

What , How and Why we need to stop the library move.

-What would be the cost if the library were to stay where it is?

With no land to purchase and a building originally designed for a second floor the savings over the purchase of a new building and land would clearly be substantial. There are no actual figures on cost but it would be a fraction of the cost of a new library.

-How did you get involved with the petition?

I got involved as soon as I found out that the library was relocating. Previous to that the project was referred to as an “expansion”, so it was quite a shock to discover that the library board was moving the library. I knew immediately that it was a bad idea and my husband, Jose Beyer, agreed. He started the petition drive by collecting the needed 100 signatures to start the remonstrance. We both felt strongly about the issue so we got involved. We are currently going door-to-door collecting signatures for the blue petition.

-Why do you think the library should stay at it's present location?

A library is a vital part of a community and needs to be easily accessible to all citizens. The Westfield Library is in an ideal location that is close to the students that need and use it. Although we live in one of the richest communities in the country not every student can afford to have a computer at home. Many students rely on library computers so by moving the library 2 miles away we make it difficult, if not impossible for these students to have access. What good is a library that doesn't serve those who need it most?

Why do you feel so strongly about the move?

Up until a few months ago I was the president of the Friends of the Westfield Library and served on the board for over five years. I care about our library. Such an important building should be centralized. There are a multitude of logical reasons that the library shouldn't move such as good stewardship of our money, but I won't bore you with those. They can all be seen on the website: www.westfieldlibrary.info . Remember it's our library and we do have a say, that's why it's called a public library.

One of the great things about living in the United States is that we all have the freedom to express our opinions about what our government is doing or is not doing. I encourage all students to get involved and stay involved in some way with their community and government. One person can make a difference.

Diane Beyer
Westfield Resident