



Last fall, the Library conducted a series of focus groups and one-on-one interviews with members of our community. We found two things:

- Folks who live outside the Village wanted to be able to serve on the Library’s board of trustees, and
- The community wanted more hours, more programs and more services.

On Tuesday, May 15th, you’ll have the opportunity to solve both of these concerns when you vote on whether the Library should become a district library that serves the entire school district. This is an important vote and we want you to be able to make an informed decision when you go to the polls.

Enclosed is an overview of where the Library stands and what becoming a district library would mean for you and the Schuylerville Public Library.

The Library is the Center of Our Community. It’s where we connect.

In 2011, there were:

- 15,492 patron visits
- 25,775 items circulated
- public access computers were used 4,441 times
- 910 reference questions handled by staff.

Over the past ten years, we’ve seen more and more people connect with the Library and use its programs and services. Here are some highlights:

The Issues Facing the Library

The Library is currently chartered as a municipal library serving the Village. In reality, however, people from all over the school district use the Library.

| | 2001 | 2011 |
|---------------------------------------|--------|--------|
| Annual visits | 3,179 | 15,492 |
| Number of Adult Program Sessions | 3 | 41 |
| Adult Program Attendance | 90 | 320 |
| Number of Children’s Program Sessions | 34 | 101 |
| Children’s Program Attendance | 1,117 | 1,639 |
| Total program attendance | 1207 | 2,176 |
| Visits to Library’s Website | 0 | 21,796 |
| Reference questions answered | 170 | 910 |
| Total circulation | 10,042 | 25,775 |

Located in the Village on the corner of Ferry and Church Streets, the Library resides in a retrofitted building owned by the Village of Schuylerville. When a library is chartered as a municipal library, the municipality usually provides direct funding.

As everyone has tightened their belts, the Village can no longer make a direct appropriation to the Library but does, quite generously, take care of the outside of the building while the Library maintains the inside of the building. We hope this relationship will continue.

Because the Schuylerville Public Library is chartered as a municipal library:

- Only people residing in the Village of Schuylerville are eligible to serve on the Library's Board of Trustees.
- The Library board is appointed by the Schuylerville Village Board.

Presently, funding for the Library comes from a ballot proposition the Library placed on the school district ballot a few years back. In short, everyone in the school district has been providing community-based funding for the Library yet not everyone is represented on the Library's Board of Trustees.

The Solution

In order for the entire school district to be represented by the Library's Board, the Library is asking all the voters in the school district to vote on whether the Library should become a school district public library—a district library that receives 60% or more of its funding from a public vote and publicly elects its trustees.

While it is legally called a school district public library, the Schuylerville Central School District will have no more responsibility for the Library than it presently has. Right now, the Library's community-based funding appears as a line-item on your school bill. The School District collects the money on behalf of the Library and turns it over to the Library. That would continue to be the extent of the relationship between the Library and the District if the voters approve becoming a school district public library.

In addition, the Library's funding will be stabilized with an initial budget of \$100,000 which will be subject to the state's 2% tax cap. Below is a chart detailing the cost per \$1,000 of assessed value in your community.

| | |
|------------------|---------|
| Northumberland | \$.120 |
| Town of Saratoga | \$.187 |
| Stillwater | \$.127 |
| Wilton | \$.122 |
| Ft. Edward | \$.142 |
| Greenwich | \$.121 |
| Easton | \$6.210 |

In order to contain costs, we are hopeful that the Village will continue to provide the Library with free use of the current building and continue to provide maintenance as it has done in the past.

There are many advantages to becoming a school district public Library:

- The voters get to vote on the Library's board of trustees.
- The voters get to vote on the Library's budget.
- The Library will have a much more stable funding base.
- The Library will be able to continue to provide programs and services to meet the demands of our community.

With this reliable community-based funding stream, the Library would be able to:

- Extend Saturday Hours
- Extend education for technology and computers (providing the public with classes and demonstrations)
- Enhance teen and children's programming
- Purchase e-Readers for public use

Thank you for your interest. We hope to see you at Schuylerville Central School on Tuesday, May 15th. The polls will be open from Noon to 9 pm.

For more information, go to schuylervillelibrary.sals.edu. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Board President Jack Ditch at 518-695-4168.