



Your Library, Your Voice:

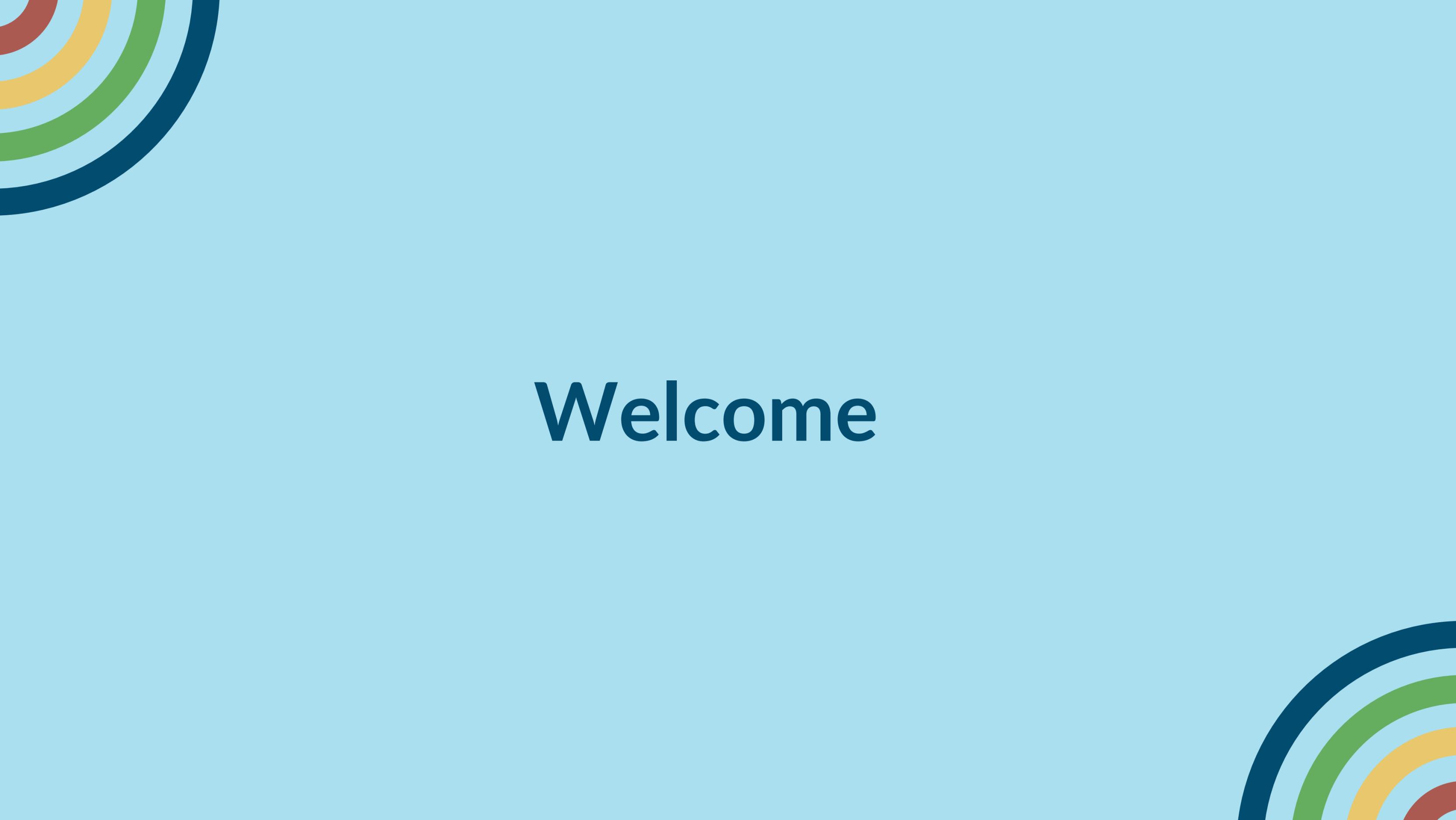
Project Overview and
Funding

TODAY'S

Agenda

- Introductions
- The Current State of the Carnegie Library
- How we got here
- Cost Savings and Sustainability
- Project Costs
- The Financials
- History, Conclusion, and Questions



The image features a light blue background with the word "Welcome" centered in a dark blue, sans-serif font. In the top-left and bottom-right corners, there are decorative elements consisting of concentric, curved lines in shades of red, orange, yellow, green, and dark blue, resembling stylized rainbows or sun rays.

Welcome



The Current Challenges of the Carnegie Library

-  Inaccessible entrance, restroom, program space
-  Limited space for collections, programs, or services
-  Limited/dangerous parking
-  Inefficient building systems

Video





How we got here

throughout 2022



"I love the public library! I use it all the time and feel it is one of the most valuable community resources. The staff are wonderful."

Montague Public Libraries Strategic Plan 2023-2028

Over several months, the Trustees of the Montague Public Libraries and Library Director, Caitlin Kelley, gathered public feedback to identify and prioritize the needs in the community that can be supported by library services, materials, programs and spaces.

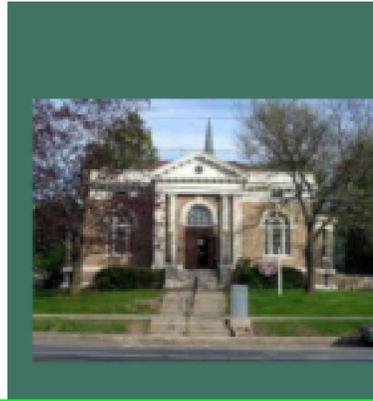
What we learned: library strengths

- The Montague Public Libraries' greatest asset is its staff. 93.9% of survey respondents agree or strongly agree that the Montague Public Libraries have excellent customer service.
- Access to inter-library loan from the CW/MARS consortium.
- The libraries are community gathering spaces, where residents can meet and engage with neighborhood friends and new people, too.
- The libraries feature a variety of collections, including the Carnegie's seed library, the Library(ies) of Things, and the local history collection.
- Residents want more programming on local history, gardening, and literature and to hear about programs through multiple platforms.
- Residents value being able to walk to their local library and want to see the libraries collaborate with local organizations.

What we learned: library barriers

- The Carnegie Library's hours are insufficient and the schedule is unwieldy and

throughout 2022



Montague Public Libraries Strategic Plan 2023-2028

What we learned: library barriers

- The Carnegie Library's hours are insufficient and the schedule is unwieldy and difficult to remember. Many requested additional branch hours as well.
- Lack of meeting, teen, or program space and few comfortable options for studying or gathering
- Buildings are inaccessible, not ADA compliant, and lack parking
- 70% of survey respondents marked "providing safe, adequate, accessible, inviting library facilities that meet the needs of the community" as the libraries' first priority in the next five years.

throughout 2022

Survey Question

If you could change one thing about the Carnegie Library building, it would be:

“Forget about changing one thing. We need a new, modern, spacious building with a decent parking lot.”

“Maintain its charm, maintain the high quality staffing, reflect the changing needs of the community.”

“More space, better entrance”

Patrons find the current building:

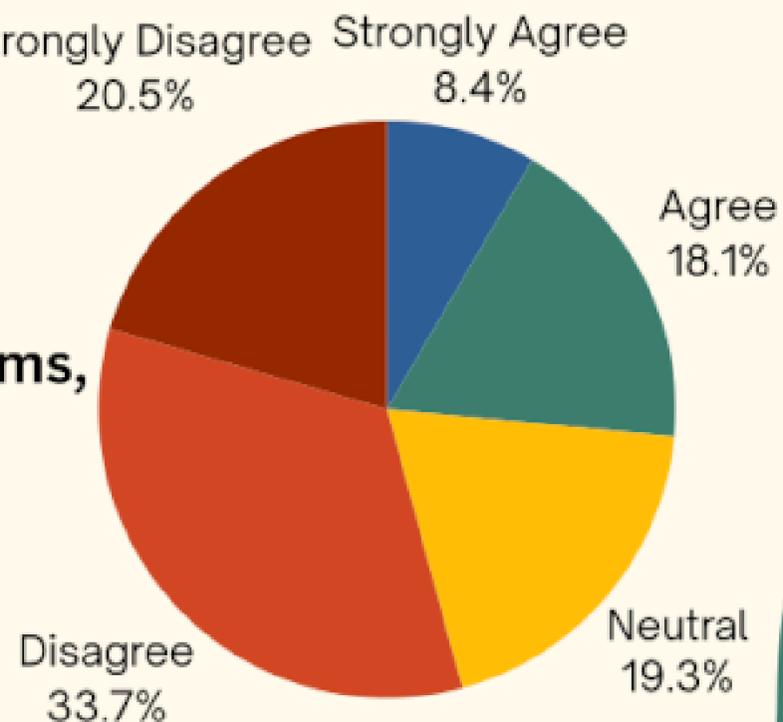
Inaccessible, crowded, and noisy but also charming and historic.

Many expressed their appreciation of the library’s staff.

Patrons frequently commented that they want an addition or a new building that “feels like Turners Falls.”

Survey Question

I find the size of the Carnegie Library, its rooms, and shelf space to be sufficient to serve my needs:



March 2023



Letter of Intent - Construction Grant Round 2023-24

Massachusetts Libraries

BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS

Opportunity Details

Opportunity Information

Title

Letter of Intent - Construction Grant Round 2023-24

Description

This is the required Letter of Intent indicating the applicant's plan to apply for the 2023-24 Construction Grant Round

Awarding Agency Name

Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners

Agency Contact Name

Andrea Bono-Bunker

Contact Phone

016

02d2c01

March 2023

→ Letter of Intent - Construction Grant Round 2023-24

Massachusetts Libraries
BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS

Opportunity Details
Opportunity Information

Title
Letter of Intent - Construction
Description
This is the required Letter
Awarding Agency Name
Massachusetts Board
Agency Contact Name
Andrea Bono-Bu
Contact F

"In light of community input, the Building Committee of the Trustees recognize that Carnegie Library is not adequately meeting the needs of the public, and we support moving forward with the Mass. Board of Library Commissioners' Mass. Public Library Construction Program process to explore how we can better meet these needs."

*voted by the Building Committee of the Trustees, March 8, 2023
voted by the full board of the Trustees, March 20, 2023*

April 2023

LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

The Montague Reporter

also serving Erving, Gill, Heverett and Wendell

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

YEAR 21 - NO. 23

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

\$1.50

APRIL 27, 2023

WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Dan Keller Retires from Board



By JOSH HEINEMANN

Wendell selectboard member Dan Keller went to his last selectboard meeting April 19, after 20 years on the board and 17 before the finance committee. His name was on the ballot for the next election, but he decided to step down.

