

11 Overlook Road
Scarsdale, NY 10583
June 2, 2016

Dear Mayor Mark,

The Library Board's plan to convert Scarsdale Library into a Scarsdale Community Center, with more rooms for meetings, lectures and readings, with a snack bar where people could meet for a cup of coffee and a piece of cake, may sound laudable, but there are many negatives.

In addition to the multi-million dollar cost of construction, there will be an increase in the on-going costs of the new facility - heating, cooling, maintenance, insurance, and salaries for the additional personnel which would be required.

The Library has always attracted visitors from adjacent communities. The new facility will surely attract more.

Parking at the present library has always been tight at certain times of the day. Adjacent streets have been used by students at the High School. Due to the wet-land situation, increasing the size of the parking lot will be difficult and probably more expensive.

There will surely be a loss of Greenspace. It's ironic that Olmsted Road was named after one of the strongest advocates of Greenspace, the designer of Central Park and many of our nation's National Parks.

Olmsted Road is a relatively narrow two-way street. It is one of the few major arteries connecting Fox Meadows to the Post Road. In addition to the usual traffic, it is utilized by the students on their way to and from the High School, and by parents and their children on their way to and from Fox Meadows School. The new facility will certainly add to the heavy traffic on Olmsted Road.

The initial costs of this project, plus the increase in day-to-day costs, are bound to increase our already very high property taxes. In my years of living in Scarsdale, I have never seen so many houses for sale. This is not a good omen.

All in all, I feel that the negatives far out-weigh the positives, and if the Library Board's plan goes forward, it would be a big mistake.

Sincerely,
Monroe Friedman