

JOHNSON ROBERTS ASSOCIATES



DEEBFIELD's well deserved reputation as a beautiful, cultured and engaging town is the result of our distinctive blend of 5,000 residents, dozens of local businesses, internationally recognized educational institutions and corporations, as well as our renowned tourist attractions.

TILTON LIBRARY is a vibrant center of this unique town, welcoming all and providing a safe environment in which children and adults can explore the world through literature, learn and communicate through the Internet, and connect with others to share and celebrate new knowledge. As the Town's only site that provides the opportunity for those who live, work or attend school here to freely come together, we serve a critical role in the social well-being of our community.

OUR LOCATION in the village of South Deerfield, a short walk from the public schools serving multiple towns, and in close proximity to major corporate employers, has made Tilton Library a hub of activity throughout the day:

- Wednesday morning finds the children's room bustling with toddlers and their parents, participating in story time, examining books, and just as importantly, making social connections.
- By midmorning we welcome many adults who come to read newspapers, borrow new and favorite books or movies, check their email and meet their neighbors and friends.
- When the school day ends, dozens of students stream down North Main Street or across the fields directly to our back door, to enjoy their free time, do homework, socialize, read or use a computer.
- Evenings bring together adults to participate in reading groups, author talks and English conversation. Others come to pick up their item requests or to browse the shelves. Children and teens come with their parents to

complete a homework assignment, borrow a book or movie or use a computer.

WE DO ALL OF THIS in a 100-year old building which has had minimal renovation beyond a 700 square foot addition 20 years ago which provided handicapped access.

OVER THE LAST TEN YEARS, Tilton Library has seen a marked growth in usage:

- 40% increase in the number of registered borrowers from Deerfield
- 53% more participants in our programs
- 34% more books and movies borrowed
- 100% increase in digital circulation since 2006
- 191% increase in the number of programs offered

WHILE THE DEMAND for books and services increase, the space in which to provide them remains the same. Each year the need for additional space becomes more and more obvious:

- The building's only toilet is located in the children's room, making for a lively obstacle course for any patron accessing it during story time.
- With no dedicated meeting room, groups and workshops gather in spaces amid the collections making them inaccessible to other patrons.
- Materials for teens are located in a former supply closet with only enough space for a single person to browse at any one time. It is not accessible to patrons with disabilities.
- Some parts of our collection, though they are shelved and thus technically available to the public, prove to be too inconvenient or uncomfortable because of the height of the shelving made necessary to take advantage of our space.

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- Our tight space limits our seating and the number of public computers and, as a result, neither meets patron demand. In practice this means that we lose patrons who can't find a seat, and frustrate others who must wait in line to use a computer.
- A 2014 survey confirmed that, for all the opportunities created by Tilton Library, these deficits prove frustrating to many of our patrons and impact the frequency with which they take advantage of what we have to offer.

TO ADDRESS these challenges, enhance Tilton Library's ability to serve the people of Deerfield, come into compliance with the Architectural Access Board and meet minimum recommended industry standards, the approved library building expansion project will expanded from its current 4,366 square feet to 12,784 square feet. This project will entail renovation and an addition which together will house:

- A welcoming entrance providing access to the entire library
- A large meeting room which will be the primary venue for author talks, cooking demonstrations, concerts, films, lectures, public meetings, community programs, classes, art exhibitions and fund raising activities
- An expanded children's room with flexible parent/play and story time areas and appropriately sized reading areas
- A separate space for teens to study, use a computer and socialize which will include space for four times as many books as currently available for this age group
- Two quiet study rooms providing solitude away from the activity of the open areas
- A larger area for adult books and other materials which will be stored on mobile shelving. This will allow the collection to increase in both depth and breadth while keeping the space adaptable for future needs

- A reading room with more chairs, tables, and computers for patrons to use the library's resources in comfort
- A multipurpose room for co-working, low tech maker space, periodicals, local history collection, and an additional small meeting space.
- A business center with computer, printer and scanner for visitors in need of these resources for short-term use
- The creation of six bathrooms – five more than we currently have, two of which will be available during after-hours programs
- A more accessible circulation desk allowing space for much of the administrative function necessary to the daily operation of the Library
- Designated space for shipping and receiving interlibrary loans and for processing and cataloging new items
- Storage spaces for collections, fundraising, as well as housekeeping and maintenance equipment

This expansion project will be an energy efficient and environmentally friendly building with adaptable and flexible space. Just as importantly, it will provide the foundation for the library's continued growth over the coming decades.

STRONG LIBRARIES support healthy communities, and promote learning, inspiration, and connection. They have proven to bolster town centers and villages, bringing large numbers of people into the neighborhood and creating economic opportunities for local commerce and civic organizations. They embody a town's commitment to lifelong learning.

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