Keller held the seat ever since winning all 70 votes in a 2003 special election.

time Heard came to commemorate the occasion, and when the meeting ended, Keller read a statement about his time working in town government. There were some treats on the table, but the meeting otherwise progressed as normal. Keller admitted he might suffer withdrawal and come to a meeting or two after stepping down, and he will be back in the chambers in February.

WENDELL page A5

'Our Sacrifice to Keep That Comerford, Saunders Intro For Quabbin Watershed

By MIKE JACKSON

BOSTON - "All for this," said state senator Jo Comerford (D-Northampton), holding aloft a Mason jar full of clear fluid as she testified Wednesday afternoon before the Joint Committee on Environment and Natural Resources. "Quabbin water, needed in eastern Massachusetts. Two hundred million gallons a day, at present.... "But do you know who doesn't have access to Quabbin water?"

The senator paused.

"The Swift River Elementary School, in nearby New Salem. Its well poisoned with PFAS. Its children, staff, and faculty drinking water from plastic bottles - as Quabbin water flows east."

Comerford and her colleague in the state house, Aaron Saunders (D-Belchertown), were at the public hearing on waterways, wetlands, water resources, and oceans to explain a bill the pair introduced in their respective chambers in February.

February. An Act relating to the Quabbin watershed and the attempt.



GUEST EDITORIAL

A Letter of Intent

By WILL QUALE

MONTAGUE - "The Trustees of the Montague Public Libraries and the Libraries' Director intend to apply to the Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program in the hopes of expanding the Carnegie Library or constructing a new main library."

So begins the letter of intent which the Trustees have submitted this week - with a letter of support from the selectboard - the first milestone in a grant application process that will involve substantial community input through the next year. The rest of our letter to the Massachusetts Board of Library

process, and they had chosen expansion. In 2023, however, this has changed. The process now begins by exploring community needs and how these could be met by both expansion and construction, allowing communities to evaluate each and then choose their best path forward.

The grant program has never given preference to one over the other: since 1987, MPLCP grants have funded 62 new buildings and 169 expansion and renovation projects. To fulfill our purpose as Trustees - enabling our libraries to best serve the needs and interests of our community - we will pursue this grant with extensive public engagement.

A contextualized history of past



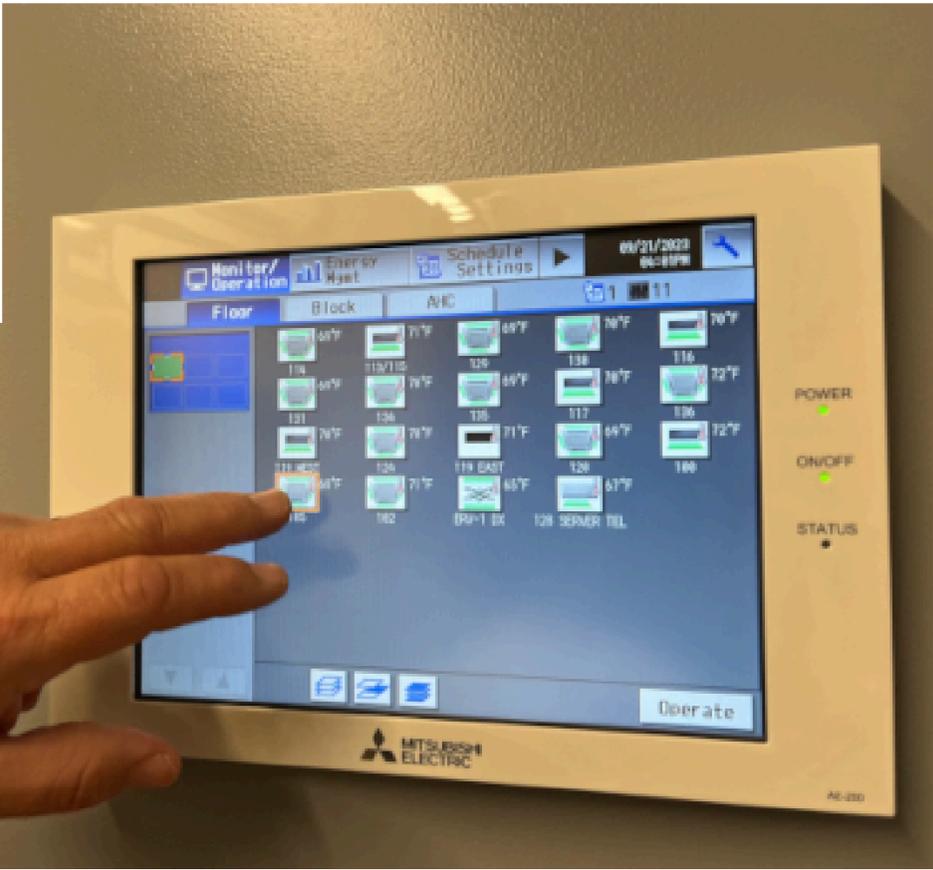
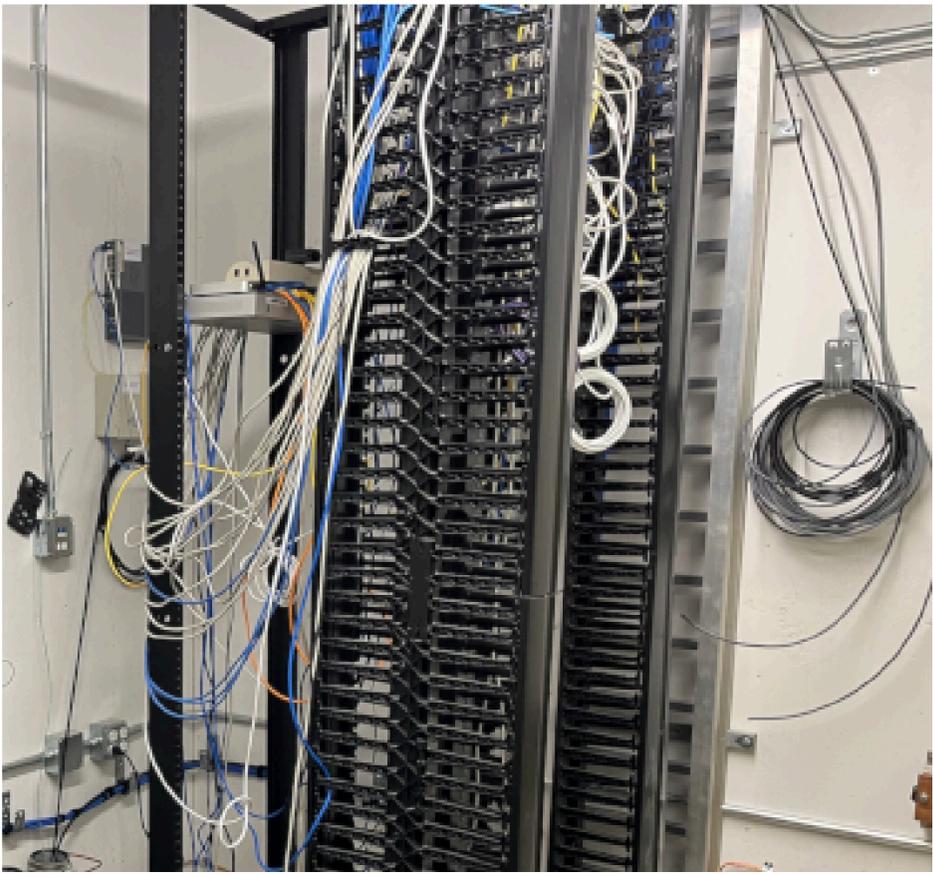
**Autumn
2023**



**Autumn
2023**







Grand Trunk
Hotel
1872-1968
RIP



CUMBERLAND FARMS

Ave. A and Second St.
Turners Falls
Mass.

Cumberland
Farms
1974-1993
-2023 RIP



ED GREGORY PHOTO



...and a library!



May 2024

MONTAGUE PUBLIC LIBRARIES

BUILDING PROGRAM

201 Avenue A Current Carnegie Library



201 Avenue A (the Carnegie)

- one accessible parking spot
- ramp to accessible entry
- green house on rock ledge



38 Avenue A Proposed New Building Site



town/state parking lot

38 Ave A



Summer 2024



Summer 2024



Autumn 2024



Autumn 2024



Autumn 2024



The Montague Reporter

Year 23 – No. 7

JANUARY 16, 2025

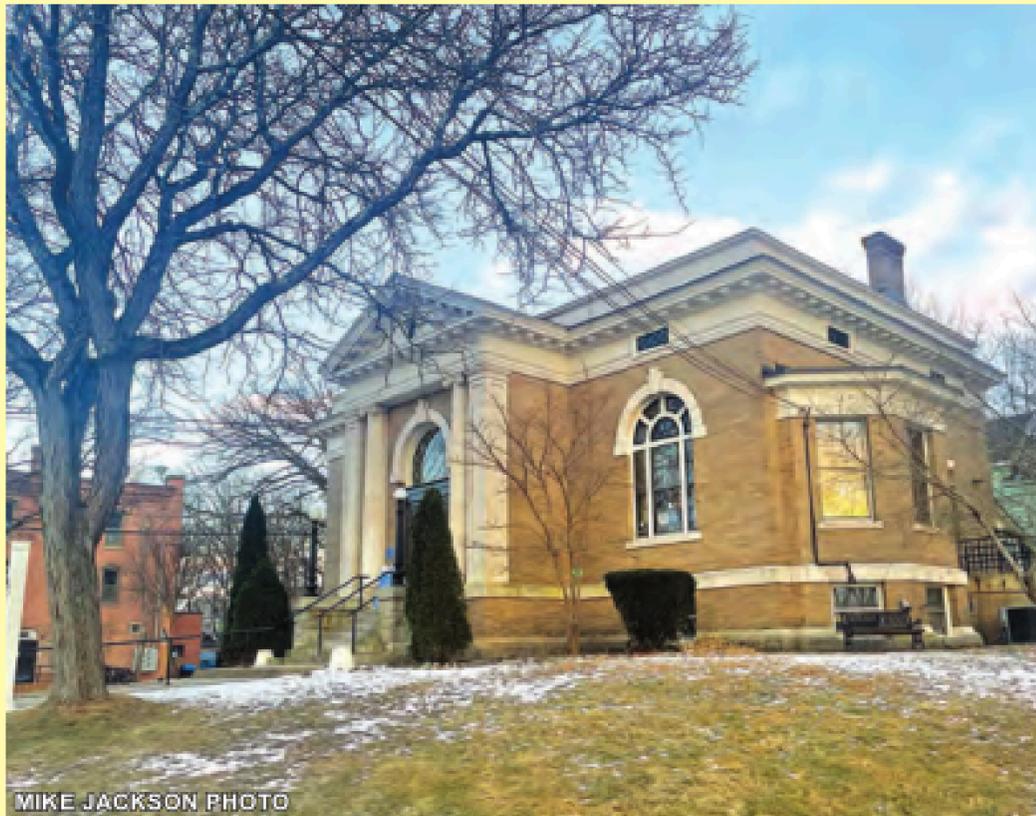
\$2

editor@montaguereporter.org

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

montaguereporter.org

State Awards \$100,000 For Library Expansion



MIKE JACKSON PHOTO

By the end of the one-year design phase, the library trustees are expected to choose between expanding the Carnegie Library and building a new library downtown.

