

Library officials predict wait will be worth it to north end patrons - New Dorothea Stottman branch library could be ready by year's end to serve Hillview area

Pioneer News, The (Shepherdsville, KY) - March 15, 2011

- Author/Byline: Stephen Thomas
- Section: Local News
- Readability: 6-8 grade level (Lexile: 1030)

HILLVIEW - Over the years, patrons and staff at the Dorothea Stottman Library in northern Bullitt County have watched and waited.

They've seen new branches be built in Mount Washington and Lebanon Junction.

They've seen major expansion and renovations to the main Ridgway Memorial Library in Shepherdsville.

They've even seen a book drop system installed at Nichols Elementary.

They've waited and they've watched.

But library leadership assured those in Hillview and nearby Hunters Hollow that they have saved the best for last.

"You're getting the Cadillac you deserve," library director Randy Matlow proclaimed during Tuesday's board meeting held at the Dorothea Stottman Library. "You've waited 'til last, so hopefully you'll get the best."

Plans for the new facility place the building on property behind the current branch.

He said the new facility will double the current space.

Architect Greg White, with Studio Cremer in Louisville, worked on building design with the library. White assisted with previous Bullitt County library designs.

"All our libraries have been an evolution in design," said Matlow. "We always want a library that is welcoming to the community. With Hillview we took a different approach, it's unique."

Matlow said other facilities were "shoehorned" and designed to fit the space allotment. In Hillview there was enough space for expanded plans, with the building housing 10,000 square feet, almost doubling Stottman's size.

The new design is different from other libraries, with three wings branching off a main room via arch entrances. Matlow jokingly referred to the design as a space ship.

"There's not too many squares to it," he said.

The wings will feature elevated ceilings with high windows allowing an increase of natural light to the facility.

The Dorothea Stottman Library is situated at the corner of Hillview Boulevard and Terry Boulevard.

The new library will face Terry Boulevard.

One wing contained a vestibule entry will lead into the main room. A large conference room, smaller meeting rooms and a larger computer lab would be located in the front of the building.

According to Matlow, the front rooms could be accessed in the evening after library hours, separated from the main library facility by a retractable gate.

"This allows the front to be open at night, including the computer labs," Matlow said. Groups, committees and possibly even schools could implement the rooms.

Another wing would focus primarily on a children's section with movable book shelves. Matlow said the room contained plenty of space for various children's programs with some separation from the main facility.

A new juvenile section would be located to the side of the circulation desk, with age appropriate books and magazines as well as a few computers.

Board president Allie Phillips said the new facility could host programs such as movie nights along with teen and children's programs.

"The current library doesn't have a children;s area or a teen section," she reminded.

The third wing would be used primarily as a book shelf area.

The main round center hall would be highlighted by a high ceiling and a giant fan courtesy of the Big Ass Fan Co. based in Lexington.

"The fan will turn slowly to maintain air circulation throughout the building," Matlow said.

Toward the rear of the building, a large covered outdoor reading area would be available. The area would face property behind the building.

According to Matlow, the space behind the library could be future implemented with the addition of a walking path or a gazebo for outdoor events.

Bernheim Forest worked with Bullitt County Libraries in the past, most recently with landscaping at the Lebanon Junction facility.

"We will get a beautification plan through Bernheim," Matlow said. "They have been very gracious. We've cooperated with them on programs for many years."

A curved parking lot will wrap around the front of the building, with an access entrance to Terry Blvd.

Matlow said the current Stottman facility would remain in place, possibly converted to office space for the children's program or book processing employees.

The library board also discussed plans with city of Hillview.

"I love the look of it," said mayor Jim Eadens.

With the setback location, Eadens encouraged the board to talk with Hillview Police about a security layout of the facility.

Matlow mentioned that surveillance cameras would be places throughout the building's exterior as well as the rear property.

Phillips said the next step was accepting public bids for a building contractor. She hoped that with enough good luck the facility would be ready by year's end.

Matlow said with a bid in place construction could begin in late April or early May.

• Record: *dcf2418a5cddec8efd7d76326ac2d68b11da79c3*

• Copyright: Copyright © 2011 The Pioneer News, Landmark Community Newspapers LLC (LCNI). All rights reserved.