



Roselle Public Library Unveils Plans for State-of-the-Art Expansion *Fully ADA-Accessible Addition to Include Second Floor and Community Rooms*

ROSELLE, NJ - February 17, 2022 - The Roselle Public Library will be getting a well-deserved upgrade with plans for an expansion that include a second floor dedicated to the Borough's youngest residents.

The \$11 million renovation and expansion are going to transform the current library into a hub for the community with two large program rooms, retractable seating and a warming kitchen, all designed to be used by community groups after regular library hours. Plans also include a generator for the first-floor wing in case of emergency situations.

"It is the Library Board's opinion that this new building will be the nucleus for Roselle and all its residents," said Library Board President Georgette Bradshaw before plans were unveiled at the regular council meeting on Feb. 16. "Literacy, innovation, culture, community, safety and service is our goal."

Along with adding a second floor, the expanded 16,523-square-foot building will be fully ADA accessible with a ramp and elevators. Renovations will include updated HVAC and lighting, enhanced Wi-Fi, and expanded technology that will include audio visual systems for the community rooms, study areas and more.

The expansion will increase the library's maximum occupancy from the current 79 to 279 people, while the building's exterior will feature the Borough's slogan, "First in Light, first village to be lighted by Thomas Edison."

In November 2020, Roselle was awarded a \$5.5 million New Jersey Library Construction Bond Grant to transform the public library into a modern community resource center. The borough received the fourth largest grant in the state and has partnered with the Union County Improvement Authority (UCIA) to assist with project management and funding. The grant allows for this much-needed expansion without overburdening the taxpayers, explained UCIA Project Manager Bibi Taylor.

"We are a partner with the Borough to make sure this project is on time and under budget," she said at the meeting.

“The entire Library staff is looking forward to serving the community in the new building and in an expanded capacity. These improvements will build upon the service we have always provided,” said Library Director Jeanne Marie Ryan.

Bradshaw emphasized the need for community input and said the Board will be engaging residents through upcoming surveys.

“Thank you to the entire Library Board, staff and committee for putting in the work each and every week,” said Mayor Donald Shaw. “This long-awaited expansion is going to benefit our entire community.”

“Roselle deserves this library! It will give us the capacity and space to run programming that will improve literacy and increase intellectual output from our youth, young adults, seniors, entrepreneurs, community groups and more,” said Council President Denise Wilkerson, a member of the Library Project Committee since its creation in 2018.

View the updated plans at www.rosellelibrary.org.

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