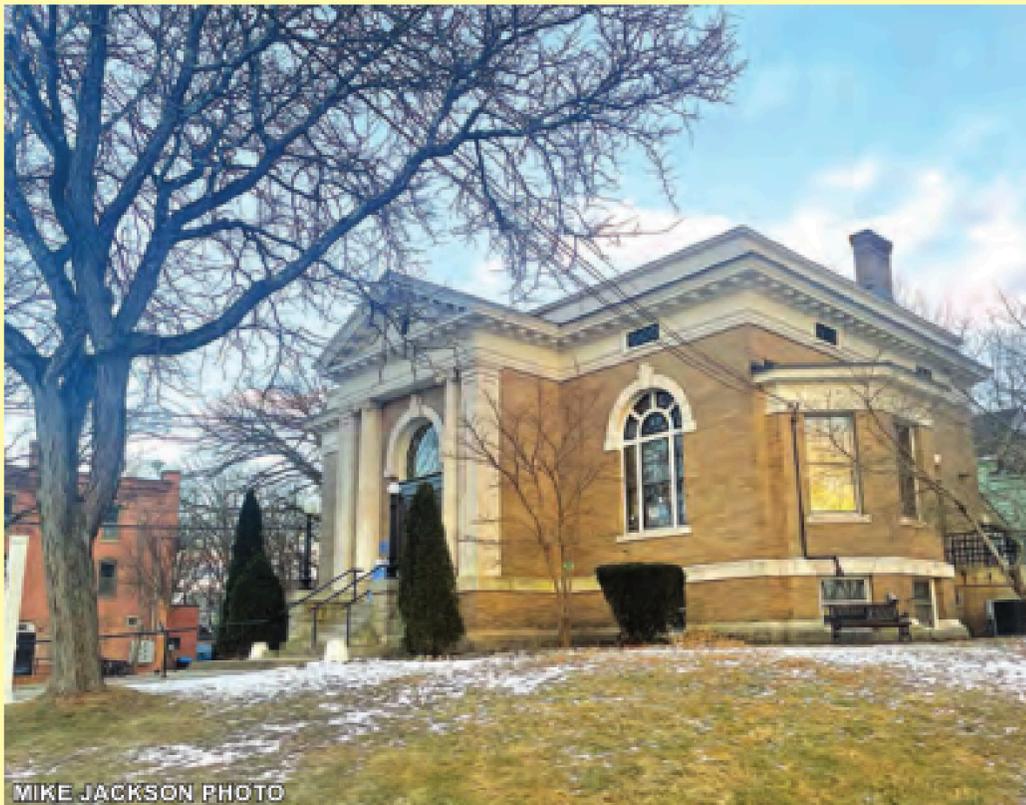
By **JEFF SINGLETON**

for construction funds, “provided that we pass through the design

TURNERS FALLS – “You guys, we got the grant!” Montague public libraries director Caitlin Kelley announced to the town selectboard on Monday, referring to a \$100,000 grant from the state Board of Library Commissioners to design either a renovation of the Carnegie Library in Turners Falls or plans for a new main library downtown.

January 2025

State Awards \$100,000 For Library Expansion



By the end of the one-year design phase, the library trustees are expected to choose between expanding the Carnegie Library and building a new library downtown.

By **JEFF SINGLETON**

for construction funds, “provided that we pass through the design

MPLCP Grants - Small Tier

Municipality	Library	Maximum Award	Construction Status
Springfield	East Springfield Branch	\$100,000	Immediately Funded
Freetown	Freetown Public Libraries	\$100,000	Immediately Funded
Great Barrington	Ramsdell Library	\$100,000	Waitlisted
Falmouth	East Falmouth Branch	\$100,000	Waitlisted
Berkley	Berkley Public Library	\$100,000	Waitlisted

MPLCP Grants - Medium Tier

Municipality	Library	Maximum Award	Construction Status
Hanson	Hanson Public Library	\$100,000	Immediately Funded
Yarmouth	Yarmouth Town Libraries	\$100,000	Immediately Funded
Montague	Carnegie Library	\$100,000	Immediately Funded
Clinton	Bigelow Free Library	\$100,000	Immediately Funded
Northbridge	Whitinsville Social Library	\$100,000	Waitlisted
Hudson	Hudson Public Library	\$100,000	Waitlisted
Uxbridge	Uxbridge Free Public Library	\$100,000	Waitlisted

MPLCP Grants - Large Tier

Municipality	Library	Maximum Award	Construction Status
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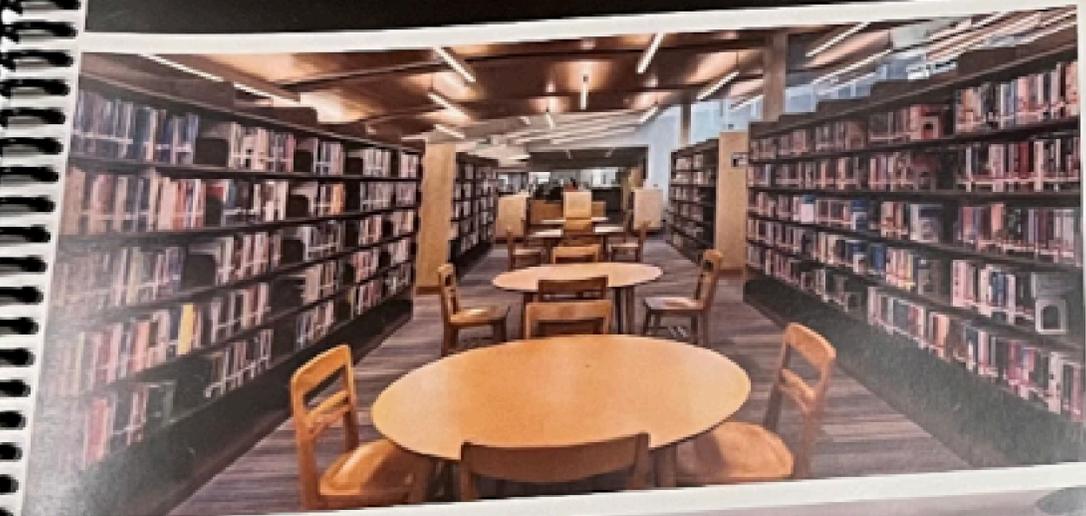
Spring 2025



Owner's Project Management Services Montague Public Libraries Main Branch

Submitted March 26, 2025 to Chris Nolan, Zeller, Assistant Town Administrator, Selectboard Office,
Town of Montague, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376

Prepared by Downes Construction Company



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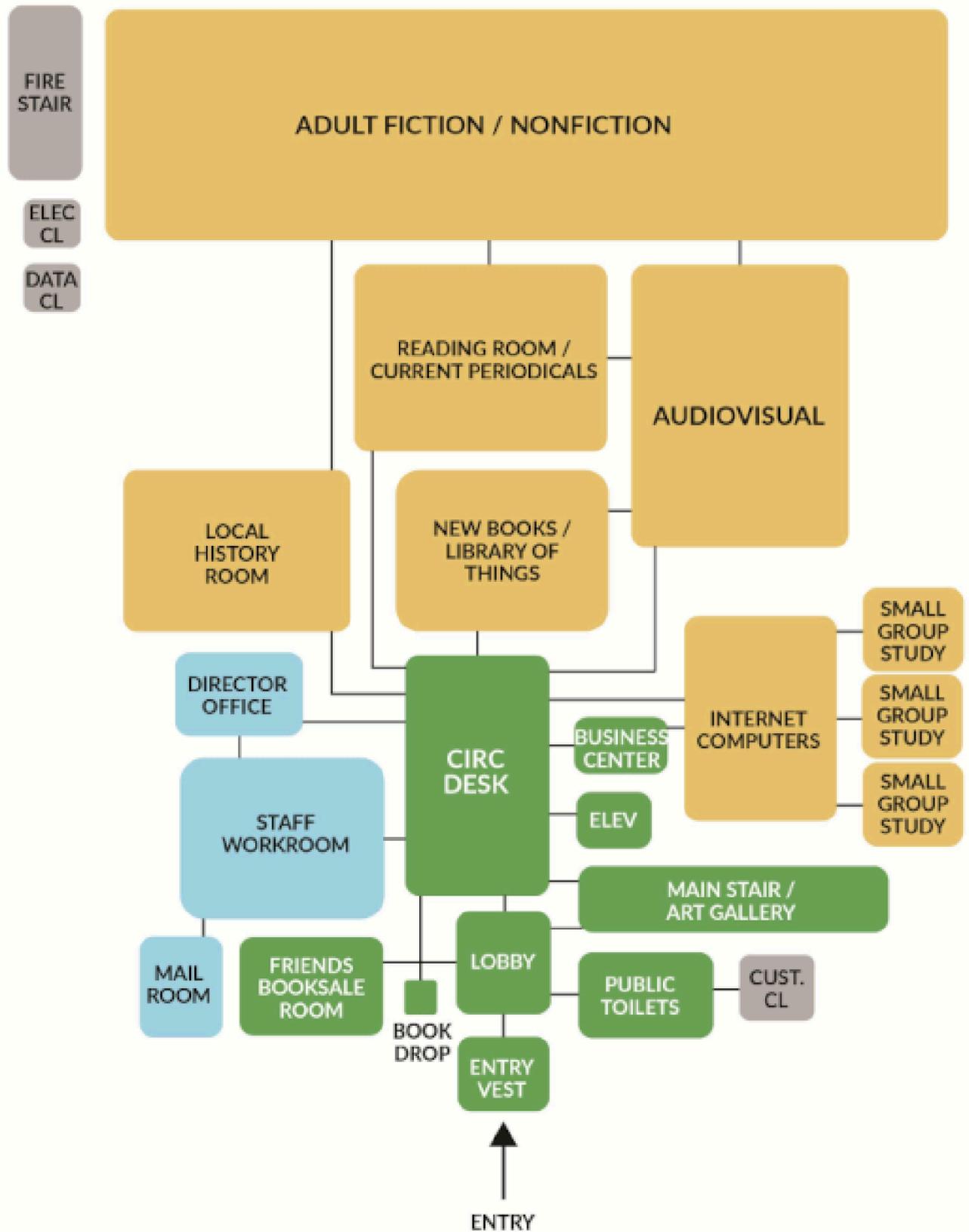
Montague Public Library Architectural and Design Services Town of Montague, MA June 2nd, 2025



