



CAMPAIGN FOR
EXPANDING
POSSIBILITIES
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Valdese Public Library
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VALDESE, NC 28690
828.874.2421

Valdese Public Library

In 1923, the Morganton Public Library was first established in a room over a downtown business. One can only imagine how Will Davis felt opening the library door and checking out the very first book. In 2012, the doors of the Burke County Public Library will be opened more than 110,000 times.

For most of its existence the Burke County Public Library was a private, non-profit corporation chartered to provide library service to the citizens of Burke County and governed by a board of trustees. In 1982, libraries in Morganton and Valdese merged to form the Burke County Public Library. The Burke County Commission established the C.B. Hildebrand Public Library as the county's newest public library in 1997. Governance changed in 2002 as the library became a department of Burke County government and relinquished its non-profit status for oversight by the Burke County Commission.

The Valdese Public Library opened in 1943 in a room at the old Post Office in downtown Valdese. At that moment, in the midst of the second World War, the community of Valdese was looking towards the future, to a time of renewed prosperity and peace much as the original Waldensian pioneers did when they settled in Burke County in 1893.



Today, the Valdese Public Library boasts more than 10,000 cardholders, an annual circulation of 50,000+, a materials collection approaching 30,000 items, an operating budget of \$300,000, and over 35,000 visitors each year. Throughout its history, the Valdese Public Library has grown and adapted to the needs of its community. In the mid-1980s, a capital campaign raised over \$350,000 to expand the Valdese Public Library from 2,600 square feet to its current 6,100 square feet.

As it approaches its 70th anniversary, the mission of the Valdese Public Library to develop readers, community, and cultural awareness has never been more relevant. The ability of the library to serve a diverse population hinges not only on having an extensive collection of materials but just as importantly on providing a wide variety of programs.

Campaign

In 2001, the library, with funds donated by the Rostan Family Foundation, purchased the house adjacent to the library from Catherine R. Cole. The property, deeded to Burke County and the Town of Valdese, was to “be used for the purpose of providing and maintaining a public library.”

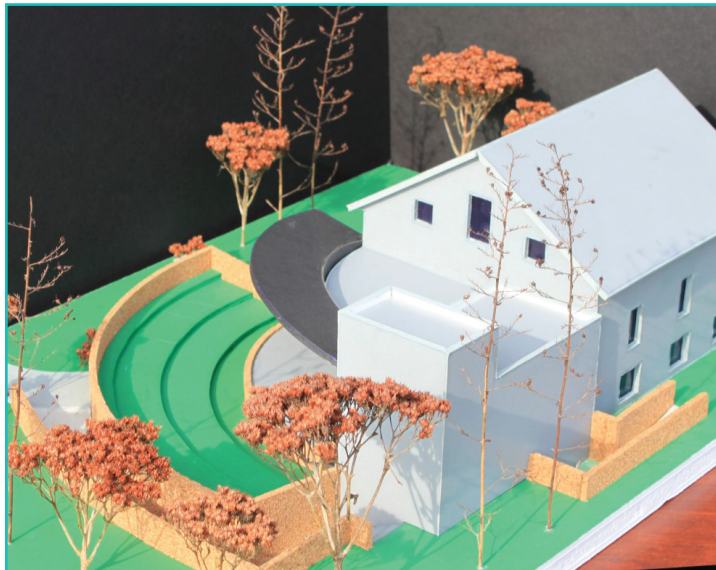
With the increase in the demand for programs, the library is now seeking to renovate the house and its grounds into a multipurpose indoor and outdoor programming and activity space. The house would be modified to consist of one large open room with a vaulted ceiling of approximately 1,000 square feet. This space would provide an area for storytimes, crafts, computer classes, book discussions, films, workshops, and other community gatherings. An outdoor programming area would be constructed at the rear of the house with a covered stage and tiered seating for 120 people. This area would be used for concerts, theatre performances, movies, storytelling, lectures, and demonstrations.

