



100 E. Church Avenue Telford, PA 18969 215-723-9109 www.ivpl.org

Dear Valued IVPL Cardholders:

RE: Indian Valley Public Library Begins Innovative Facilities Project
Ours Is a True Community Library with a Storied Past and a Bright Future

The Indian Valley Public Library (IVPL) is recognized as a true community library serving five municipalities: Lower Salford, Franconia, Salford, Souderton, and Telford. The library is open every day of the year except major holidays.

Among the 2017 highlights:

- Each day up to 800 people visit to read, study, meet with friends, participate in the varied programs, and use the internet with free computer access and free WiFi for personal devices.
- Thousands more come to explore the biweekly book sales staffed by volunteers.
- 18,811 children, teens, and adults attended 1,189 programs.
- 356,824 items were circulated, including books, e-books, audiobooks, DVDs, magazines, and the new and free museum passes.
- 165 community members volunteered 8,341 hours of service, helping IVPL run every day! Our community coming together to serve others!

About the Building

The IVPL building contains many happy memories. However, as a twenty-first-century library, it has some drawbacks:

- Built in 1960 as the Telford Elementary School, the structure was converted to the library in 1981. Though additions and renovations were made in 2000 and 2010, the building retains many structural elements from the original building and has stayed essentially the same building for 58 years.
- Interior accessibility for people with disabilities is not optimal.
- Insufficient restrooms are available for the number of people simultaneously in the library.
- Spaces adaptable for varied uses are not available.
- Age-related issues exist, especially with plumbing, the electrical system, lighting, the HVAC system, and the roof.

Planning for the Future as a Community Space

In October 2015, a Strategic Planning Committee comprised of Indian Valley Public Library Trustees, library staff, municipal and community leaders, and friends of the Indian Valley Public Library, initiated the first strategic plan. Seven focus groups were held and 725 individuals responded to a survey which resulted in a qualitative and quantitative assessment of the library. The results showed the community envisioned the library of the future to include an enhanced facility/civic space, a robust collection and expanded educational programs for both children and adults.

Actions taken include:

- The Board of Trustees created a Facilities Committee to investigate and evaluate the current library space and to address how to reorient the library to meet increasing demands for flexible spaces and the new technology environment needed in a 21st-century library.
- In 2017, a library building consultant was retained to assist the library in planning for its forthcoming facilities options. In order to make informed decisions about its options, the library first needed to determine the sizes, types, functions, and relationships of spaces it has and needs.
- Next, architectural firms were invited to submit proposals for a building analysis and concept design building plans.
- On March 15, 2018, the Board of Trustees selected KCBA Architects from Hatfield, PA, to submit a building analysis and an architectural study of IVPL's facilities.

Indian Valley Public Library funded this initial work entirely through library savings and fund-raising initiatives.

KCBA Architects has completed its review of the library building's existing condition and presented the concept plan to the Board of Trustees in June 2018. The KCBA building analysis addresses the existing deficiencies of the building and proposes exciting renovations to the existing library at its present location.

Highlights of the plans are:

- Creating a new main entrance, community rooms, and spaces with dynamic and high-tech elements.
- Designing new spaces that can be used in a variety of configurations for collaborative and creative areas for groups to meet and work together.
- Creating engaging spaces for children and teens.
- Maintaining and improving current library spaces to improve efficiencies and library use or experience.

The estimated projected cost to undertake these major improvements and renovation of the Indian Valley Public Library in its current location is \$9.5 million.

The Board of Trustees also requested that the architectural firm consider as part of the building analysis possible scenarios for a new library at the existing site or a new library

at a different location. Building a new library at the existing site or elsewhere has been projected to cost \$13.7 million to \$14.7 million.

"Why Act Now?" To Get a Public Library for the 21st Century!

In an ever-changing world of information—and ways to access information—the Indian Valley Public Library plays an increasingly vital role in the lives of those who live and work in our wonderful community. Library usage has changed significantly in recent years. People visit the library for meeting space and collaborative work as much as they do for access to books and other reading materials. This potential project aims to build on the strengths of what our public library has been for 58 years and focus on what it can aspire to be: a true community library and hub of the Indian Valley community that inspires lifelong learning for all.

"We are responding to changes in technology and culture that affect how we gather, learn, and play" according to Marjorie Stern, Indian Valley Public Library's Executive Director. "Community input during creation of our strategic plan highlighted our physical space as a key asset. These improved spaces will enhance our ability to deliver better experiences for visitors of all ages."

What's Next?

Going forward, the Board of Trustees will be seeking community input and presenting the details of the concept plans to the Indian Valley community and our supporting municipal leaders. It is expected that the primary funding sources for any changes and improvements to the building will be private donations.

NEW Foundation of Friends

- As part of the 2017 strategic plan, the Board of Trustees has established a new 501c(3) foundation to spearhead potential fundraising and capital campaigns. Community leaders and library supporters have met regularly in 2018 to plan the formation of the new foundation, draft bylaws, and elect a board of directors. The new foundation, called "The Indian Valley Public Library Foundation of Friends," is envisioned as also being a Friends of the Library group that any IVPL cardholder can join as a "friend" who will advocate for our 21st-century library.
- In their daily lives, these friends will spread the word to non-library-users about the resources available at IVPL.
- Friends will also be asked sometimes to talk with or write to decision-makers about funding, including supervisors of local municipalities and state representatives and senators.
- If they can afford to support the library financially, friends would, of course, be welcome donors. However, being able to contribute money is NOT a requirement to be a friend.

Want to Be a Friend?

To become part of this new key community organization, contact Library Director Marjorie Stern. Call 215-723-9109 ext. 102 or e-mail her at mstern@ivpl.org. Stay tuned for more exciting news about the IVPL foundation of Friends.

THANKS FOR ALL YOU DO!

The IVPL Board of Trustees and library staff extend a most sincere THANK YOU for all your past and anticipated future support of our amazing public library! We truly have one of the best public libraries in Montgomery County, if not the Commonwealth!

Most appreciatively,

Marjorie Stern, Executive Director IVPL

Alex Grande, President IVPL Board of Trustees