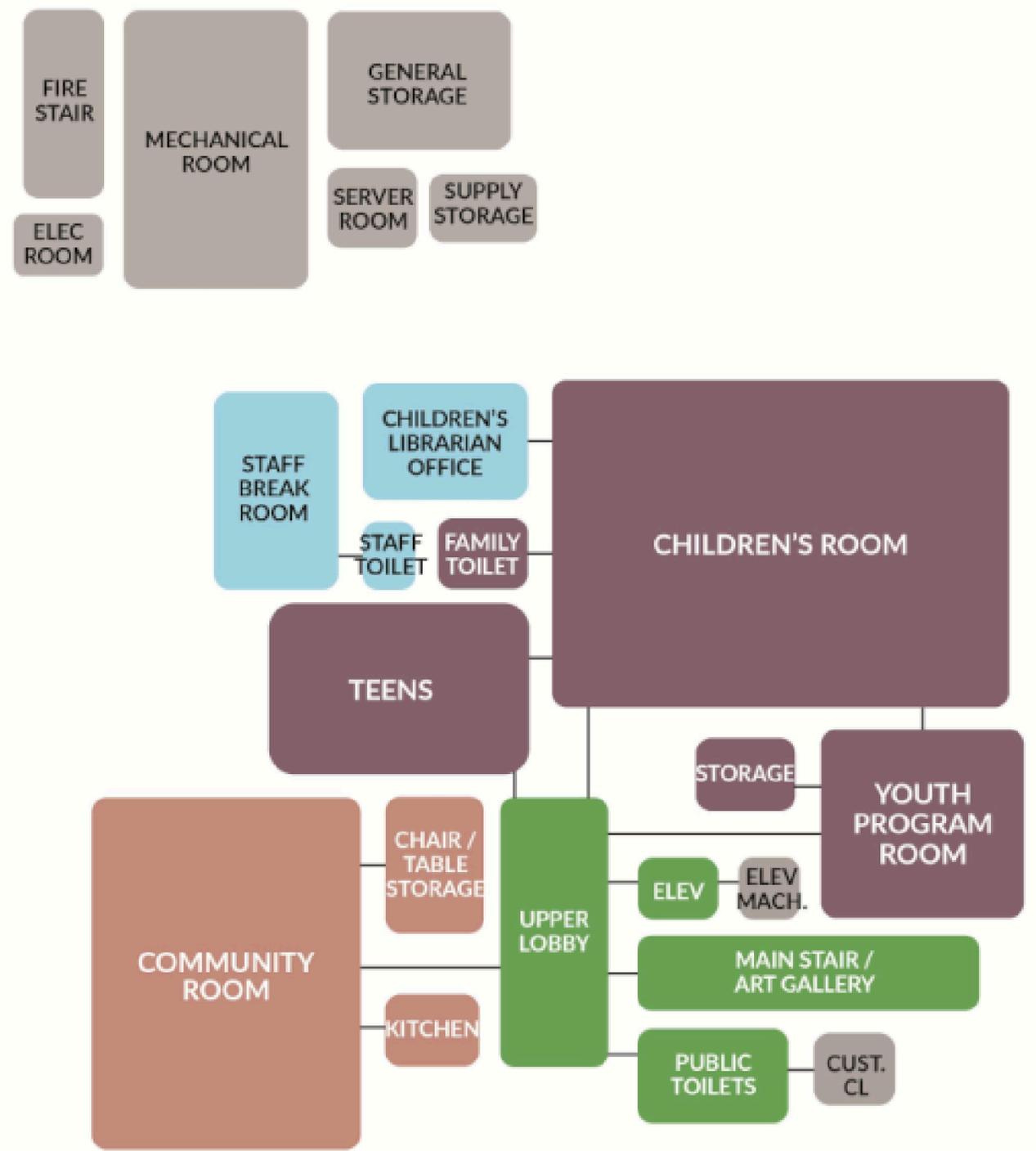
schwartzsilver

ARCHITECTURE PART

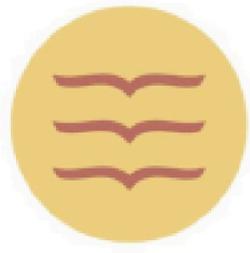
Main Floor - 9,000-11,000 SF



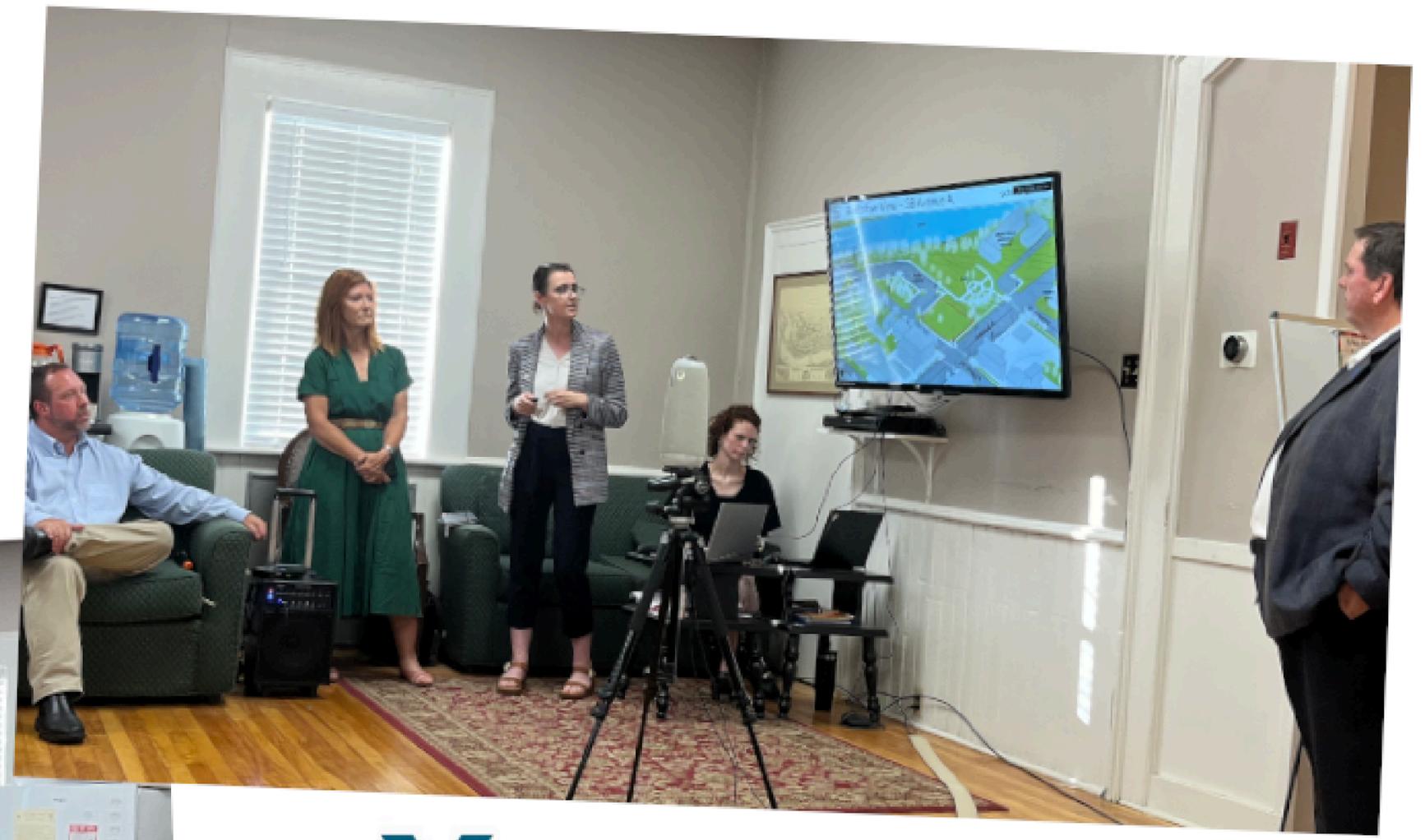
Upper Floor - 6,000-8,000 SF



