



New Library FAQs

Why do we need a bigger library?

Because the current library was built over 25 years ago to serve 14,800 residents, and the population is expected to be over 25,000 in the 2020 census. We consider ourselves fortunate to be in an area that is vibrant and growing. New, larger libraries have been trending and local communities similar to ours have built new, modern libraries over the last ten years: Pittsford, Irondequoit, Henrietta, Chili, and Mendon. Library expansions have been seen at Wood Library in Canandaigua, Fairport, Livonia, Caledonia, and Greece.

What's wrong with the current building?

Our architects tell us it is impossible to add second floor because the foundation could not support it. Additionally, expanding on the current site would create insufficient parking. A larger library would require around 100 parking spaces and there are only around 50 spaces right now.

Why don't you build a branch in Farmington?

The cost of constructing a separate building, along with doubling operational and material costs is much more expensive than operating just one building.

How busy is the library that we need a bigger one?

Of the 42 libraries in the Pioneer Library System, the Victor Farmington Library ranks either first or second in circulations and door counts. In 2019, over 191,000 items were borrowed and nearly 121,000 people physically visited the library. A typical weekday saw 400 - 500 people come through the doors. Additionally, the small meeting rooms and tables seated over 4,000 individuals for non-library functions. The library is a very active, vibrant destination that is used for more than just for borrowing books.

Who uses a library anymore since we have the internet and ebooks?

Libraries are now much more than just book repositories. They are the cultural and social centers of their communities. Local organizations and individuals use libraries for meetings, tutors teach their students, children and teens come to actively learn, and adults are offered a wide variety of educational, in-person instruction. The library has free wi-fi and has public computers that people use for job searches and finding employment, among other uses.



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Where would a new library go?

The library board of directors has researched over twelve locations in the Village of Victor since 2017, working closely with an architectural firm (for space recommendations), a real estate expert, a fundraising consultant, and the Village of Victor government. The Victor Farmington Library is proposing the construction of a new library at 160 School Street, in the Village of Victor.

What will happen to the tenants at 160 School Street?

It's important to everyone that these businesses stay in Victor. The Victor Local Development Corporation will provide relocation assistance.

Why am I just hearing about a new library now?

Exploration of a new library began in 2017. A study of the library's space needs was completed in 2018, and in 2019 740 individuals responded to a community-wide survey asking people if the community needed a bigger library. 82% said yes. It takes a long time to research and gather the appropriate information before it can be presented to the public.

Did you consider renovating the existing building at 160 School Street?

Yes. Our architects found fire and water damage. They determined that demolishing the building would be the most cost-effective option.

Did you look at vacant buildings in the area?

We investigated both existing buildings and land available for sale. This is the first location that met all of the criteria at a reasonable cost.

How much will it cost?

The Construction Manager is working to develop preliminary cost estimates. More precise numbers will be shared well in advance of the May 2022 vote. Generally speaking, just like roads, schools, and other infrastructure are paid for and enjoyed by all residents, the library will continue to be funded in the same manner. A robust and thriving library is a direct reflection of the community it serves. Minimizing the impact on taxpayers is the first priority of the board of trustees.

How much do I pay in taxes for the current library?

If you're a resident of the Victor Central School District, you are paying \$27 dollars a \$100,000 home in 2022.

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How big is this new library going to be?

An extensive space study completed by a professional recommends a new library should be more than twice the current size to adequately serve the public.

Will there be meetings and open houses regarding the new library?

Yes, there will be multiple opportunities to attend informational sessions, and of course the director is always available at the library.

Why build a new library now?

The library's Board of Trustees recognized the need for a larger library four years ago. A positive May 2022 vote will allow the library to lock in a site big enough to accommodate our current and future needs and remain in the Village of Victor. The soonest construction could begin on a bigger building is in early 2023. If the vote is unsuccessful, the library will not purchase property, instead remaining in the current building.

What happens if the vote is unsuccessful?

Due to the time and money already invested in considering a larger library, a no vote would mean staying in the current building for the foreseeable future. Unfortunately, the space constraints that keep us from offering more of what the community has asked for, are likely to worsen as the populations of Victor and Farmington continue to grow.

What services does the Victor Farmington Library currently offer?

In addition to loaning books, DVDs, Blu-ray discs, and video games, the library provides:

- Programming for all ages including arts and crafts, book clubs, classes to help you stay fit, educational workshops, and storytimes
- Space for community meetings and tutoring
- Five public computers that can be used to apply for work, prepare your resume, join a webinar, do research, or take an online class
- Printing, copying, and faxing services
- Downloadable eBooks and audiobooks
- Online access to ancestry.com
- Materials for teachers and homeschoolers
- Newspapers, magazines, and local history materials
- Passes to local museums and state parks
- Concerts and other performances