

# The Ford Connection



*The Thomas Ford  
Memorial Library*



# REFERENDUM EDITION

*Election date: Tuesday, March 20, 2018*

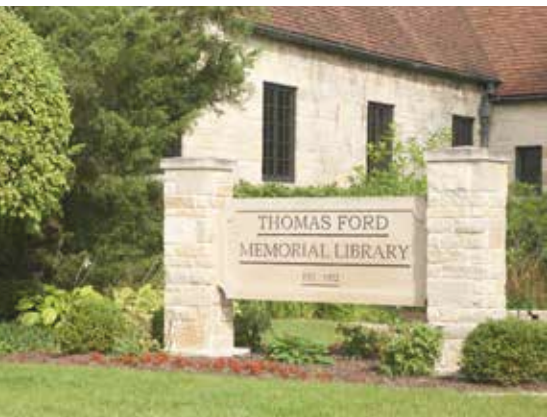
**SAMPLE BALLOT – GENERAL PRIMARY ELECTION  
COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS – MARCH 20, 2018**

**VILLAGE OF WESTERN SPRINGS  
PROPOSITION TO ISSUE \$2,000,000 IN GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS**

Shall the bonds of the Village of Western Springs, Cook County, Illinois, in the amount of \$2,000,000 be issued for the purpose of renovating the interior of the Thomas Ford Memorial Library building and furnishing necessary equipment in connection therewith?

YES

NO



*This edition explains:*

- Why additional funding is needed
- How the additional funding will be used
- How the bond will affect property taxes

# OUR BUSY LIBRARY *January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017*



129,734 total visits from residents and non-residents to the library



2,203 attendees at 141 adult classes and events



9,981 attendees at 312 children's classes and events



222,019 physical items loaned (Books, DVDs, Audiobooks, Magazines, etc.)



23,935 digital items loaned (eBooks, eMusic, eAudio, eVideo)

## What is the Library asking for?

The Library is asking the residents of Western Springs to allow the Village to issue \$2 million in general obligation bonds on behalf of the Library. The issuance of these bonds would result in an additional levy of \$2,345,675 spread over ten years. For a homeowner with an assessed property value of \$500,000, the additional yearly tax would be \$53.65 or \$10.73 per \$100,000 of assessed home value.

The funds generated by this referendum would be used to finance an interior renovation project. The Library Board of Trustees, in response to community feedback, engaged Product Architecture + Design to study the Library's current use of space to determine the best and most effective use of the library building.

## Why does the Library need to be renovated?

The Thomas Ford Memorial Library has been an educational, social, and civic center for 85 years. The Library plays a critical role in supporting residents of all ages by providing materials, programming, and physical space. The library building was constructed in 1932 and additions were completed in 1963 and 1996. The way residents wish to use the Library has changed dramatically since the last renovation.

**Community feedback has strongly indicated the need for more private and small group collaborative study and meeting space.** The proposed plan increases study spaces from one to six. It also increases overall seating on the first floor from approximately 54 seats to approximately 104 seats.

**The Library has inadequate program, study, and gathering spaces for children and teens, who represent a large and growing segment of the community's population (33%).** The proposed plan includes a dedicated Teen and Tween Space, which will open significant space in both the Children's and Adult areas, enabling the Library to better serve these other demographics by providing new amenities.

**Use of personal technology has risen exponentially in the 20 years since the Library's last renovation, making it difficult to support the need for power outlets and suitable space for personal computing.** Additional infrastructure and furnishings are needed to meet the changing technology demands and needs of our patrons.

**This new design will be much more flexible and responsive to changing patron needs.** Some other highlights are the much-improved and energy-efficient lighting, comfortable furnishings in the meeting rooms and throughout the Library, and stroller parking!

**There will be no exterior changes to the library building.** The distinctive architecture and stone that make the Library a local treasure will accommodate more functional and updated spaces that will serve our community in exciting new ways and allow the Library to reach the maximum number of patrons without compromising its historical charm.

*"A library outranks any other one thing a community can do to benefit its people. It is a never failing spring in the desert."*

Andrew Carnegie (1835-1919)

## How would this bond affect my property taxes?

The issuance of these bonds would result in an additional levy of \$2,345,675, including principal and interest, spread over ten years. For a homeowner with an assessed property value of \$500,000, the additional yearly tax would be \$53.65 or \$10.73 per \$100,000 of assessed home value.

Assessed Home Value	Annual Tax Increase	Monthly Tax Increase
\$250,000	\$26.83	\$2.24
\$500,000	\$53.65	\$4.47
\$750,000	\$80.48	\$6.71
\$1,000,000	\$107.30	\$8.94

## If I don't use the Library, how will I benefit?

The Library is an essential part of the community. Having an exceptional library enhances life in our village and draws families to Western Springs. The Library provides materials, programs, services, resources, and gathering space to patrons of every age. The quality of the library, schools, parks, and village services influences the overall quality of life in a community and the market value of homes.

## How would our Library look?



Lobby/Circulation



AV Collections & Seating



Youth Activity Area



Teen & Tween Area

**Thomas Ford  
Memorial Library**

800 Chestnut Street  
Western Springs, IL 60558  
(708) 246-0520  
www.fordlibrary.org



**CARRIER ROUTE  
NON PROFIT ORGAN.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 33  
Western Springs, IL**

**Library Hours**

Monday - Thursday  
9:30 a.m. - 9 p.m.  
Friday & Saturday  
9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Sunday  
1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

**LOCAL POSTAL PATRON**  
Western Springs IL 60558

Ted Bodewes, Library Director

**Library Board of Trustees**

Mary Greska, President: marygreska@fordlibrary.org  
Gary Wenstrup, Treasurer: garywenstrup@fordlibrary.org  
Margaret Fahrenbach, Secretary: margaretfahrenbach@fordlibrary.org  
Abbie Deneen: abbiedeneen@fordlibrary.org  
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Kathleen Thometz: kathleenthometz@fordlibrary.org

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# REFERENDUM EDITION

Two open forum public meetings will take place on:

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27 at 6:00 P.M.**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 10 at 10:00 A.M.**

*where residents will be invited to hear more about the project and ask questions.*



Community Room



Adult Services Desk