Summer-Autumn 2025



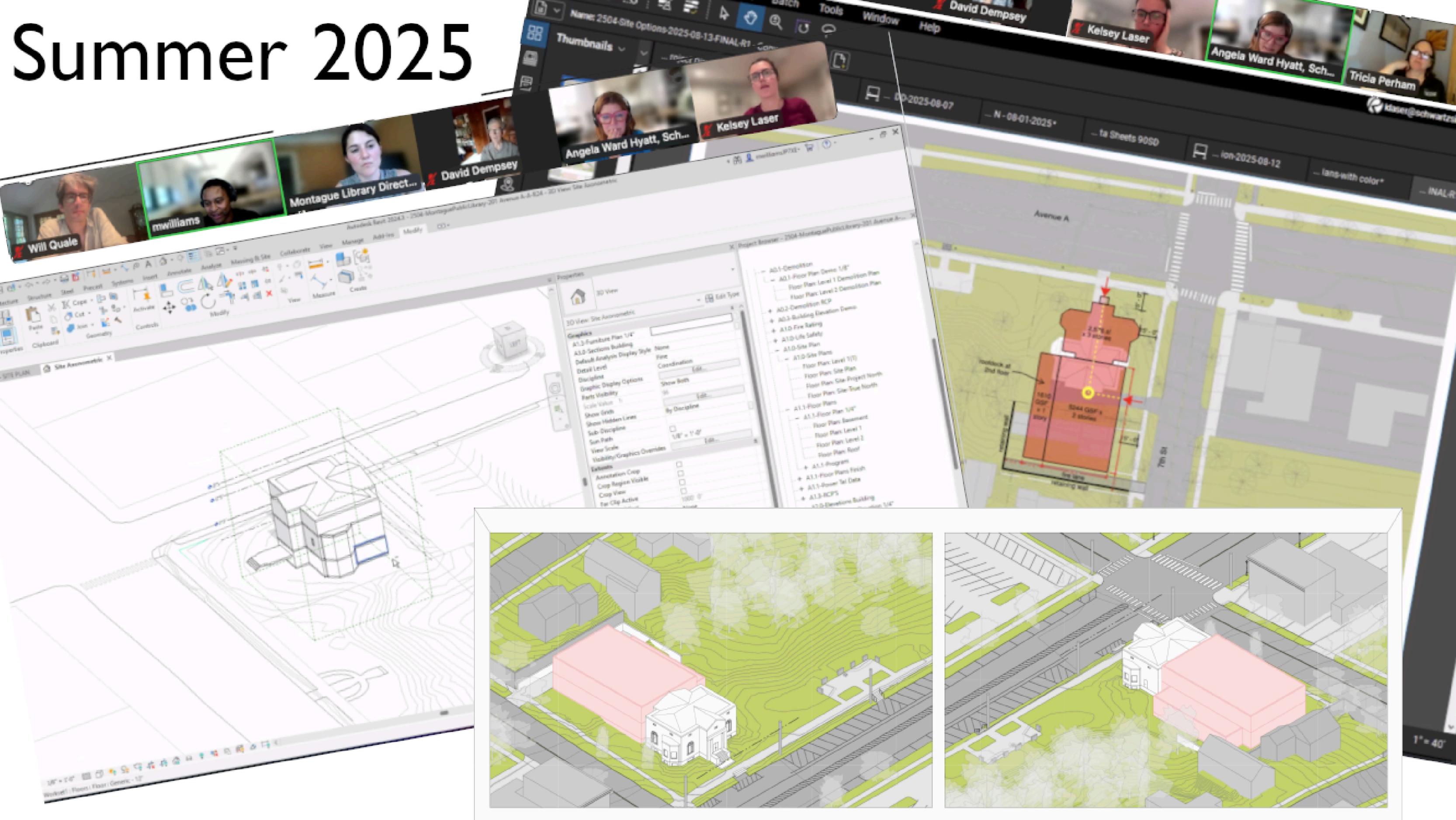
Your Library,



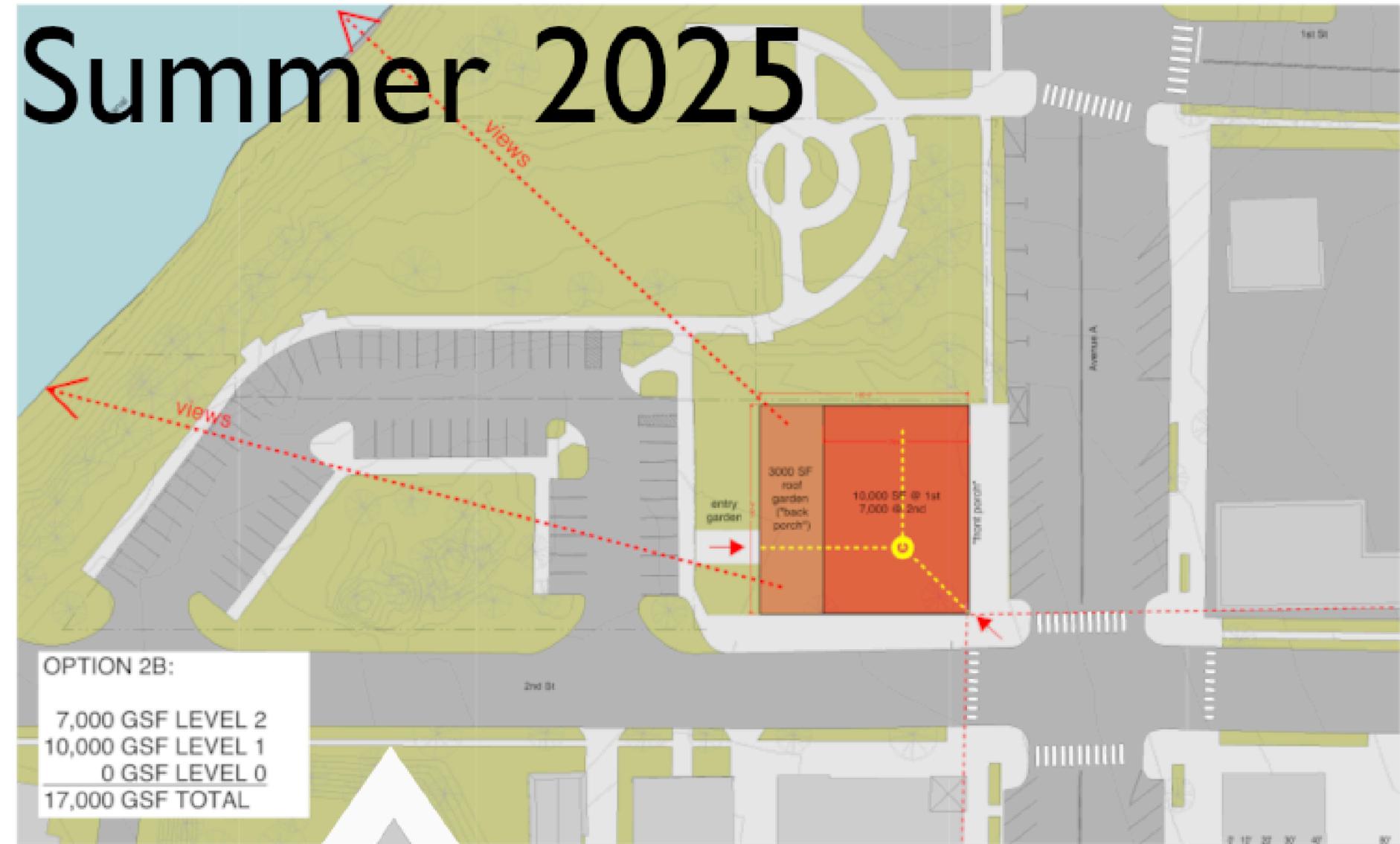
Your Voice



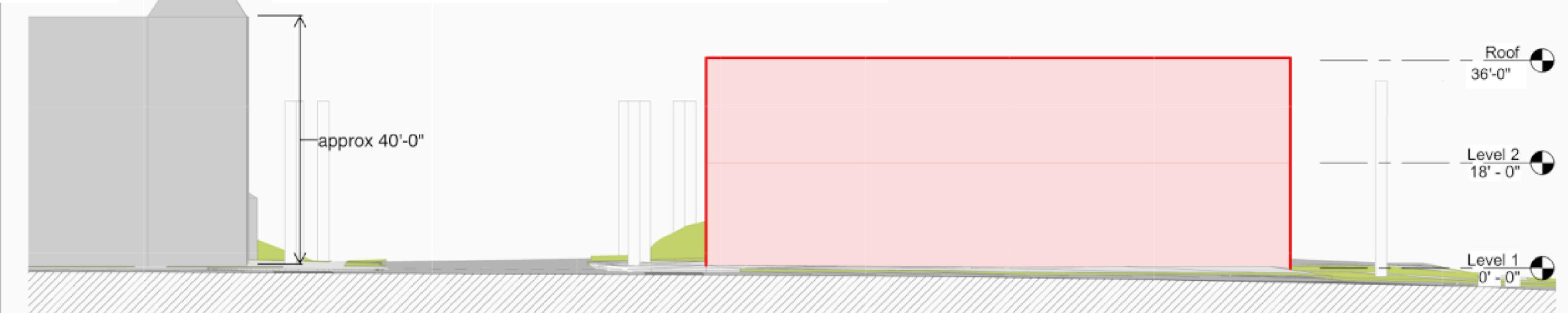
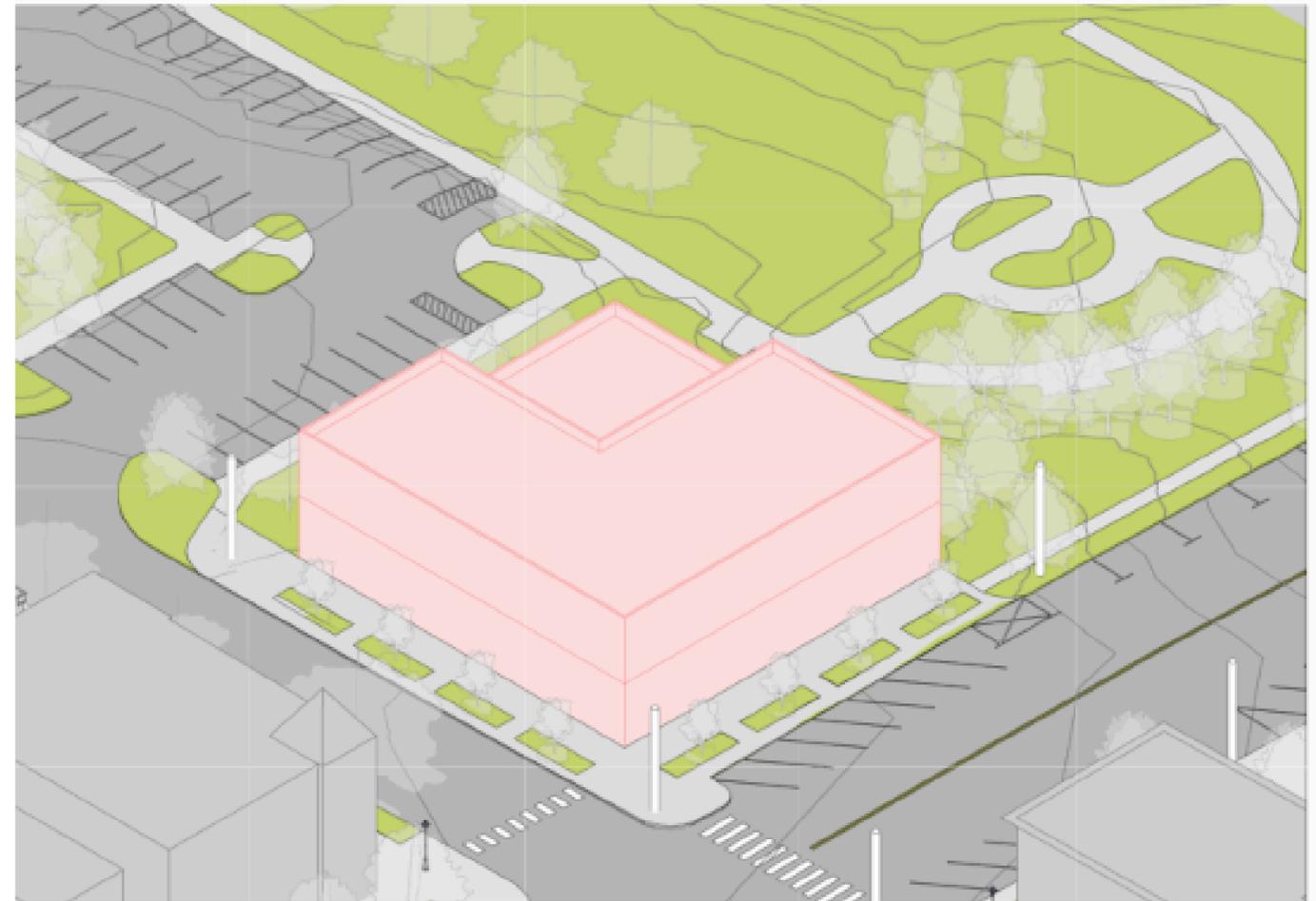
Summer 2025



