

The Library: At the Center of Our Community

Walk down Main Street in Victor to the center of the village and nestled behind Mead Square Park you'll find Victor Farmington Library, a welcoming little building with a packed parking lot.

Step inside and you might find a group of giggling toddlers sitting down for their weekly storytime with Miss Krystina. Perhaps you'll hear the clicking of computer keys as teenagers complete their homework assignments or adults fill out online job applications because they have no internet at home.

You'll often find yourself surrounded by groups of folks heading toward the meeting rooms for Chair Yoga or spot your neighbors gathering to play Mah Jongg or Scrabble. From a rotating display of local artwork, and artist meet-and-greets, to family activities and classes, the Library offers free cultural and educational activities every day.

You will see that the Library is much more than a library. It is a place where everyone is welcome without the expectation of spending money. The Library puts a world of resources at your fingertips. To the people of Victor and Farmington, it's a vital part of the community, that encourages residents to connect around shared interests. As Victor and Farmington continue to grow, the Library aims to become the very heart of our communities.

But Take a Closer Look

Yes, the Library is busy and full of active patrons of all ages enjoying an abundance of books and resources. But look again, and you'll notice that the floor space is taken up with activities and shelves of books with little room to spare. Each of the small meeting rooms around the perimeter of the Library is occupied. Students and their tutors are huddled at small tables or even sitting on the floor for vital one-on-one time outside school hours.



In 2019, the library reported over 116,500 visitors (roughly 400 per day), 139,772 items circulated, and a total program attendance of 13,428 for 890 programs. The meeting rooms were used over 415 times by the public in addition to regular library events.

As we return to normal, traffic in the library grows daily. Before COVID, every space in the library was occupied or booked nearly every hour the library was open. Although the staff works hard to accommodate requests for space, they turn away more people every day. Incorporating lessons from the pandemic, such as offering hybrid programs which allow some attendees to participate from home while others join us in-person helps but is not enough to mitigate our space struggles.

The People of Our Community Are Taking Action

Members of our community who care deeply about the services that the Library provides have come together to build a new library for the community.

The plans call for:

- A building that meets both the current and future needs of the Library
- An expanded selection of books, reference materials, and other collections
- Advanced ADA compliant accessibility
- An increased number of meeting rooms with flexibility for various size options
- More computer and internet access
- A small performance space for lectures, films, music, and more.

We look forward to sharing cost estimates as soon as the design decisions are finalized, well in advance of the May 2022 vote. The Library is actively raising funds and applying for grants to offset the cost. Be assured the Board of Trustees will work to minimize a tax increase.

Funds are being raised to cover:

- The cost of a building site
- A new building, including a separate, larger children's area, more meeting rooms, and comfortable places to read and work
- Creation of a building maintenance reserve fund
- Technology upgrades
- Expenditures for additional programs

The Campaign for the Victor Farmington Library

A Capital Campaign task force has been formed and work has begun on the Campaign to raise \$300,000 from individuals, businesses, foundations, and public sources such as the New York State Library Construction Grant. This group has secured commitments for more than 38% of the initial goal. Additionally, we expect the sale of our current building to contribute \$1 million to the project.

In May 2022, taxpayers will vote on contributing the remaining funds to build a new library. A successful vote will allow us to begin construction in 2023, and open the doors in early 2024.

Support the Heart of Our Community

Small communities in our state are languishing, but in Victor and Farmington, there's a spark of excitement that has brought together people who are willing to invest their time, energy, and money in the Library, making it a vibrant hub of their community for many years to come.

Over the next few weeks and months, we will be contacting you and other members of the community to ask for your help. We hope you will be among the growing number of people who will join us by opening your heart and supporting the Campaign.