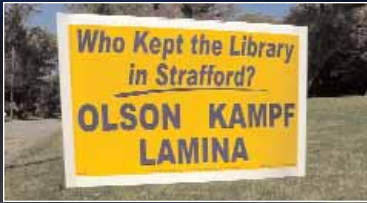
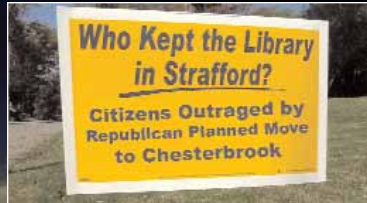


Ground Truth on “Saving” the Tredyffrin Library



Fiction



Fact



Fact

Who Kept the Tredyffrin Library in Strafford? As Tredyffrin Republicans have grown more extravagant in their claims, we must keep them and their yellow signs based in reality. Here is the ground truth on who saved the Tredyffrin Library.

- Built in 1976, the Tredyffrin Library in Strafford won several architectural awards. Lead architect was Romaldo Giurgola, who later designed the new capital buildings of Australia's government. Our library has been designated one of the world's great buildings.
- A study on expanding the library in Strafford began in 1999, with a proposed plan to expand the building, adding 17,000 square feet, almost double the current space, and including a complete renovation of the physical plant. It was estimated to cost approximately \$7.5 million. Tredyffrin Supervisors balked at the cost and wanted the project scaled back.
- During the summer of 2002, reports surfaced that the Tredyffrin Board of Supervisors were cooking up a plan to abandon our award-winning building and relocate the library to an office park on Lee Road in Chesterbrook, with the strong hint of real estate chicanery involved.
- Board members at that time were John G. Bravacos, Chairman; Robert W. Lamina, Vice Chairman; Judy L. DiFilippo; Trish G. Kreek; Bill DeHaven; E. Brooks Keffer, Jr.; and Paul W. Olson—all Republicans. Four remain in office, and two are candidates in this election
- A spirited outcry to the move developed. Many residents came to the township meetings, many bearing neighborhood petitions, and were very vocal, forcing the supervisors to adjust their meeting agendas. The supervisor meeting minutes in June and July—usually dry reading—capture the citizen fervor and opposition to moving the library. (Links to minutes are listed below.)
- Ultimately, there was so much visible, vocal push-back on relocating to Chesterbrook that all of the supervisors had to yield to the political realities. In fact, the Republican supervisors ended up voting unanimously for Supervisor Olson's July 15 motion to “keep the Strafford Library open and that further discussions regarding closing the library be taken off the table.”
- Meanwhile, the Board of Supervisors scaled back the addition space by 40%, cut the library renovation project to \$6 million, limited the township's participation to \$3M, and hired a firm to determine what funds could be raised privately—leading to the 2-year library expansion capital campaign.
- Who kept the Tredyffrin Library in Strafford? Don't residents signing petitions, or testifying in public meetings, deserve some credit? In reality the Tredyffrin library was “saved” by citizens, not politicians.
- In fact, our library has been saved twice by citizens—once in blocking the Republican supervisors' scheme for relocating to Chesterbrook, and a second time in their very generous donations to the library's capital campaign.



Great Building

Tredyffrin Township

Republican supervisors never discussed the building's architectural heritage with the public when they considered relocation. To learn more, please go to http://www.greatbuildings.com/buildings/Tredyffrin_Public_Library.html.