

Embracing the Future

Two years ago, the Board of Directors took its first step toward reinventing the Jeanes Library by conducting a Community Needs Assessment. That analysis confirmed that the building is undersized, that the collection needs to grow, and that patrons are eager to find a broader array of services.

In the spring of 2007, the Board hired CICADA Architecture/Planning, Inc. to quantify the space and collection needs, assess current building conditions, and produce a conceptual plan for achieving the added square footage.

Over the course of five months, township residents demonstrated their interest in this project by filling the Library's Community Room for a series of planning meetings and design charrettes. Early in January, CICADA delivered its recommendations and conceptual drawings.

Based on comments from patrons, Board members, staff, and Friends of the Library, the CICADA team defined design parameters to accomplish the following:

- Expansion from 11,000 to 25,000 square feet
- Enlarged surface parking lot
- Interior space designed for flexibility of use
- A Young Adult Collection located away from the Children's Collection
- "Social" spaces that include a café with tables and chairs
- Preservation of key landscape features
- Retention and major renovation of the existing building, with the additional square footage achieved through the construction of attached space

Visit the Library—through the front door or through its Web portal

The William Jeanes Memorial Library is located at 4051 Joshua Road, just north of Miles Park.

Hours:

Monday, noon to 9:00 p.m.

Tuesday thru Thursday, 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

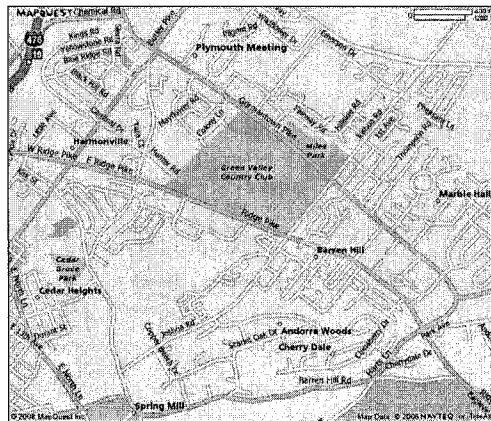
Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

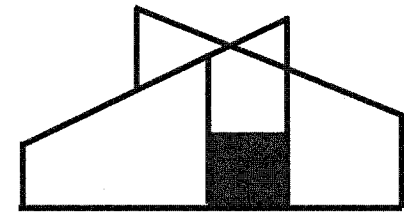
Saturday hours change during the summer months.

The Library's website is open 24/7, and registered patrons can search from among thousands of online sources, ask a question of an online librarian, and request a book from any one of the Montgomery County system libraries.

Visit jeaneslibrary.org for updates on the planning process, to check the Calendar of Events, and to learn more about how you can access library services from your home.



William Jeanes Memorial Library of Whitemarsh Township



jeaneslibrary.org

Celebrating 75 years of service

1933 - 2008

Turning the page to the future

4051 Joshua Road • Lafayette Hill, PA • 19444
610-828-0441

A Bit of History

In 2008, the Jeanes Library celebrates the 75th anniversary of its founding. From a borrowed space at a private residence near Germantown and Butler Pikes, to a small stone structure on



the grounds of Plymouth Monthly Meeting of Friends, to its current home on Joshua Road, the Library has consistently welcomed patrons and sought to keep services and collections current.

Back in 1971, the Whitmarsh community welcomed the opening of a new library building—

an 11,000 square-foot modern structure designed by local architect C. Treat Arnold of the firm Montgomery, Bishop & Arnold and erected on a three-acre site formerly owned by Triangle Publications.

Archival materials reveal that with the move into this light-filled facility, the collection could expand from 15,540 items, including microfilm, to an anticipated 30,090 items. Microfilm has long since disappeared from the Jeanes Library, and in its place are CDs, DVDs, and downloadable MP3s.

Today's Jeanes Library offers more than 56,000 items in its collection, nearly twice what the building was designed to hold, and anyone visiting in recent years has seen just how tightly the shelves are packed and how high the stacks have climbed.

The Jeanes Library — Your online source for 24/7 access to remote databases and Ask Here PA — Pennsylvania's live reference service.

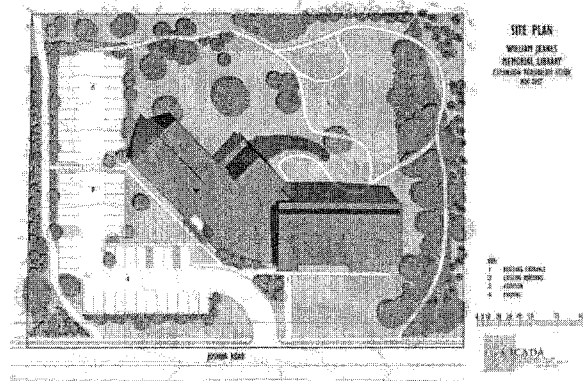
An Evolving Institution

In the thirty-seven years since the opening of the Joshua Road building, the Jeanes Library has served a generation of patrons, many of whom now return with their own children or grandchildren. Twenty-first-century libraries, however, have taken on roles that go far beyond book lending, story times, and quiet space for that afternoon read.

Technological advances have had the most significant impact in shaping today's library, and librarians now provide expert assistance in guiding patrons in the use of hardware, software, and the ever-expanding realm of electronic sources. The modern library also serves as a social space that draws patrons out of their workplaces, schools, and homes and brings them together for joint learning, group projects, and even coffee breaks.

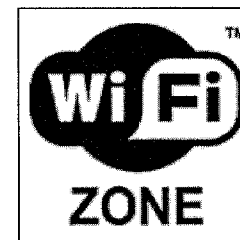
Currently, the Board of Directors is reviewing a conceptual plan for a renovated and expanded library, assessing costs, determining fundraising capacity, and evaluating the collection to determine optimal size and scope.

Conceptual Plan for an Expanded Library



Technology Upgrades Underway

While big changes are on the drawing board, the Library continues to implement incremental improvements. New for 2008 are two exciting developments—the addition of wireless Internet access (WiFi), and eight new patron computers equipped with twenty-two-inch screens and a full suite of Microsoft Office software.



A grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED), made possible by State Representative Mike Gerber, and a contribution from the Friends of the William Jeanes Memorial Library are funding the hardware and software upgrades. With WiFi in place, library users will be able to access the Internet from their own laptops. This is especially helpful to students and leaves the Library's desktop devices available to patrons who do not own computers.

A second DCED grant, this one shepherded by State Senator Vincent Hughes, will enable the Library to purchase laptop computers for patron and staff use.

Want more information on WiFi at the Jeanes? Just ask one of the friendly librarians.

Turning the Page to the Future

This is an especially exciting period in the life of the Library, and the Board is doing its best to make informed decisions. It invites members of the public to attend its meetings, held monthly on the second Wednesday.