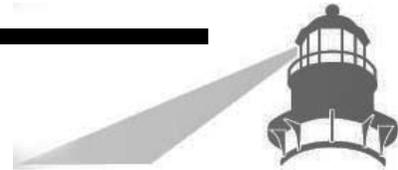

Thomas Memorial Library

A Cultural Center for the Centennial



With the Library's Centennial approaching, we have an opportunity to gift our town and our future with a dynamic information and community hub. As the chart on the reverse side makes clear, our town's Library has serious facility issues that need addressed. Also shown on the reverse and described below is a vision whereby we do more than just tinker with band-aid solutions.

The Library Board, Foundation Board, and Town Council are asking residents to embrace building a new cultural center. In this new center, information still flows in books, but also in technology, information systems, dialogue, and substantive community interaction. These emphases emerged from surveys and focus groups of residents and library staff.

While showcasing all the current Library's strengths, the Centennial Plan envisions the Library as an information center of transformative social depth. The best libraries in America are already serving this purpose in their communities. Cape Elizabeth can join their progressive ranks.

The current recommendations address the Library's facility issues with a combination of renovation and new construction that will match a vision: creating a cultural center for the Centennial and beyond.

- That vision sees a place where there are finally no barriers to accessibility, and all may come and go with ease.
- It imagines a place where patrons of all ages have a range of computing options including private media/tutorial rooms and computer labs for instruction.
- It foresees new meeting facilities where groups of 100 or more can enjoy movie screenings, live HD broadcasts, literary presentations, public debates, and lectures.
- It sees casual areas where friends can chat, share, and support each other.

Funding a facility that can do all of this and more is hoped to be a joint effort between Town bonding and private philanthropy. The new Library would be nearly 50% larger than the current Library and cost about \$8.0 to \$8.5 million depending upon final specifications and timing.

The Foundation seeks to test whether it might raise in the range of \$3 million toward the cost from individuals, foundations and businesses. The Foundation has hired the firm of Demont Associates of Portland to conduct a planning study on its behalf to gauge the reaction of key community leaders to these plans both in conception and in funding.

In summary, the new Thomas Memorial Library is designed from every angle to become the cultural center of Cape Elizabeth. It is made to be all that libraries of the future can be while building realistically and efficiently.

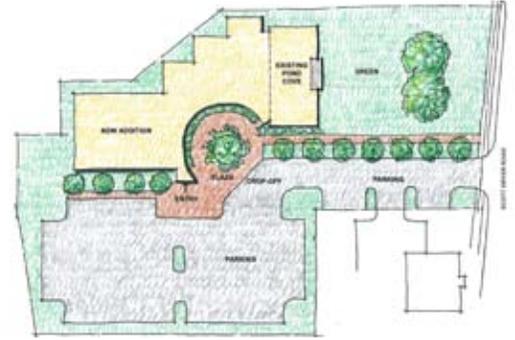
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Take a Moment to Imagine

Imagine a visit to a Cape Elizabeth information and cultural center where choices await everyone. Do you drop into the presentation on using social media in the new interactive conference room? Or take your child to the pre-K reading hour in the new children's program section? Or head to the new adult reading section? Or download a book to your e-reader from the Library's free digital collection?

You contemplate a movie screening/discussion on Thursday in the new community room. And a poetry reading in the café on Monday night (which is full and buzzing with conversation right now). You pass the new young adult section and happily note a dozen teens computing, researching, and reading. The tutoring/media room has a group of parents working on a media presentation on literacy. In fact, as you walk to *your* choice, you see the entire Cape community represented in age and diversity. What a future!

New Library Envisioned



The Centennial Plan combines existing and new construction on essentially the same footprint.

Current Library Facility Issues Compared With the Centennial Vision

Library Aspect	Current Conditions	Vision
FUNCTIONAL	Designed as a repository of books	An information hub and cultural center
Accessibility	ADA inaccessible stacks & spaces Antiquated lift	Fully accessible Elevator
Public Access Computers	Well below national standards due to limitations of electrical system capacity	Triples current capacity and meets standards
Children's Library	No dedicated children's program space	Doubles children's spaces with both programming and technology access spaces
Teen Center	Cramped, very limited seating, teens sitting on floors in hallways	Four times the current space
Community Meeting Space	Limited seating in water-damaged space with possible mold issues	132 seat multi-media community meeting and cultural presentation space
Tutoring/Group Study/Media Spaces	Nonexistent	Two soundproof rooms
Seating and Meeting Spaces	Around 2800 square feet	Around 5700 square feet
CE Historical Society Room	Humidity issues, limited space for exhibiting CE story, water damage	Climate-controlled with exhibit space
Cafe	No	Yes
Adult Library	No quiet reading area; limited research seating	A new adult section with technology access
Live Broadcasts	No	Yes
STRUCTURAL	15,000 square feet	22,000 square feet
Air Quality	Humidity issues; circulation issues	Air handling system to meet all codes/needs
Energy Efficiencies	Variable to inefficient, entrance area very energy-inefficient	State of art, many green features, new energy-saving entrance
System Capacities	Electrical maxed, stack floors at overload capacity	Fully code compliant and robust capacity
Design Limitations	One-quarter of space unuseable (corridors, stairwells, fire code issues and more)	Designed for purposeful use of all square footage

The History of Current Facility. Thomas Memorial Library, dedicated in 1919, opened in an 1848 one-room schoolhouse donated to the town by William Widgery Thomas, Jr. The small building (926 sq. ft.) had already been moved three times when it opened in 1919, only to be moved again in 1944 to its present site. In 1957, another 1,380 square feet was added. In 1967 an entry way was added and the basement of the original schoolhouse was renovated into a children's room. In 1978, set to raze the Pond Cove School Annex built in 1912, the Town Council instead offered it to the Library. A connector was built, the school basement refurbished, the various classrooms assigned library usages, and the Library rededicated in 1986.