

NEWS RELEASE



27333 Center Ridge Rd.
Westlake, OH 44145
(440) 871-2600
www.westlakelibrary.org

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Contact: Elaine Willis

Contact Information: 440-250-5447

elaine.willis@westlakelibrary.org

WESTLAKE PORTER PUBLIC LIBRARY ANNOUNCES BUILDING AND GROUNDS IMPROVEMENTS

(Westlake) Westlake Porter Public Library has announced a series of improvement projects in and around the library aimed at providing new services to the community as well as to enhance the visitor experience. The projects are a result of the strategic and space planning process the library completed in 2021, including feedback solicited from the community during public sessions and through surveys. The projects include an outdoor programming pavilion, renovation of study and collaborative spaces in the Adult Services Department, including two new study rooms which can accommodate up to four people each.

Construction costs will be approximately \$900,000 with, to date, \$160,000 coming from donations. The project will be paid for from the library's Permanent Improvement Fund which are funds specifically set aside for projects such as these, as well as general building maintenance and upkeep.

The outdoor programming pavilion will provide additional space for all types of outdoor programming and events. It will be officially named for the Friends of Porter Public Library in

honor of their 50th Anniversary. The Friends have generously donated \$100,000 toward the project.

The former reference collection alcove in the Adult Services area will be renovated to create a cozier and more welcoming study space with new carpet, lighting, and furnishings while taking advantage of a lovely view from our large picture windows. The “Cozy Space” is made possible through a \$50,000 donation to honor a long-time patron who is the mother of our donors. The names of the donors and honoree will be released upon completion of the space.

Two small group study rooms will also be added in the Adult Services area. One of the study rooms will be named in honor of Janet and Ted Snider through a \$10,000 donation from their family.

Other projects the library is working on this fall include converting the former café into a makerspace and opening the second floor to the public. A dedicated makerspace will bring together the library’s collection of maker resources, including the 3D printers and file transfer machines (VHS films and slides into digital format) as well as adding new services such as an A/V recording booth and equipment for craft cutting and making custom T-shirts.

Opening the second floor to the public will provide additional meeting room space for the community and additional seating on the mezzanine, allowing taxpayers more use of the building for which they pay.

“We are very excited about these upgrades and improvements to the library based on community feedback from our strategic and space planning projects,” stated library Director Andrew Mangels. “We are proud to be your nationally recognized 5-Star Library and believe these projects will help us to provide even better service to this community.”

Groundbreaking ceremonies will take place at the library on Sunday, September 25 at 4:30 p.m., starting inside the library.

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