Summer 2025



OPTION 2B:
7,000 GSF LEVEL 2
10,000 GSF LEVEL 1
0 GSF LEVEL 0
17,000 GSF TOTAL



Summer 2025

CRITERIA		SITE 1A	SITE 1B	SITE 1C	SITE 1D	SITE 2
Addition		Side	Rear/Side	Rear	Rear	New Building
Existing Building Footprint Moves		-	Move	Move	-	
Parcel Acquisitions		-	-	1	1	
SITE STATISTICS						
	Location	201 Avenue A, Existing	201 Avenue A, Existing	201 Avenue A, Expanded	201 Avenue A, Expanded	38 Avenue A
	Ownership	Town	Town	Town + Private	Town + Private	Town
	Current Use	Library + Park	Library + Park	Library + Residential	Library + Residential	Vacant
	Zoning	NB - Neighborhood Business	NB - Neighborhood Business	NB - Neighborhood Business RS-1 - Residential 1	NB - Neighborhood Business RS-1 - Residential 1	CB - Central Business
	Assessed Value	\$1,979,200	\$1,979,200	\$2,147,700	\$2,147,700	\$71,700
SITE CONSIDERATIONS						
relative weight	Technical Criteria	score wtd scr notes	score wtd scr notes	score wtd scr notes	score wtd scr notes	score wtd scr notes
3	Site/Program Fit	-1 -3	-1 -3	-1 -3	0 0	1 3
3	Construction Cost Estimate	1 3 comparable	-1 -3 +-4M	-1 -3 +-5M	0 0 +-0.5M	1 3 lowest cost
2	Property Acquisition Cost	0 0	0 0	-1 -2 \$400k est.	-1 -2 \$400k est.	1 2 potential sale of carnegie
2	Availability	0 0	0 0	-1 -2	-1 -2	1 2
2	Move Existing Building	0 0	-1 -2	-1 -2	0 0	0 0
1	Relocation Cost	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0 find tenant for old library?
1	Temporary Operations	-1 -1	-1 -1	-1 -1	-1 -1	1 1
2	Demolition/Site Prep	0 0	-1 -2	-1 -2	-1 -2	1 2
3	Constructability	-1 -3	-1 -3	-1 -3	-1 -3	1 3
3	Environmental Remediation	-1 -3 abate Carnegie building	-1 -3 abate Carnegie building	-1 -3 abate Carnegie building	-1 -3 abate Carnegie building	-1 -3 contaminated soils?
3	MHC Support	-1 -3 side addition	-1 -3 side addition	1 3	1 3	1 3 n/a
2	Zoning Dimensions As Of Right	-1 -2 rear	-1 -2 rear	-1 -2 rear	-1 -2 rear	1 2
1	Zoning Parking As Of Right	-1 -1 none	-1 -1 none	-1 -1 none	-1 -1 none	1 1
3	Access to Parking	-1 -3	-1 -3	-1 -3	-1 -3	1 3
2	Fire Department Access	-1 -2	-1 -2	-1 -2	-1 -2	1 2
Technical Subtotal		-18	-26	-28	-18	24
rel wt	Subjective Criteria					
3	Visibility	0 0	1 3	1 3	0 0	1 3
2	Impact on Neighborhood	-1 -2	-1 -2	-1 -2	-1 -2	1 2
1	Historic Character	1 1	1 1	1 1	1 1	0 0
3	Neighborhood Support	0 0	0 0	-1 -3	-1 -3	1 3
1	Pedestrian Access	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	1 1
Subjective Subtotal		-1	2	-1	-4	9
TOTAL SCORE		-19	-26	-27	-22	33

NOTES

Scoring is based on the following values:

- 1 does not meet program requirements
- 0 meets minimum program requirements
- 1 exceeds minimum program requirements

The Weighted Score (wtd scr) is determined by the Relative Weight of a site consideration multiplied by the score.

Weighted Score = Relative Weight x Score

Relative weight is based on the following values:

- 1 General Consideration
- 2 Important consideration
- 3 Very important consideration

The Montague Reporter

Year 23 – No. 34

AUGUST 21, 2025

\$2

editor@montaguereporter.org

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

montaguereporter.org

Library Trustees Favor New Construction as Best Expansion Strategy



The vacant lot on the corner of Avenue A and Second Street is owned by the town.

By **JEFF SINGLETON**

TURNERS FALLS – After years of controversy that extend as far back as the early 20th century, Montague’s library trustees have determined that the Carnegie Library should be abandoned, and that a

new facility should be built on the vacant town-owned lot at 38 Avenue A.

This decision still leaves many questions, including the final design for the proposed new library and what would happen to the historic

TURNERS FALLS – After years of controversy that extend as far back as the early 20th century, Montague’s library trustees have determined that the Carnegie Library should be abandoned, and that a more modern facility should be constructed down the street to replace it.

Autumn 2025

WEEKEND EDITION

GREENFIELD

Volume 233, Number 191

Serving Franklin County and

MONTAGUE



Historic character top of mind

Residents get glimpse at new library planned for 38 Avenue A

By **MADISON SCHOFIELD**
Staff Writer

TURNERS FALLS — The new library being planned in Turners Falls will pay homage to the history and culture of the village, according to architect Angela Ward Hyatt.

On Thursday, architectural design firm Schwartz/Silver presented three proposed floor plans and an early draft exterior design for a building at 38 Avenue A that will replace the Carnegie Public Library. Ward Hyatt, who is president of Schwartz/Silver, said that designs have not been finalized, but

she believes the firm has come up with an option that meets Montague's needs and fits with the look and style of downtown Turners Falls.

"This is not a final design at all. It's the beginning," Ward Hyatt said. "It's the seed of an idea about how we can make a building that is contextual and respectful of this town."

Ward Hyatt presented the draft floor plans to residents at the Great Falls Discovery Center, and said each one built upon and improved the last. Option A included a box-shaped building, Option B was slightly more rectangular with a few wall pop-outs and Option C included reading nooks with benches.

All options call for two-story buildings that include open stacks, a chil-



SCHWARTZ/SILVER

A proposed building design for a new library at 38 Avenue A in Turners Falls.

