



BUILDING COMMUNITY – BUILDING A NEW LIBRARY

Galway Public Library New Library Building Project

For years the community has asked for a larger, better equipped library . . . The Galway Public Library is a vital center of the Galway community, providing learning resources, technological tools, programs, classes, meeting and public forum space. But the current building is too small (only 1800 square feet) to meet the demand for services, programs and space. The library serves more than 7000 within the Galway School District, but can accommodate only 23 at a time, with parking for just five cars.

And now it's almost here . . . The architectural firm, Butler Rowland Mays, has prepared a conceptual design for a 7500-square-foot building that will become the social and informational center of Galway. The new library will be equipped with resources needed for lifelong learning. It will reflect the architectural heritage of the Village and be situated on East Street, Galway. Some of the features and benefits will be:

- Room for expanded collections of books and e-books
- Expanded children's section and dedicated teen room
- 50-seat multi-function program room available even when the library is closed
- More public computers and technology for presentations
- Comfortable seating with well-lit work areas complete with free wireless Internet
- Space dedicated to the study and research of area history and genealogy
- Ample parking
- Outdoor area available for nature study and programming as well as recreation

Frequently Asked Questions

How close are we to having a new library . . . when will it be built?

We are very close!

- The land has already been purchased
- More than one-third of the funds have been committed
- A referendum asking for the community's support will be held Wednesday, September 23, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- The Capital Fund Drive is under way
- Groundbreaking is scheduled for late spring of 2016; completion is targeted for spring of 2017

How much will the entire project cost?

- \$3,142,000 in design and construction costs needed by spring of 2016
- \$220,000 in other costs (furnishings, moving the collection) needed by spring of 2017
- Total project cost: \$3,362,000

How will it be paid for?

The project will be funded from public and private sources. While many libraries fund their building projects solely through taxpayer support, the Galway Public Library has launched a vigorous capital campaign to raise a substantial share of the building costs, greatly reducing the impact on taxpayers. The breakdown is as follows:

- \$1,212,000: Capital Funds, grants and pledges as of July 1, 2015
- \$1,800,000: Bond to be approved by Galway taxpayers at the September 23 referendum
- \$ 350,000: Fund drive goal (funds still needed to be raised)

Has the library leadership made a financial commitment to the capital campaign?

Yes. All members of the Library Board of Trustees and the Board of the Friends of the Library have pledged funds to support the capital campaign.

What if you do not raise the entire \$3 million?

We are committed to building a new library. Construction will not begin until all funds are raised.

How much more will I pay in taxes for the new library?

For a property assessed at \$100,000, the estimated increase in the library tax would be \$43 per year or \$.83 per week.

How much more will be needed to operate the new library?

The estimate is a 14% increase in annual operating costs, excluding debt service.

What happens to the current library building?

It will be sold after the new library is built.

What about staffing?

At this time there are no plans to hire additional staff. The new library's design enhances vision lines, enabling staff to observe activities in the library from a central location. Rooms not in use may be closed off. There will be greater overall efficiencies and access to work space for staff.

How will the meeting room be used?

The meeting room will be equipped with the technology and accommodations to serve as a multi-function space. The library will utilize the space for classes, arts and crafts projects, performances, art shows and displays, tutoring, meetings, discussions and forums. When not in use by the library, the meeting room will be available to the community.

What is the overall benefit of a new library to the community?

According to research conducted by the Pew Research Center, 95% of people believe a public library improves the quality of life in a community. Libraries are devoted to promoting literacy and lifelong learning and are specifically designed to offer the resources to do so.

The new library will be a quiet, comfortable place to meet friends and colleagues, learn a new skill or polish an old one, view the local art/photo and history displays, or walk the nature trails.

A strong library is an investment in a stronger community, something from which we can all benefit.

For more information, go to the website of the Galway Public Library:

www.galwaypubliclibrary.org/new-building-project