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## **PORT JEFFERSON FREE LIBRARY ANNOUNCES FACILITY REORGANIZATION**

**Demolition and strategic consolidation prevent budget increases.**

PORT JEFFERSON, NY—January 29, 2020—The Port Jefferson Free Library Board of Trustees announces a two-tiered approach for upgrading library service while maintaining current funding levels.

“Our deliberations centered on controlling costs while addressing facility needs,” explains John Grossman, President of the Port Jefferson Free Library Board. A multi-year planning process called for a sizable building addition with more parking spaces. “Estimates for this project came in between eight and ten million dollars,” says Grossman. “In light of the staged tax increases that Port Jefferson residents face due to LIPA, the Board determined it would be neither feasible nor fair to the community to pursue that level of funding.” Instead, the Board determined a more practicable two-tiered approach, with the first tier focusing on addressing 114 Thompson Street, the Bayles House, and the Teen center.

The process will begin with the demolition of the condemned structure at 114 Thompson Street, which the Library purchased in 2009. The property will be regraded and buffered. At the same time, the Library will seek a permit for renovations to the Bayles House for a designated teen area and additional meeting space.

Currently, the Library rents a facility across the street for the use of teens and Friends of the Library. “By moving those activities within the footprint of existing structures, we avoid the growing costs for renting and managing an off-site space,” says Tom Donlon, Library Executive Director. The Library plans to reallocate those operational savings to the renovation project.

“The Board is respectful of what residents are facing,” says Grossman. “We know this is the responsible direction to take so that we can step up to their service needs without incurring significant additional expense.”

Demolition on the Thompson Street property is slated to begin February 3rd.

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