

A Brief History of Indian Trail's Union West Regional Library

In 1970 a group of two hundred enthusiasts gathered with the Public Library Director and formally requested a location for an additional library in the Indian Trail area. The request was answered with a bookmobile to be parked in the Indian Trail Food Center, and this would serve the public for the next two years.

As the new Town Hall was being considered, Space was provided for a library to operate in a small building within close proximity, and as the Town Hall developed so did the library. In time the library grew in both popularity and community use and by 1991 utilized a 2000 square foot area which it quickly outgrew yet again.

In 1999, the Union County Board of Commissioners allowed for the building of a \$1.8 million Union West Regional Library. The regional designation referred to the sizable area the location would be responsible for, with regard to county population figures. The 11-12,000 sq. ft. structure would serve 40,000 residents in the Indian Trail, Hemby Bridge, Stallings, Lake Park area. Approximately 2 acres of land was donated by the Town of Indian Trail, and construction would be from the architectural firm Ramsey, Burgin, and Smith of Salisbury NC.

With the Groundbreaking Ceremony of February 4, 2002 the community took notice of its newest and latest public facility. The style of the building would be a classic "Monticello" type, with clerestory. (A *clerestory* is a high wall usually rises above adjoining roofs.) The Meeting Room would have a capacity for 65 people, and would feature the work of a local artist each month. The lobby area would have display cabinets for diverse information purposes. The special toddler's area displayed a built-in silo for a farm motif, and open air enclosed gardens for relaxed reading at opposing ends of the building. A Local History Room containing Genealogical material would be featured, with a fireplace for the public.

Union West Regional Library has enjoyed great success having coped with the population explosion and budget changes felt by county. It is truly an integral part of Indian Trail and is a community hub for patrons of all ages.