

December 21, 2018

Dear Friends, Colleagues and Community Members,

I would like to thank everyone who turned out to our recent community input sessions and/or participated in our public opinion survey.

With your guidance, the Huntley Area Public Library Board is getting closer to finalizing a ballot proposal that would appear on the April 2019 ballot to fund the expansion and improvement of our local library.

It is apparent from the public feedback gathered in recent months that our residents care deeply about the library and understand the important role that this community asset plays.

The new spaces that would be created and improvements that would be addressed include:

- Improvements to the library's HVAC system, roof, lighting and other outdated building systems to improve energy efficiency and reduce costly emergency repairs.
- A new and expanded children's library, eliminating the need to move the children's materials and programming back into the already cramped main library when the trailers are retired.
- Expanded fiction and nonfiction areas to accommodate a greater number of books.
- A technology/digital creation area that will provide the tools and space needed to create digital content as well as offer computer and digital literacy classes, job skills training, hobby classes and related programming.
- A flexible program room that can accommodate 150 people or be divided into three smaller rooms for story times, STEAM programs, speakers and presentations for all ages.
- Designated areas for quiet reading and quiet study, as well as comfortable seating throughout the existing and expanded space.
- Collaboration rooms that allow students, local businesses, job seekers and others to communicate through digital meeting platforms and collaborative online programs.

- Additional parking, including handicapped-accessible spaces.
- A new and improved entry that would create an air lock to minimize cold, drafty conditions.

Every effort would be made to minimize the impact of the construction project on our library patrons by strategically phasing in the improvements.

At \$12.9 million, the project would cost taxpayers an estimated \$2.04 per month per \$100,000 of a home's market value, or about \$24.80 per year. The estimated annual tax impact on a \$231,100 home (the median home value in the District) would be \$57.32. The bond would be payable for 20 years at this fixed amount.

The Library District serves about 40,000 residents from Huntley, Lake in the Hills, Algonquin, Hampshire and surrounding rural areas in both McHenry and Kane counties. The District's service population has increased nearly ten-fold since the library opened almost 20 years ago. The District's boundary is similar to that of the school district, with all property owners within the District helping to fund the library.

I would welcome the opportunity to address any questions you might have regarding the proposed improvements or funding proposal. Additional proposal details can also be found on the Library District's website: www.huntleylibrary.org.

If you are interested in hosting an informational coffee or tea at your home, please contact Leigh Ann Porsch at 847-669-5386 ext. 235 to arrange for a staff member to attend. We are happy to come visit with your friends and neighbors to answer questions and gather your feedback.

Thanks again for taking the time to weigh in on our library improvement proposal. Your input has helped shape how we should move forward in better meeting our community's immediate and long-term library needs.

Sincerely,



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