

Kensington Library in line for major improvements

By Chris Treadway

West County Times

Article Launched: 09/15/2008 04:53:44 PM PDT

Plans are in the works to upgrade the building that has housed the Kensington Library for more than 40 years, and officials want the community to have a say in what's done.

"We want the public to come tell us how they feel about the current space and how we can best respond to their needs," said county Supervisor John Gioia, who is teaming up with county Librarian Anne Cain to host a forum Wednesday to discuss the \$1.4 million renovation.

The library, originally established in a private home in 1922, has been housed at its present building on the edge of Kensington Park since 1965 and has seen few major changes since.

"It's been mostly cosmetic," said branch librarian Liz Ruhland. "As far as substantial remodeling or updating of the infrastructure, nothing has happened."

Funds for renovation work have been set aside from branch funds.

"The purpose of this is to look at how we can make the most efficient use of those dollars in terms of expansion and renovation in a way that best meets the community need," Gioia said.

Planned improvements include a new heating and cooling system; energy-efficient roof and windows; larger restrooms; and updated fire, electrical and emergency lighting. Also proposed is a redesigned service area, which would allow patrons to check out and return their own materials.

Another possibility is some expansion to alleviate space problems, Gioia said.

"The idea is to not only get the building up to current standards, but to make it sound for the next few decades," Ruhland said.

The public can offer its input at the community forum from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday at the library, 61 Arlington Ave. For more details, call 510-524-3043 or visit ccclib.org.

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If you go

WHAT: A community forum on Kensington Library renovations

WHEN: 6:30 to 8:30 p.m Wednesday

WHERE: The Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave.

DETAILS: 510-524-3043 or ccclib.org

