

Keep Our Library Downtown

Downtown Westfield and its library are a vital component of our community. Union Street is a charming and active area. The Library Board wants to build a new \$31 million library 2.3 miles northwest of the present library location on the northern border of our township.

The present library is within walking distance to 3400 of the 5400 students (5th-12th graders). The proposed library will be accessible to a new elementary school (K-4th grade). A school bus to transfer students from the east side of Hwy 31 to the proposed rural location has been promised. What does it cost taxpayers to financially support a school bus and a driver from 2:30 PM to 8:00 PM five days a week for the duration of this proposed library? More seriously, what is the cost if a student crossing the busy Hwy. 31 is stuck by a vehicle?

We all want new facilities and services in Westfield, but someone has to pay for them. Our property taxes are too high now. This proposal would double our library tax. The present library was completely remodeled five years ago. The gray siding on the west and south side of this building was not bricked for a reason; it was intended to be expanded in the future. The Library Board did not want to waste \$30,000 placing bricks in these areas with this expectation. There are viable and economic alternatives to keeping Westfield's Library downtown **if** the Library Board will listen!

The single most important question we should all ask ourselves on this issue is: "*What's best for our kids?*" "

Now is not the time to ask the taxpayers in our community to finance a 20 year bond for over \$31,000,000. Now is the time to block the library from moving by signing the BLUE Remonstrance Form before December 6?" If you want to keep our library downtown, contact, David Mueller - 896-9300, Jill Mead – 846-6257, Ted Engelbrecht – 896-0295, or Ron Thomas- rthomaswtnt@cs.com to sign the form by December 6. Let's keep the library downtown and not spend \$31 million for a new rural library

David Mueller
Westfield resident & business owner