

Library Advances In West Lebanon

BY MARK DAVIS

Valley News Staff Writer

WEST LEBANON — Initial designs for the new Kilton Public Library in West Lebanon envision sun-drenched reading rooms, an outdoor reading garden and abundant parking, as momentum is gathering for one of the city's most anticipated projects.

While groundbreaking is not scheduled until 2008, and the library has yet to begin raising millions of dollars needed for construction, the early plans have engendered hope among some officials that the new Main Street building can spark growth in a part of the city that has ceded vitality to Route 12A and downtown Lebanon.

"It's going to be a huge boost for that whole area of town," interim City Manager Mike Farrell said. "Other than the fire station, there really is no civic presence in that area of town, and I think that would be very bene-

ficial."

The new library at the corner of Main and Tracy streets will have a sculpture garden for children to enjoy and a large community room that library officials envision as a future city polling place and meeting room.

A lack of parking has long been a problem at the existing library, located across the street. But its replacement will have 27 parking spaces on site, and designers estimate there will be another 200 available on surrounding streets.

The new 15,000-square-foot building will be one floor — but rise to the same height as the neighboring Mascoma Savings Bank — and have a basement. The current library has about 4,000 square feet. The new facade will be a mixture of brick, stone and glass.

The design incorporates several tall, glazed windows to allow light to penetrate nearly every cranny of the

See LIBRARY—A5