

Conceptual plans revealed for new West Leb library

By Richard Radford
Staff Reporter

LEBANON — New conceptual drawings of the proposed Kilton Public Library planned for West Lebanon were released July 19. The sketches were prepared by Tappe Associates, Inc. of Boston, the architects on the project.

Lebanon Library Director Lou Ungarelli said he hoped the drawings would give residents an idea of the vision for the new library.

“They give such a better impression than a flat floor plan,” he said.

The drawings show the various aspects of the approximately 15,000-square-foot space, including an outdoor private reading garden, expanded adult and children’s section, and a gallery for art. The facade facing Main Street is covered with tall windows, and the roof tapers down to the back creating what Ungarelli called “a cozy feel.”

Although the drawings are still preliminary, Ungarelli said they give a “pretty good impression” of what the final plans might be.

The plan includes a sheltered bus stop area next to the building for people using Advance Transit.

The empty lot where the library will be built is currently used as a bus stop on Main Street.

The money to buy the land came from the estate of James and Willema Kilton, longtime West Lebanon residents who died in 1998 and left the money for renovations or additions to the West Lebanon Library.

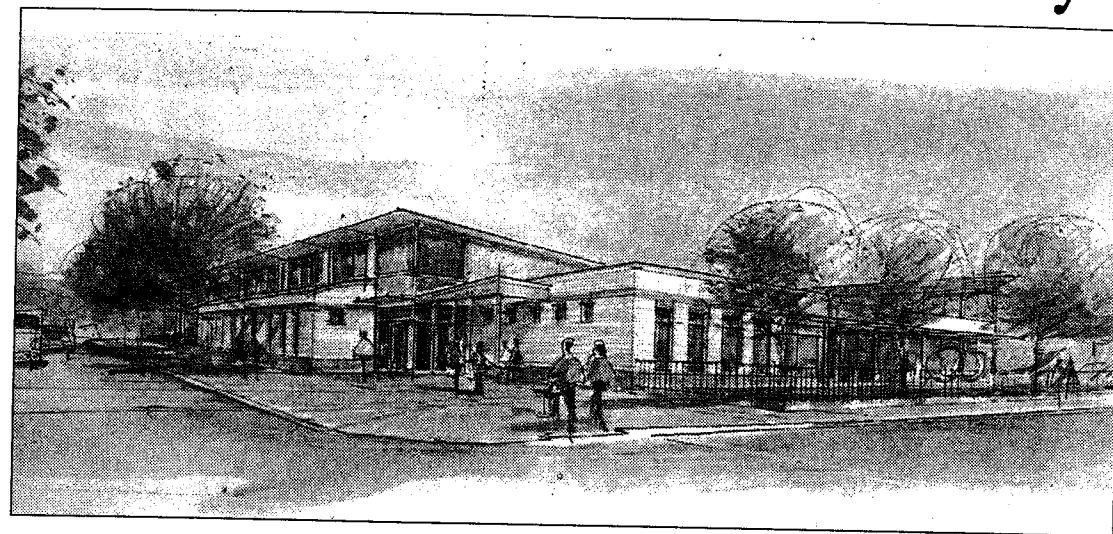
The city bought the 1.24-acre lot in downtown West Lebanon across Main Street from the current library for \$525,000 on Jan. 31, 2003, from the Rite Aid Corporation, after plans to build a Rite Aid Pharmacy fell through.

Ungarelli said of the approximate \$1.3 million the Kiltons left to the library, there is still about \$1 million left to be used toward the new construction. Loose estimates now put the cost at \$3 million to \$4 million, leaving \$2 million or \$3 million to be raised.

Ungarelli said he hopes to take the funds in privately, but if enough money isn’t raised he would go to the city to seek the rest.

Ungarelli is not sure what the fate of the old library building will be, but said it’s up to the city, which owns it.

Although the library is still under development,



Tappe Associates Inc.

A conceptual drawing of the planned Kilton Public Library in West Lebanon, as seen from the corner of Main Street and Tracy Street.

Ungarelli is happy with what has happened so far. He said the next step is to develop a feasibility plan that will be discussed this summer. Ungarelli

described the new drawings as “spiffy.”
“It’s an exciting time,” he said, “and we’re ready to go.”