The basement of the house would be extended beneath the stage to provide additional restroom facilities along with a catering kitchen and equipment storage. Both the indoor and outdoor areas would be made handicap accessible via sidewalks, ramps, and an elevator. Parking will be added on the portion of the property adjacent to Italy Street. Landscaping will provide enhanced green space and the grapevines, which have been on the site for many years, will be preserved as part of the property’s Waldensian heritage. This project will increase the dedicated programming space of the library by five times and will allow the library to offer both a greater number and variety of programs to the Valdese community.





Current Structure

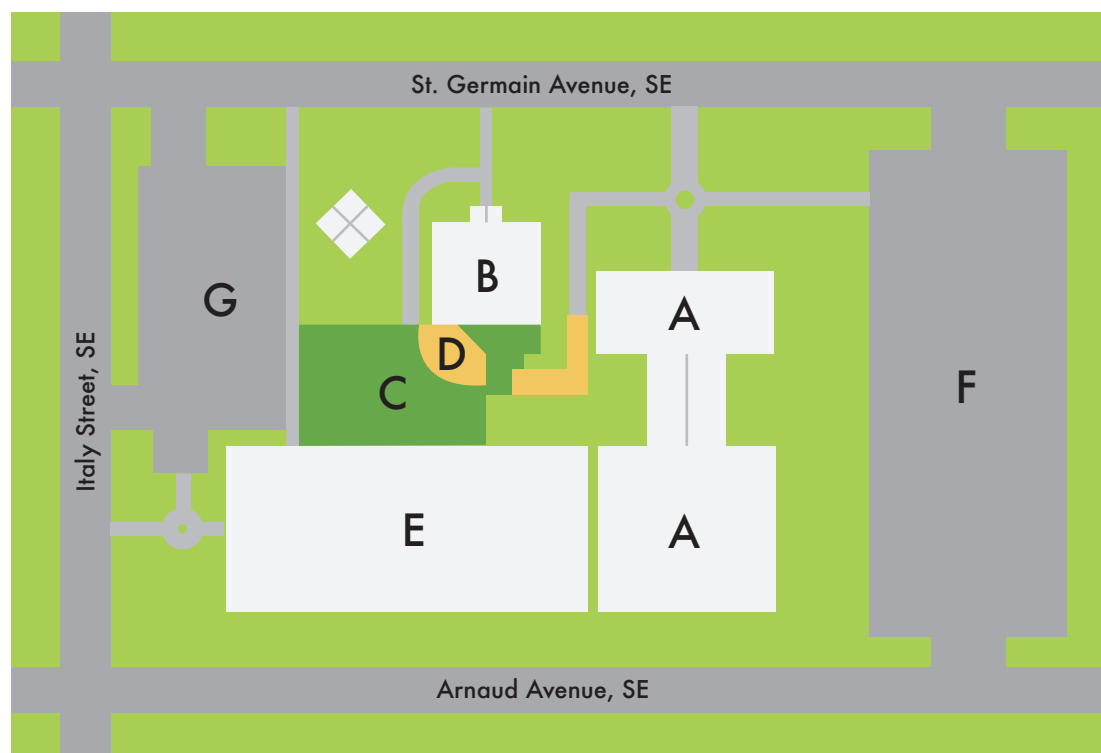


Model of Renovation

Plans

Site Plan for the Valdese Public Library

- A Existing Library
- B Program and Activity Center
- C Outdoor Program Area
- D Story Area
- E Future Expansion
- F Existing Parking
- G New Parking





Funding

The majority of funding for the library comes locally from Burke County, the City of Morganton, the Town of Valdese, the Town of Hildebran, and the Town of Drexel. Additional funds come from the State of North Carolina and fines and fees. Additional funds for the library are provided by the Library Foundation of Burke County. Since 2004, the Library Foundation has provided over \$750,000 to support library programs and collections. Members of the Library Foundation successfully raised over \$600,000 from private donors to fund the renovation of the Morganton Public Library in 1999–2000. In 2012, the Library Foundation will undertake a capital campaign on behalf of the Valdese Public Library.

