



Facilities Planning Update – April 2008

The Wilmington Public Library District currently provides comprehensive library services to approximately 9200 residents in Wilmington and Florence Townships, as well as the majority of Wesley Township. We are currently located in an 7,500 sq. ft. Methodist Church (circa 1857) that was redesigned in 1969 to accommodate library resources and services. An addition was constructed in July 1987 which includes a children's room, a meeting room, rest rooms, and a new entrance making the building handicapped accessible for the first time.

Our library community, along with the rest of Will County, has been growing rapidly for the last several years. The Board of Trustees recently updated our Strategic Plan, and one of our core mission statements is to provide an efficient, accessible, convenient, comfortable, and welcoming facility for our patrons to enrich their lives. In order to accomplish this goal, the Library has begun to evaluate our current facility and plan for the future. To guide our efforts, the Board adopted the following vision statement:

Our vision for a facility project is to:

1. Ensure a safe, welcoming, accessible, and cost-efficient building which supports the delivery of high quality library programs and services to all residents.
2. Enable our Library District to provide appropriate, adaptable, and functional space to meet the wide range of needs of customers at all age and literacy levels.
3. Create and maintain an environment that encourages life-long learning, invites community use, and enhances our residents' quality of life.

To help us with the extensive evaluation process, the Board interviewed several architectural firms earlier this year and selected Apace Design from Peoria. Apace is conducting a thorough feasibility and site evaluation study regarding the potential renovation and expansion of our existing library. If it is determined our existing facility cannot be expanded enough to meet the needs of our patrons, the firm will then help us assess sites and develop preliminary options for a new library on a to-be-determined site.

The Library is committed to engaging the community in our facilities planning process and will soon provide an update on the architect's initial findings and recommendations. We will be asking for your thoughts and comments throughout the development of our long-term facilities plan so please stay tuned for ways you can get involved in the coming months!