

To The Editor

Westfield is currently in the early stages of redeveloping its original core. Town Council President Andy Cook has appointed Ken Kingshill to lead a task group that is implementing a downtown plan.

There are good ideas on the table for building around a future "Grand Junction" of our two rails-to-trails in a park atmosphere. This will invite quiet pedestrian businesses, town homes, restaurants and specialty stores. It will involve an attractive and interesting government center that could eventually include an all new Library and City Hall. I submit that the people have the most to gain by supporting this studied initiative.

However the Library Board has voted to work against this effort by going forward with the petition race for its bond that will cost us over \$31,000,000 -and this for a totally new library away from the people, at 196th Street. This bond would double the Library tax!

The Library Board is ignoring the fact that they recently spent millions of our dollars on expanding and upgrading our current facility. They are telling us a "story" when they say that they cannot build an addition on adjacent land that they (we) already own. The present building was reportedly designed to take a second level. In addition, an independently commissioned professional engineer conducted a soil analysis last month that demonstrates that this land is not "wetland", nor has conflicting drainage issues, as the Board claims.

The District Conservationist of the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, and a professional engineer from the Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District, have also recently visited the current library site. They confirmed the engineer's conclusion that no drainage issues would limit expansion.

The solution for the Library is to delay five to ten years by expanding its present facility, plan a great new state-of-the-art library near our "Grand Junction" park, work with the City toward that end, then turn the present building over to the schools as they desire. In ten years our assessed value will easily support this. Now it can't!

So please, instruct your Library Board to wait for this downtown master plan. You can do this by signing the remonstrance that stops the Library's untimely \$31,626,000 expense.

Please help revitalize Westfield's downtown by signing the bond remonstrance this month, not the Library's counter petition. www.westfieldlibrary.info will tell you how.

Mic Mead
Westfield