

# PLEASANT HILL LIBRARY FAQ's

## April 2017

### How is the current Library facility used?

The Pleasant Hill Library sees over 1,200 visitors per day, including hundreds of teens on schooldays. Last year, over 25,000 children and their families came to events such as puppet shows, science nights, musical performances and story-times. Each story time attracts an average of 90 children and caregivers.

The Library promotes literacy for all ages with book clubs, citywide reads, and the Summer Reading Program, while encouraging digital literacy with weekly Lego robotics, 3D moviemaking, computer tutoring, and free access to 40 computers and wireless internet. Over 434,000 books, movies, magazines, and CDs were checked out last year, and circulation of children's books continues to rise.



The Pleasant Hill Library hosts art and cultural events for all ages year-round, while engaging adults and seniors with monthly book clubs and information workshops on technology, health, genealogy and gardening. The Library is a vibrant community meeting place for students, families, and local organizations.

### Why does Pleasant Hill need a new Library building?

The current Library building is 56 years old and cannot satisfy the community's current needs for large programming spaces and 21<sup>st</sup> century learning facilities. A new facility also opens new possibilities for extending learning opportunities and cultural offerings for community members. According to a 2007 County building condition report, the current facility has over \$10 million in deferred maintenance expenses (for example: roofing, HVAC, and parking facilities), making renovation of the existing building complex and impractical.

### How will a new Library building support education in Pleasant Hill?

The landscape of education is changing rapidly with new federal & state learning standards, technology tools, and student-centered hands-on learning. A new building promises an opportunity to deepen partnerships with educators and expand resources and support for students, parents, and teachers – especially as an after-school learning environment. From reading-readiness to college-readiness, study skills to jobs skills, starting a new language, or business, or hobby – the Pleasant Hill Library will continue to foster lifelong learning for students and adults in every stage of their lives.

### What important factors could be included in the new Library?

In tours of recently built libraries in Walnut Creek, Lafayette, Orinda, and others, the Library Task Force identified several significant factors for a new facility in Pleasant Hill:

- Flexibility of new spaces that can change along with transformations in collections, services, and activities
- Room for large programs such as weekly story-times, and art, music, and cultural events, as well as space to simply sit and read
- Small meeting rooms to satisfy the needs of students, professionals, and small community groups
- A family-friendly atmosphere that fosters free exploration and social learning
- Space for traditional Library services as well as personal technology spaces
- Adequate parking

### What does the recent agreement between the County and the PH Recreation & Park District mean for the new Community Library?

City of Pleasant Hill --- [www.pleasanthillca.org/library](http://www.pleasanthillca.org/library) --- (925) 671-5229

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The City and the County can now move forward on an agreement for the transfer of approximately three acres at 1700 Oak Park Boulevard for the new City of Pleasant Hill Community Library. The property fronts on Oak Park Boulevard just across Monticello Avenue to the east of the existing library. The location was one of the candidate sites that the Pleasant Hill Library Task Force identified for a new library. The City Council endorsed this location in 2016.

#### **What will the 10-acre site at 1700 Oak Park Blvd. be used for?**

The new City of Pleasant Hill Community Library will be constructed on approximately three acres fronting on Oak Park Boulevard, on the south side of the County owned 10-acre vacant parcel. The remaining seven acres that the County owns can possibly be used for housing; however, no application has been submitted yet. The land is designated as a mixed-use property, including housing, in the City's General Plan.

#### **What are the next steps for the new library, and when will the public have an opportunity to comment?**

The City is in the process of issuing a Request for Proposals from architectural firms to oversee the design of the library. The City anticipates that the chosen architect will begin the design phase in the fall of 2017. This process will involve extensive community outreach and engagement through workshops and public hearings.

#### **What other improvements could be made in these locations?**

The City, in partnership with the County and Recreation & Park District expect to explore possible improvements to Monticello Avenue and Oak Park Boulevard in the vicinity of the projects. These could include new bike lanes, sidewalks, street resurfacing and signal improvements at the intersection of the two streets.

#### **Will the current library remain open until the new library is available?**

The Pleasant Hill Recreation & Park District has committed to allowing the current library facility to remain open until a new library is available. If the District exercises its option to purchase the 1750 Oak Park Boulevard property prior to the County vacating the library building, then the District will lease the building to the County through April 1, 2021 so that the library will remain open.

#### **How will the City fund the construction of the new library?**

The City will use a portion of the new revenue provided by Measure K to fund the library construction. Measure K, a one-half cent sales tax increase, took effect on April 1, 2017 and is expected to provide more than \$4 million in revenue annually to the City for the next 20 years. Measure K revenue will also be used to fund infrastructure improvements, including streets, storm drains and sidewalks.

#### **Why is the City responsible for building a new library if the current one is owned and operated by the County?**

Contra Costa County Library provides library services only. The County has not built any new libraries since the mid-1970's. All new libraries have been funded by the cities in which they are located.

#### **How much will a new library cost to build?**

The total cost for the design and construction of the library depends on a number of factors, including the size and scope of the building, technology, parking, and landscaping improvements. At this time, the construction cost is estimated to be between \$15 and \$20 million. The estimated size of the building ranges from 20,000 to 25,000 square feet. There will be extensive community outreach and engagement to involve the public, which will help determine what the final project will include.