



# MILLSTADT LIBRARY UPDATE:

## Making Progress - With YOU in Mind

As we continue on our journey toward building a new Millstadt Library for the community, it's important to keep you updated on the many things going on around the project.

We've been busy working on reaching our Illinois state library grant deadline, trying to implement new events and programs, and working on an annexation referendum.

Throughout these processes, we've had A LOT of questions. We also have A LOT of answers. You can find them on our website, or hopefully, you made it out to our February Open House.

**If not, please join us for our next Open House at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 24. Here are a few things we wanted to highlight from recent questions:**

### Bond Referendum vs. Annexation Referendum

- A Bond Referendum is a voting process that allows voters to decide if taxes should be increased for a period of time to raise funds through bonds.
- These taxes would only affect the library's current boundaries, making an increase for our current residents who already pay enough for the library.
- The bond referendum would build a new library.
- An Annexation Referendum is a voting process that allows voters to decide if 1) those outside the current annexed area should be added to and 2) if those outside the current annexed area would like to be annexed into the library district.
- This would ask for a continual tax increase, however, spread across more people; the tax for outside and inside town for the library district would be the same .0015 mill rate.
- The annexation would not only match the grant — allowing the library and Millstadt to have a new building at a lesser cost — but would also increase and guarantee services for EVERYONE in the Millstadt area for generations.

### Plan A vs. Plan B

- Annexation referendum passes, library services are accessible to everyone in the Millstadt area.
- Tax revenue is increased, local share is met in time for grant deadline, new library construction starts in fall 2022, Millstadt businesses see positive effects, new library completed by summer 2023.
- New community space and educational center for children, teens and adults is accessible for generations.
- Annexation referendum fails, library services remain only readily accessible to village residents, state grant is forfeited (\$1.2 million).
- No new community space and educational center for children, teens and adults. Current facility and ability to have collections, services and programs are still too small and inefficient for our community, will have to start our process all over with new funding strategies.
- Most likely won't see a new library until at least 2026.

### What the Annexation Means for In Town vs. Out of Town

- Need to vote on whether or not to allow those outside the current library district boundaries to be annexed.
- Your taxes remain the same.
- Need to vote on whether or not you would like to be annexed into the Millstadt Library District.
- You would see an increase in your taxes, about \$95 on a \$200,000 house, or about \$8 a month in taxes. (We can get an estimate of what your taxes would be, please call us at the library or stop by.)
- All you are paying for is the Millstadt Library and in return, are receiving library services and access to our collection and those of the 500-plus libraries we're connected to. *You are NOT being annexed into the Village of Millstadt or paying any additional taxes for any additional services.*

**Only about an \$8 monthly increase in taxes for gives new annexations full access to library services**

### THE BOTTOM LINE

We've been in your community for over half a century and have touched many of your lives in one way or another. Whether it's been a phone call to see if we take donations, whether you need copies, a fax or to use a computer, whether you've been a St. James pre-schooler at one of our programs, we've been there for you. Whether as a parent you took your child to one of our story hours, you love food trucks, or you're a frequent flier who knows what books to pick up – or even the ones librarians hold a few aside knowing which books you prefer, we've been there for you.

**We're looking to make a lasting, significant change to our community. One that will impact our people now and generations into the future. A tangible impact that will spread knowledge, spark creativity, inspire ideas, enhance socialization and foster growth.**

**The library hasn't asked for anything since the village worked so hard to get the building Village Hall and the library are currently located in. What we're asking for now isn't for us, but instead for what we can do with it a new facility for you.**

**But maybe you don't use the library. Maybe you don't see a need for expanded space, collections, resources and services for you and your community. And if you don't live in town and you are going to see an \$8 or so monthly increase in your taxes, it's not worth it to you. But it certainly is worth it to your neighbors who don't live in town, but would like to pay an extra \$8 or so monthly on their taxes to gain access to a new library and the expanded space, collections, resources and services a successful annexation referendum would bring to the entire Millstadt community.**

**Millstadt has always been a leader. The best schools, the best organizations, the best people, and even the best homecomings and parades.**

**Why not have the best library too?**