SEE LIBRARY A6

Autumn 2025

OPTION B

OPTION A

1ST FLOOR - 10,000 SF

2ND FLOOR - 8,553 SF

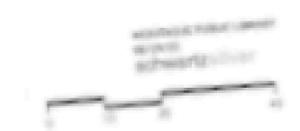
1ST FLOOR - 10,000 SF

2ND FLOOR - 8,800 SF

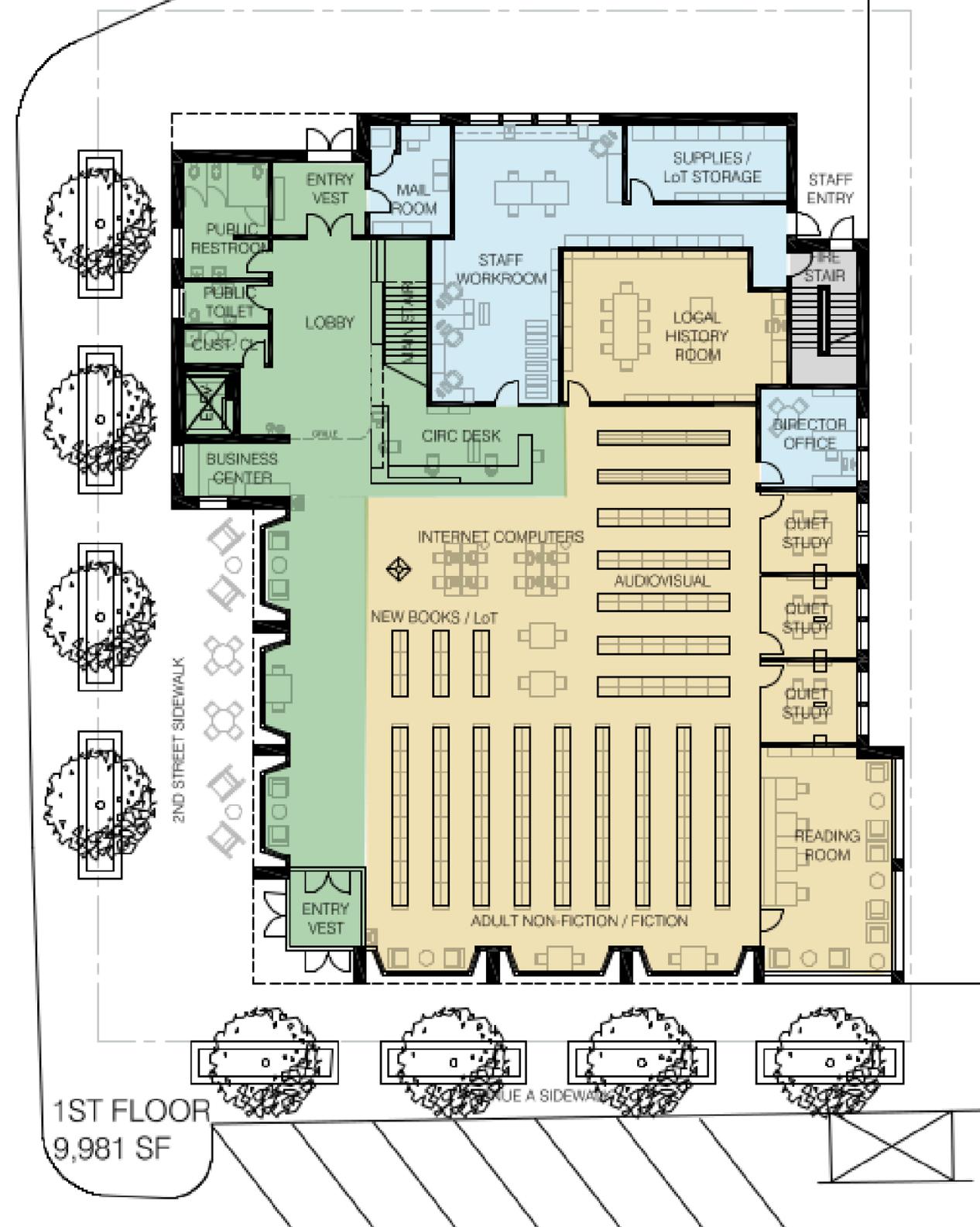
1ST FLOOR - 10,011 SF

2ND FLOOR - 8,874 SF

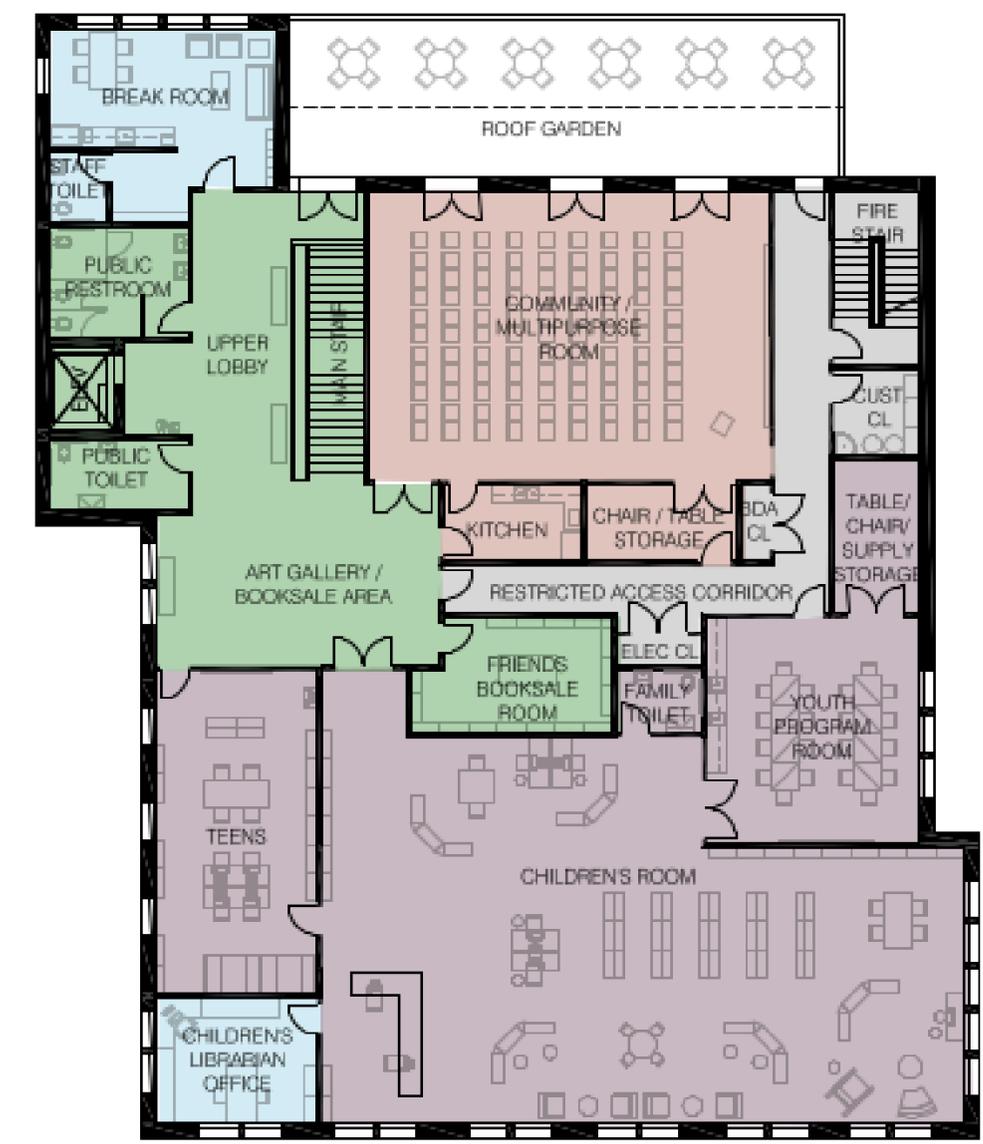
OPTION C



Autumn 2025



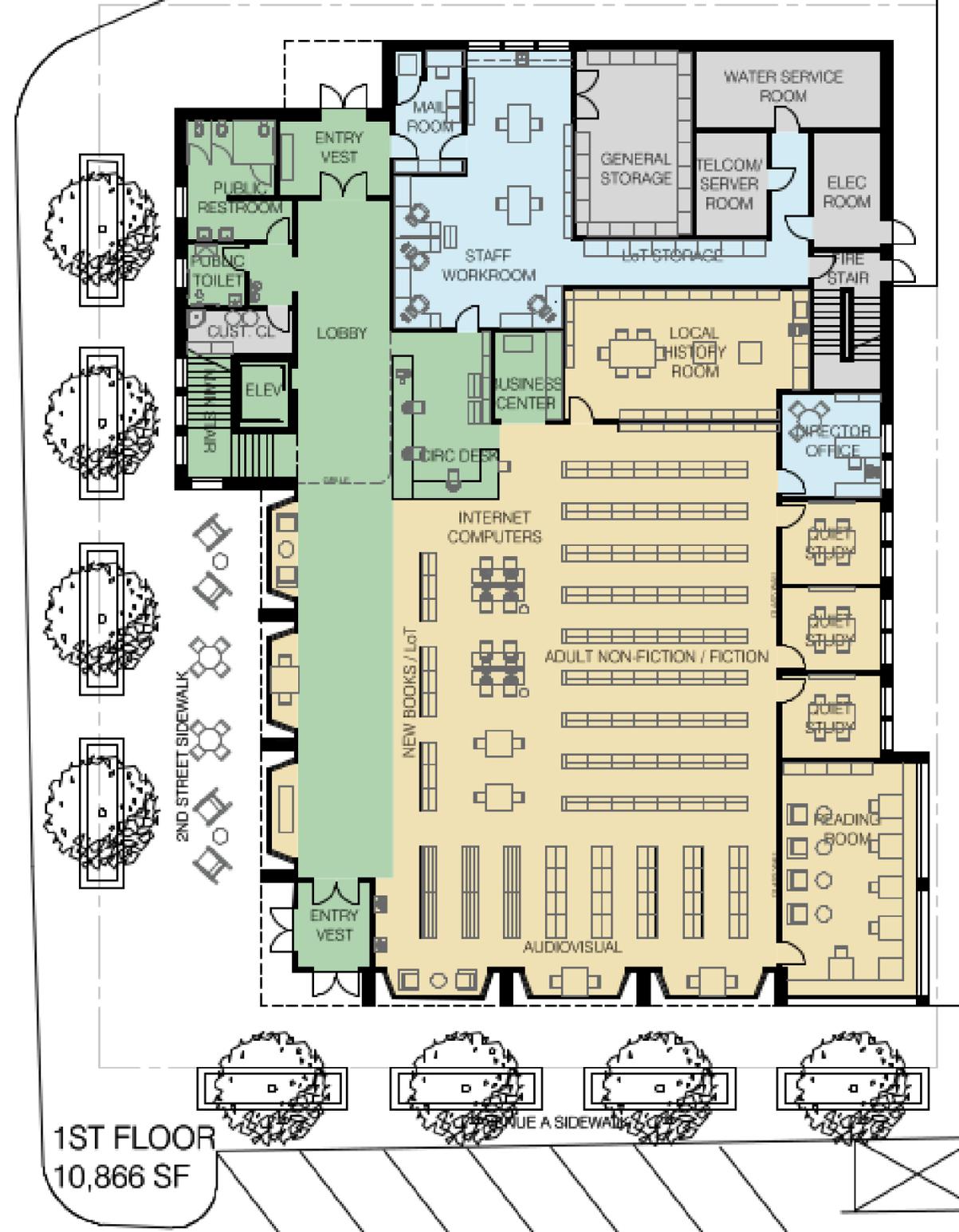
OPTION C.4 (w/BASEMENT)



MONTAGUE PUBLIC LIBRARY
CONCEPTUAL PLANS - 38 AVENUE A
9/19/25
SCHWARTZ/SILVER ARCHITECTS



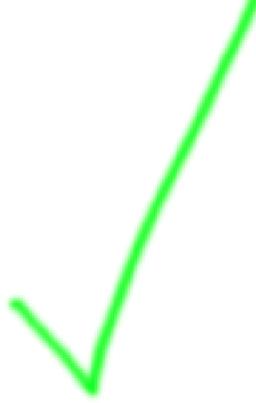
Autumn 2025



OPTION C.8 (NO BASEMENT)



MONTAGUE PUBLIC LIBRARY
CONCEPTUAL PLANS - 38 AVENUE A
9/22/25
SCHWARTZ/SILVER ARCHITECTS



GREENFIELD RECORDER

January 2026



Volume 233, Number 301

Serving Franklin County and North Quabbin since 1792

Thursday, January 22, 2026

MONTAGUE

State approves library design

Montague library design gets state OK

Plans for new building at 38 Avenue A moving forward

By **ERIN-LEIGH HOFFMAN**
Staff Writer

MONTAGUE — A year after the Montague Public Libraries received funding to join the Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program and begin planning for a new or renovated building in Turners Falls, designs for a new library were approved by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) earlier this month.

The designs, created by architecture and design firm Schwartz/Silver, were submitted to the MBLC late last year. Montague Public Libraries Director Caitlin Kelley explained on Wednesday that the state provided positive feedback on the way the facade blends in with the surrounding downtown infrastructure and that

the moveable library furnishings are being used effectively. She said the only change the state recommended was to add two half-window walls in the second-floor children's section for sight-line improvements.

"Not only will we be able to very easily make the change," Kelley said about the design revisions, "that actually ended up getting us a little bit more room for books for teens, so that ends up being a win-win."

Over the summer, the library trustees and the Library Building Steering Committee both agreed to move forward with building a new library at the 38 Avenue A site was one of two options considered, with the other option being to renovate the existing Carnegie Public Library at 201 Avenue A. In public meetings to gather feedback, accessibility, a design that complements the surrounding down-

SEE LIBRARY A8



PAUL FRANZ / Staff Photo

The lot at 38 Avenue A where the proposed new library will be in Turners Falls.

LIBRARY FROM A1



SCREENSHOT

A rendering by Schwartz/Silver of what the new library at 38 Avenue A in Turners Falls could look like.