The total cost of the project is estimated at \$450,000. As of April 2012, \$200,000 has been raised -- \$150,000 from the Rostan Family Foundation, \$25,000 from the Library Foundation of Burke County, \$20,000 from the Town of Valdese, and \$5,000 from the Friends of the Burke County Public Library. A request for \$25,000 from Burke County has been included in the library's FY 2012/2013 budget proposal.

Over the next several months, The Library Foundation and the Campaign for Expanding Possibilities @ your library leadership team will seek to raise an additional \$250,000 for this exciting project. The campaign will offer various levels of giving and donors may pledge their gift over a four year period. The campaign leadership team is composed of Dr. Ben Garrou, Annette Garrou, Jim Wilson, Sr., and Mark Rostan. These community leaders along with a team of volunteers will be working hard to ensure the success of the capital campaign.

The primary phase of the capital campaign will end in July. Soon after, a project architect will be selected, plans will be finalized, and bids will be accepted. Demolition and renovation are expected to begin in October with a project completion date in April 2013 – just in time for summer reading programs.

Benefits

Over the last four years, the Burke County Public Library has offered nearly 5,000 programs annually with an attendance exceeding 100,000 people. Nearly 500 programs are provided each year by the Valdese Public Library. The number of programs and attendance of Burke County Public Library programs exceeds that of all libraries in surrounding counties and ranks 15th statewide among county library systems. Currently, the library devotes equal resources to programs as it does to books – roughly \$55,000 annually.

The programs offered by the library bring to life the limitless diversity of the stories, people, places, and ideas contained within the books on its shelves. Library programs offer opportunities for interacting with others, for sharing ideas, for learning new skills, and for exploring new interests.

Library programs are free and of a very high quality. The library staff is well-trained to provide appropriate, instructive, and creative programs for those of any age. The library has dedicated programmers to serve children, young adults, and adults. The library offers storytimes for children, poetry slams for teens, computer classes for adults, and book discussion groups for all ages.

The library often uses well-regarded regional and national performers for its programs such as Brightstar Children's Theatre and storytellers Donna Washington and David Novak. The Catawba Science Center and the Schiele Museum are among the many other groups the library uses to provide interesting, informative, and enjoyable programming opportunities.



Success

Each year summer reading programs for children, young adults, and adults involve more than 2,000 participants in a variety of activities including author visits, crafts, storytelling, hiking, cooking, films, concerts, and rock climbing. The library's annual Taste of Culture event celebrates the many diverse cultures in Burke County and highlights music, dance, art, and food. More than just a place to find a good book, the library is a place to experience an extraordinary array of exciting possibilities.

The success of library programs has created demand which the current Valdese Public Library facility cannot meet. At present, the library must use public areas of the building along with a small meeting room of less than 300 square feet to conduct programs. The use of public spaces often interferes with others' ability to use those areas of the library and the small meeting room limits the number of participants that can attend a program. As a result programs often have waiting lists and daycares and other groups are sometimes turned away because there is not enough space for everyone wishing to attend. Some programs are even held when the library is closed so they will not interfere with regular operations.

We need your help!

Donations

The Valdese Public Library is funded largely by community members like you! We have been a resource to the community since 1944 and hope to expand to help better serve the town of Valdese. You can help by joining the Friends of the Library!

Please consider joining the Friends of the Library at one of the following levels:

Student \$ 3.00

Individual \$ 10.00

Family \$ 15.00

Patron \$ 25.00

Benefactor \$ 50.00

Sponsor \$ 100.00

Super Friend \$ 250.00

Life Member \$ 1,000.00

You may drop your contribution off at the front desk of the library, or mail it to:

Burke County Public Library

204 S. King St.

Morganton, NC 28655

Please include your name and mailing address along with your check.

Thank you!

