



ENTERING THROUGH THE FRONT: Millbrook Library hopes to reopen the original front entrance on Franklin Avenue through a grant they have recently received. (Photo by Jennifer Bliss.)

Library gets funding to move entrance to Franklin Ave.

by Jennifer Bliss

The Millbrook Free Library wants to change its entrance from the current Friendly Avenue entrance to the original entrance on Franklin Avenue. The Main Street Revitalization Grant they recently received will help to accomplish this.

The library development coordinator, Len Corwell, said people got confused about how to enter the library. She said there isn't even a sign in front on the Franklin Avenue side to let people know this is the library. These are some of the reasons the library wants to change the entrance.

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The Rural New York Community Planning and Preservation Grant Program made 46 grants in 31 counties totaling \$143,533 in 1999. The Rural New York Grant Program supports local grassroots efforts throughout New York State, focusing on the preservation of the built and natural environments and land use planning. Since 1993, the Rural New York Grant Program has awarded over \$2 million in direct support to 644 projects.

Len Corwell said to apply for the grant the library needed to submit their architect's estimate and the plan for their project, show that the library is a non-for-profit organization, provide financial statements, provide a list of board members, and list potential sources of funds. She said they chose the architects, Galfrider Baier & Best from Sewardby, Conn., because of their prior work with landmarks and historic sites.

The library was founded in 1901 and the property and building on Franklin Avenue were donated in 1938. The Cary Wing, where the current address was indicated, was added in 1973, funded by the Mary Hagner Cary Trust. The library recently received a letter from the Village of Millbrook Beautification Committee commending them on the library's efforts to keep the

"classic design" of the 1908 building for the upcoming renovation.

This projects part of the library's on-going building project campaign. The goal of the fundraising project is \$2.5 million of which \$2.2 million has already been raised, Corwell said. The success of the fundraising campaign, which started in June 1999, has shown how much the library means to the community, she said.

Donors can purchase bricks to be used in the renovation and these can bear an inscription. To date, 450 donors have given as little as 15 cents to as much as \$500,000, Corwell said. They have run an advertisement thanking their donors and will run another when the campaign ends, she said.

Another way to contribute is through financing a particular part of the renovation. For example, people have already sponsored a newspaper display for \$2,500, a children's book for \$10,000, a special collections room for \$100,000, and a staff room for \$10,000. Some examples of things still left open are a bicycle rack for \$3,000, a book drop for \$2,500, an information technology center for \$50,000 and a local history room for \$75,000. In each case, the contributors have the opportunity to inscribe their names or a designated name with the project.