

December 2021

Millstadt Library District – A New Library for All

For decades, the Millstadt Library has known that its current size just isn't right for our community. The lack of space for programming, events, collections and simply an area to meet, study or read a book is glaring. If you have been to one of our events or tried to leisurely do any of the above, you know how uncomfortable these can be in our current facility. We want to keep moving forward with the new Millstadt Library and in order to do so, we applied and were notified of our acceptance for the State of Illinois Library Construction Grant.

However, to receive the grant of more than \$1.2 million, we need to secure our local share - around \$2.6 million - by June 30, 2022. We know this an extraordinary amount of money, which is why we have carefully formulated a plan.

In September 2021, we became the Millstadt Library District in order to expand our ability to serve our community. After consulting with financial experts, the most effective way to attain the grant is to expand the amount of people we serve throughout the Millstadt area. We hope to accomplish this through an annexation referendum.

This referendum would ask that the people within the existing village limits, who already pay taxes for the library, vote to allow their outlying neighbors access to their library. It would also ask that those currently outside village limits living within the boundaries of Millstadt School District 160 vote to pay the same library tax rate for the library as those already in the village do.

A "yes" vote on the annexation referendum in the upcoming June 28, 2022 election ensures everyone in Millstadt will not only have access to the library, but access to a new library. Construction on our new facility would start in Fall 2022 and would reach substantial completion by Summer 2023.

If the annexation referendum fails, we forfeit the Illinois state grant and a new funding formula will have to be determined. This would not only stall the momentum and progress we have made to this point; it would force the board to consider other alternatives that could put a new library on hold for years. In a small community like ours, heavily reliant on state grants (when available) and similar options such as local donors, our dream of a new library will not be a reality until at least 2026.

This state grant and annexation levy is an opportunity of a lifetime for our community - an opportunity to have one-third of the total cost of our new library facility paid for by the state. An opportunity for those living inside and outside of the village limits to join together, working together toward a common goal of providing a library and local meeting space for everyone in Millstadt.

This is a special opportunity for our community to work together to enhance our town with a library everyone can be proud to call their own.

We encourage everyone to learn more about the annexation referendum and the new library by visiting the library at 115 W. Laurel St. in Millstadt, visiting our website, <http://www.millstadt-library.org>, emailing us at millstadtlib@gmail.com, or calling us at 618-476-1887. We also hope you will visit us at one of our upcoming informational events in February, March, April and May. More information about these events will be released as the details are finalized.

Anyone wanting to help with the annexation referendum and/or fundraising efforts for our new library should call 618-476-1887 or attend a Library Friends and Fundraising meeting held at 7 p.m. on the last Monday of every month.

We look forward to earning your support and hope you agree that adding this valuable resource will enhance our community in many, many ways for years to come.