

Reply letter
To the Editor,

I want to thank the TIMES for giving so much space to Westfield's library issue. I also thank the paper for offering to stage a public debate that would have shown it in full on its web site. It is easy to see why the library support group declined -their arguments on this letter page (Nov. 21), just plain don't hold up.

Can you imagine Board President Richardson's preposterous statement that we should not be concerned about the cost of a new moved library because the Governor's proposed plan will bail us out with our own sales and income tax?

I am particularly offended by Board member Mike Thomas's statement that the public did not attend Library Board meetings "to protest". I'll tell you that all of the early meetings that were publicized in 2006, were filled to standing room. When the public was allowed to be heard many spoke in opposition to the plan and offered alternatives. Only one (other than staff who interrupted each speaker from their seats to argue) spoke in favor. We spoke in clear terms as to why we wanted our library to not move away from us.

We asked for the public process but without our knowledge the decisions had already been made and the architect was already being chosen by subsequent meetings. We were then told that we could speak only after the Board voted.

Ask yourself, why these public "servants" would treat us this way and now insult us. Do they think we are their subjects?

Please call 846-6257 if you want a "blue" Remonstrance brought to you to sign. We do want a public process.

By the way, members of the civilian committee that met for the previous three years to plan the library's expansion, report to me that moving was never discussed.

Mic Mead
Advocate for citizen involvement

