Why Renovate the Great Neck Library Main Building?

The Main Library at 159 Bayview Avenue opened in 1970. It is now 2013, and nearly all of the existing building infrastructure has reached the end of its useful life.

50% of the renovation budget will be spent on the following necessary improvements:

- Upgrade of heating, cooling, electrical, alarm and lighting systems
- Removal of asbestos
- Increased insulation and replacement of windows to save heating and air conditioning costs
- Modernized and enlarged restrooms
- Elevator upgrade
- Bringing the building up to current safety and ADA requirements

The remainder of the budget is being used to create a library for the 21st century by placing less emphasis on materials storage and more emphasis on programs and services:

- Moving the Community Room to the Main Level for easier access and offering better sight-lines without the need for fixed seating or a sloped floor to maintain flexibility in use
- Creating an enlarged Children’s Room on the lower level with easier access for strollers and the ability to offer more programming within the space, lowering the shelf heights to increase safety and usability by children and offering its own dedicated check-out desk
- More public seating around the interior perimeter of the building offering greater access to the pond views
- Adding a mezzanine level Public Reading room and more study areas
- Moving the popular Audiovisual collection to the Main Level
- Creating a dedicated Young Adult space on the Main Level
- Building a space with fewer fixed walls and shelves to allow the flexibility to easily adapt as library needs and functions change in the future

What is not changing?

- The footprint of the building is staying unchanged, there is no increase in the overall exterior size of the building
- The existing, stone and glass exterior is being repaired and upgraded, but not replaced
Will library services be available during the renovation?

- For safety and cost reasons, the Main Library must be closed to the Public during the anticipated less than one year renovation period
- During this time, hours will be increased at the three branch libraries, and most programs and services will continue to be provided
- The library is working with the school district and other local organizations to find a temporary home for Levels, more programming space and a possible additional location in the north village

How much will it cost?

- The Board of Trustees is seeking approval on a $10.4 million bond

How can I find out more?

- Architectural plans are available for your inspection on the Great Neck Library website
  - Take a “behind-the-scenes” tour of the library to see the current conditions of the Main Library and to ask questions about the proposed renovation plan.
  - Remaining Dates & Times:
    - Wednesday, November 13 at 1 pm
    - Saturday, November 16 at 11 am.
- Sign-up for email updates using the “Be Informed!” link from the library website
- Send your questions by email to renovation@greatnecklibrary.org
- Call the Interim Library Director, Laura Weir, at 516-466-8055, ext. 200

The Referendum Vote on the Bond for Library Renovation will take place on Tuesday, Nov 19, 2013 from 7 am to 10 pm.

Residents living north of the LIRR will vote at the Baker Hill School.
Residents living south of the LIRR will vote in the west gym at Great Neck South High School.
Call the library for more information on absentee ballot applications.
Complete details are available in the Current Library Newsletter and on the Great Neck Library website.