

PLEASANT HILL LIBRARY TASK FORCE FAQ's

In March 2014, the Pleasant Hill City Council formed a Pleasant Hill Library Task Force “to explore the need for and feasibility of constructing a new Library building serving the residents of Pleasant Hill.” The twelve-member Task Force is composed of representatives of the following organizations:

Pleasant Hill City Council (**Michael Harris and Sue Noack**); Planning Commission (**Bill Bankert**); Pleasant Hill Education Commission (**Jennifer Andersen**); Contra Costa County Library (**Terry Speiker**); Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors (**Karen Mitchoff, alternate Lisa Chow**); Mt. Diablo Unified School District Board of Trustees; Pleasant Hill Recreation & Park District Board of Directors (**Sandy Bonato, alternate Sherry Sterrett**); Pleasant Hill Library Fund (**Jack Prosek**); Friends of the Pleasant Hill Library (**Susan Weaver**); Pleasant Hill Chamber of Commerce (**Steve Van Dorn**); and City of Pleasant Hill representative to the Contra Costa County Library Commission (**Katherine Bracken**)

This all-volunteer task force is now seeking input from all Pleasant Hill residents, students & businesses about a new facility. Some background is included below with more information online at www.pleasanthillca.org/Library.

How is the current Library facility used now?

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 over 50 years old and cannot satisfy the community’s current needs for large programming spaces and 21st 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.

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What will the new Library look like?

The Library Task Force is reaching out to learn more about what residents want in a new Library facility. In tours of recently built libraries in Walnut Creek, Lafayette, and Orinda, 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



Where will the new Library be located?

The Library Task Force has been looking closely at a number of different sites, considering factors such as available land, proximity to schools, traffic and parking concerns, convenience to public transit, and safe pedestrian and bicycle access. There are currently several site locations being considered (including the current library site) but a final site has not been yet been selected and this will not occur without community input.

How is the County involved?

Although the County owns and operates the current library building and site, it is most likely that a new library building will be owned and maintained by the City. To this end, the City and Library Task Force are working with County staff to explore all options for a new facility including the location.

How much will a new Library building cost?

The cost will depend on many factors including the size and scope of the new facility. Recent construction of libraries in the County have involved several different streams of funding - contributions from developers, Friends of the Library & Foundation groups, private donors, bond and tax measures, as well as various grants.

Will the Library hours or staffing be increased with a new facility?

Facilities and hours are funded separately. Contra Costa County Library is responsible for daily operations of the Pleasant Hill Library. In October 2014, the Pleasant Hill Library expanded opening hours to 43 hours per week with funding for the additional hours provided by the City of Pleasant Hill. Additional staffing and hours will be examined as the process continues.

How can I give more information or get involved?

The Library Task Force holds regular monthly meetings in the large community room at City Hall. Agendas and meetings are posted online at www.pleasanthillca.org/meetings. Please contact the group with comments or questions online (phLibrary@pleasanthillca.org) or write to the Library Task Force at Pleasant Hill City Hall, 100 Gregory Lane Pleasant Hill, CA 94523. For additional information email mnelis@pleasanthillca.org. You can also check out the Friends of the Library website at www.phlibraryfriends.org.