

Dear Residents,

Your community library is a valued resource for a range of services to support your family, your career, and your lifelong learning goals. We can see that our services are especially needed now, in this time of economic fragility and high unemployment.

Unfortunately, your library building is suffering. From roof leaks to major electrical and heating failures, over the past several years repeated maintenance projects have been undertaken to try to keep these systems running. We recently called in a professional engineering firm to conduct a comprehensive facilities audit, and it has been determined that the library is in need of substantial critical repairs.

Due to the nature of the repairs, the library must take immediate action. We are aware of the tough economic times everyone is facing, and as a result, have developed a multi-phase plan that will allow us to rehabilitate the library without putting an increased financial burden on the community.

This creative approach calls for allocating a portion of the funds from the operational budget (roughly \$4.5 - \$5 million) for the repair costs. The result of this innovative planning strategy is that the library will be repaired and improved at no additional cost to taxpayers. In order to complete all projects effectively, the library will have to be temporarily closed for 16 months beginning in October 2011, to provide construction contractors unlimited and uninterrupted access to the facility. This measure will allow us to make the needed repairs at a substantial cost savings.

During this time, the library will remain the resource you have come to rely on. Full-time staff members will largely remain employed, library materials and services will be available at a temporary location (to be announced), all programs will run as scheduled off-site, and website access will connect patrons with electronic library resources.

Our focus for the project is on the health and safety of our patrons, for whom we aim to maintain an excellent library experience. Throughout the months of closure, critical upgrades will be made to the heating, plumbing, electrical and fire safety systems. There will also be masonry upgrades and roofing work, as well as the repair of windows and interior finishes. These repairs will transform our library into a safer, more efficient and improved facility with expanded functionality. It will not be larger, but it will be better!

Beyond the repairs, the library is exploring property acquisition opportunities with adjacent landowners to accommodate increased parking. However, there is nothing firm to report at this time, and since this is not part of the critical repairs, it will not be a part of the project.

We encourage the community to visit our website at [www.communitylibrary.org](http://www.communitylibrary.org) for additional and up-to-date information on the library.

Sincerely,

Kerri Rosalia  
Director, Mastics-Moriches-Shirley Community Library

## Questions & Answers

### Q. What does this project entail?

A. Critical repairs will be made to the heating, plumbing, electrical and fire alarm systems. There will also be masonry upgrades and roofing work, as well as the installation of windows and interior finishes.

### Q. Why is this project being put forth now?

A. Following an audit of the facility it was deemed imperative to make these repairs immediately in order to ensure a safe and efficient building for library patrons.

### Q. What is the project's total cost? What is the tax impact?

A. It is estimated that the project will cost approximately \$4.5 - \$5 million. To offset the costs we have reallocated money from the operational budget to fund the construction. As a result of the savings accrued from temporarily closing the library there will be NO additional tax impact on the community.

### Q. Who will benefit?

A. Everyone will benefit. The community will experience an improved environment to enjoy our literature and multimedia tools, while employees will be able to better function and service patrons in a more streamlined workspace.

### Q. Will construction affect library service to patrons?

A. While the library structure will be temporarily closed, an offsite location will house select library materials where full-time staff members will assist patrons. In addition, all offsite programs will run as scheduled, and website access will connect patrons with electronic library resources. Operating hours at the offsite location will be the same as the daily library hours.

### Q. When will the library close and reopen?

A. Upon securing a lease for a temporary offsite library location - to be announced, we anticipate to close the building in October 2011 with construction beginning in March 2012. The library is planned to reopen in early 2013.

### Q. Will this project address lack of parking?

A. We are continually looking for ways to improve our patron's library experience and are currently exploring the possibility of obtaining additional land to expand parking availability.

### Q. How can I receive more information about this project?

A. We will keep the community updated on the status of the project through printed and electronic correspondence. In addition, the library's website at [www.communitylibrary.org](http://www.communitylibrary.org) will keep you apprised of the project's progress.