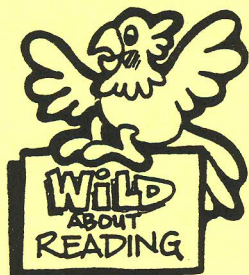
The children's library will become a reading jungle!

Programs held throughout the summer will include a book walk, a pet show, crafts and others.

Prizes will be given and a weekly drawing held.

A carnival will top off the program in early August. There will be Bozo buckets, a candy walk, ducks in the pond, popcorn and Kool-aid!

Moms and dads are encouraged to come to the library during the summer too. It's a great time to get together for family togetherness and learning that's fun.



CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS - MAY

Thursday, May 17

Schneider - School Age & Preschool Craft
at 3:30 PM

Thursday, May 24

Shelby - Preschool Craft at 4:00 PM

Thursday, May 31 -

Shelby - School Age Craft at 4:00 PM

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS - JUNE

Summer Reading Club

"Wild About Reading"

Monday, June 11 - First day to register and check out books for Summer Reading Club. You can also register at any time during June and July. 8 week program

June 13 - Videos - "Beatrix Potter Collection" and "Who Are You?"

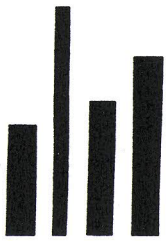
June 18 - We will be making African masks to hang in our jungle.

June 20 - Videos - "Corduroy & Other Bear Stories" & "Hansel & Gretel"

June 25 - Pet Show - Live & stuffed pets are welcome. Please restrain all live pets on a leash or in a cage. Thank you.

June 27 - Videos - "The Doughnuts" and "Little Red Riding Hood"

Come on!
Join Summer
Reading!



Lowell Public Library

250 North Fremont Street
Lowell, Indiana 46356-1899
219-696-7704

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON THE PROPOSED LIBRARY BUILDING SITE

Q. Why did you pick the site across from Evergreen Park?

A. The site across from Evergreen Park was the only one we knew of that was for sale on Commercial Avenue with enough acreage to build a new library and allow enough room for future growth.

Q. Why don't you go farther west (or east) on Commercial Avenue?

A. We would like to locate the library towards the center of our service district (Cedar Creek and West Creek Townships). If we go too far one direction or the other, it will pose a hardship for those who live in the opposite direction.

Furthermore, we want to remain close to the business district of Lowell, both to benefit from the people visiting their stores and to act as a drawing card for the area.

Q. How much will the new building cost?

A. We have not yet made a final decision on the size of type of building. When we do, we will be presenting it to you for your input.

Q. How will you deal with the traffic along Commercial Avenue without creating a hazard for cars or pedestrians?

A. The state requires acceleration and deceleration lanes to the property. In addition, we have submitted a list of possible solutions to the pedestrian crossing issue to the police and have asked for their opinion on the direction we should go.

The following questions and answers appeared in our March newsletter. We are reprinting them here for your review.

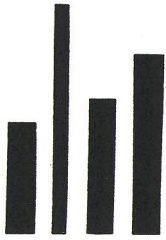
Q. Why do we need a new library?

A. The present library is overcrowded. We are particularly cramped for work space, storage and parking. Due to lack of meeting room space, many groups have to be turned away or meet in the public area. We have a very active children's program, which is important to everyone, but there is no room to provide a quiet area for adults who would like to do some serious studying.

We are not able to keep all the materials we would like. We discard most magazines after five years; if you want an issue older than that, we have to send for it from another library.

Serving
Cedar Creek—West Creek

Towns of
Lake Dalecarlia—Lowell—Schneider—Shelby



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- Q. Why don't you just build a second story on the present building?
- A. The present library would not support a second floor and a library with more than one floor requires additional staffing, this increasing the cost of operating the building.
- Q. Why do you want to put the library on Commercial Avenue?
- A. No matter where we locate the library, only a few people will be within walking distance. Most people drive to the library now. Studies and experience in many other communities show that if a library is located on a main street, it is more heavily used, and the taxpayers get their money's worth.
- Q. When would the new building be completed?
- A. The library board has not yet set a date for construction. We are concentrating first on obtaining a suitable piece of property. Hopefully, construction will begin in a few years.
- Q. Is there anything I can do to help?
- A. Yes. By sharing information about the library and its needs, you help to increase public understanding. If you or your organization would like to help financially, your gifts are needed and welcome.
- Q. How much will a new building raise my taxes?
- A. The purchase of the land will not raise your taxes. When it is time to discuss construction of a new building, we will give you all the facts and figures. The taxpayers will decide if they want a new building at that time or if they want to wait a few years. Purchase of the land does not mean a new building will be constructed immediately. It simply means we are providing for the future.

If you have other questions you'd like answered or comments you would like to make, please let us know.

On Thursday, May 17, the Board of Zoning Appeals will meet at 7 PM in the Town Hall basement, to cast their votes.

The Town Council will meet on May 29 at 7:30 PM in the basement of the Town Hall to make the final decision.

We urge you to come to both meetings to support the library. If you can't attend, you can make your opinions known by writing to either group care of the Town Hall, 512 E. Commercial Avenue, Lowell, IN 46356.

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