Massachusetts Libraries

BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS

mass.gov/mbic

Agenda Item #7
March 5, 2026

March 2026

To: Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners
From: Heather Backman, Library Building Consultant & Andrea Bono-Bunker,
Library Building Specialist
Date: March 5, 2026

Construction Projects 2023-2024 Grant Round Construction Phase Provisional Grant Awards and Provisional Green Library Incentives (GLI)

Having passed the MPLCP Level of Design independent review, ensuring each project conforms to the design guidelines detailed in the Standard Grant Program Notice, the municipalities below are recommended for Construction Phase provisional grant awards. The provisional grant amounts are calculated from estimated eligible cost to pursue one of the Green Library Incentive's. Municipalities that qualify for an additional 3% of the

Massachusetts Libraries

BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS

mass.gov/mbic

Agenda Item #7
March 5, 2026

To: Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners
From: Heather Backman, Library Building Consultant & Andrea Bono-Bunker,
Library Building Specialist
Date: March 5, 2026

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March 2026



"Everything that happens now
is happening *now!*"

The Montague Reporter

Year 24 – No. 13

MARCH 5, 2026

\$2

editor@montaguereporter.org

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

montaguereporter.org

State OKs \$11.3 Million For Downtown Library

By REPORTER STAFF

TURNERS FALLS – At a meeting Thursday morning, the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) approved a package of up to \$11.29 million to subsidize a new main library in Montague, according to information shared with the *Reporter* following the meeting.

The state match, composed of a base award of up to \$10.96 million

building goals, would reimburse 47.6% of the projected total cost of \$23.70 million.

“It was awesome, hearing the state recognize our work and support our project,” Montague public libraries trustees chair Will Quale said of the board’s decision.

According to Quale, Montague is one of three Massachusetts towns approved this week by the MBLC for immediate construction funding, with four more expected

Saturday May 2: Town Meeting

needs 2/3 majority to pass

Wednesday June 24: Special Election

townwide election, needs simple majority to pass



**Library Spaces that meet
the community's needs**





Planning and Design Phase: Cost Savings and Sustainable Design

Cost Savings

- Constructing new instead of adding to Carnegie: \$5 million saved
- Not incorporating a basement: \$2 million saved
- Reduced building height by 4': tens of thousands saved
- Using steel framing instead of exposed mass timber, 20-25% cost savings
- Choosing an air to water hydronic HVAC system instead of geothermal, saving tens of thousands

- Rooftop trellis removed from base cost, saving \$180,000
- Incorporating infrastructure for generator, but holding off on purchasing a generator, \$228,000 saved
- Opted for Specialized Stretch Code instead of LEED, saving certification costs

Sustainability and Resilience

- Targeting Specialized Op-In Energy code
- All electric NetZero systems
- Roof solar
- Low carbon concrete
- Triple pane windows for energy savings



Project Costs

- Total project costs – building construction costs and soft costs
- Eligible Costs – Impact on award
- State award and Town share



What is a debt exclusion?



- A debt exclusion is a **temporary** property tax increase that allows a municipality to raise funds above its normal levy limits to pay for large scale capital projects.
- The amount above the levy is equal to the debt payment for that fiscal year.
- Only lasts for the duration of the debt payments for the project.



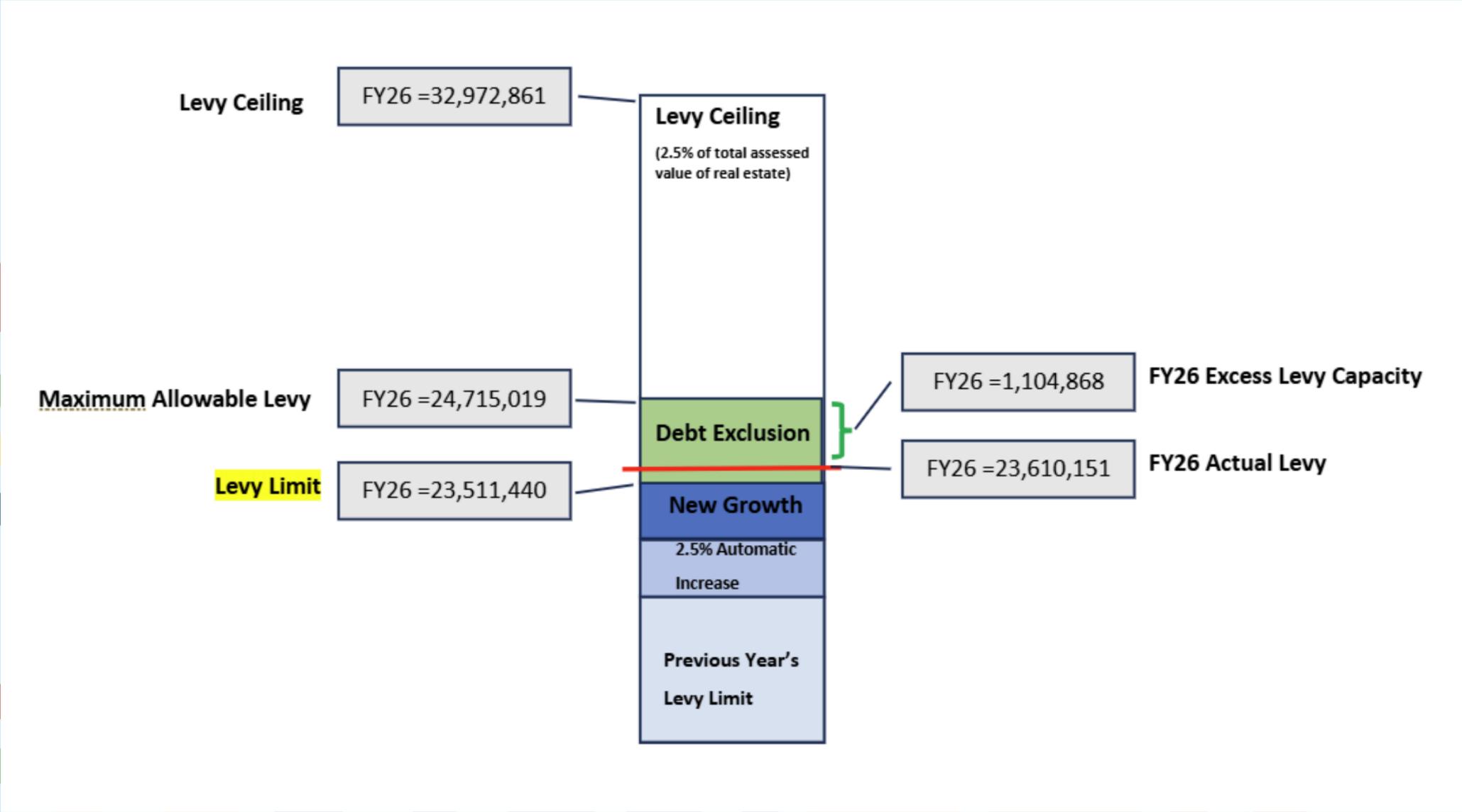
Montague last passed a debt exclusion in 2018 for the Public Works Facility

Debt Exclusion Voting Requirements

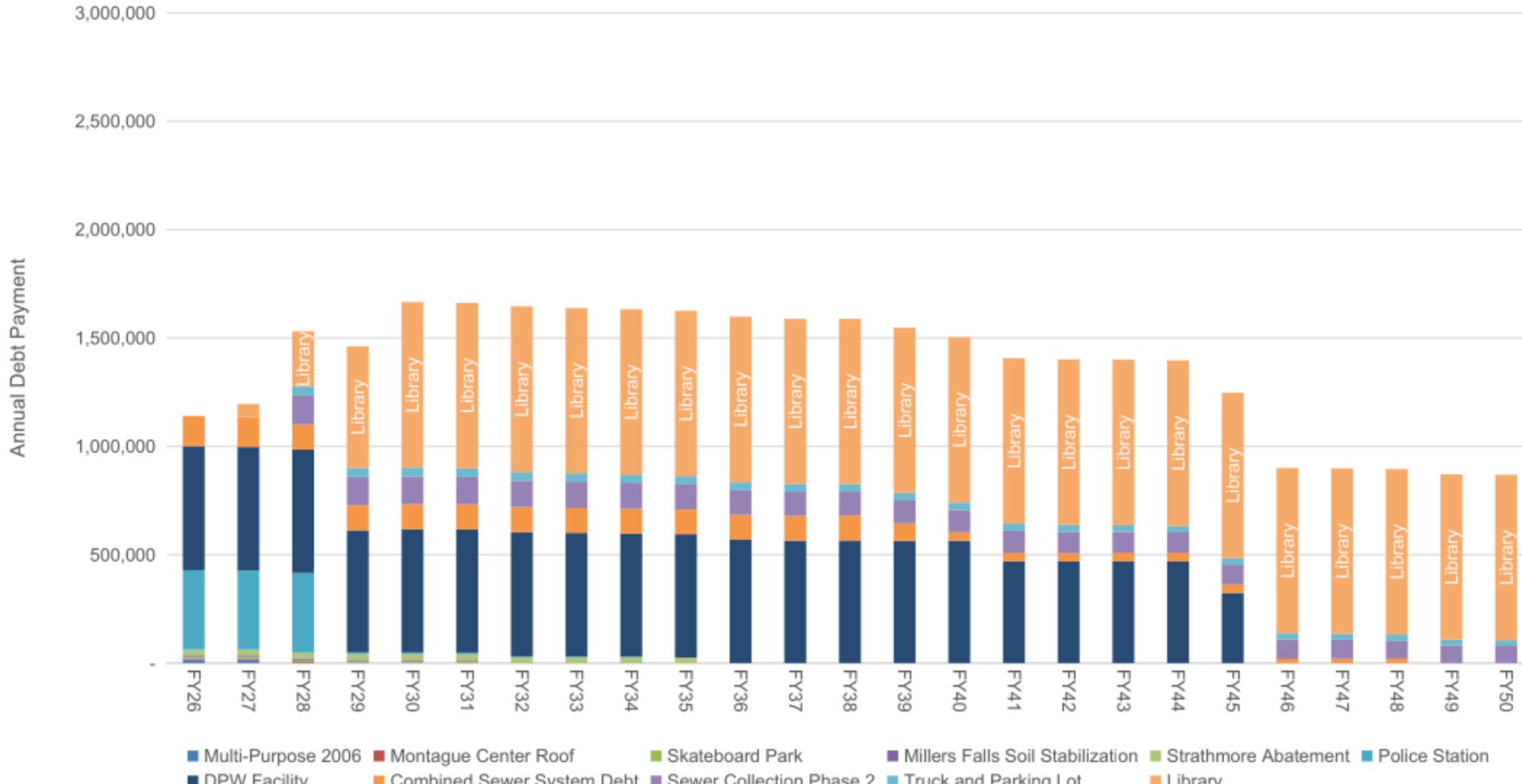
- To pass a debt exclusion a town needs both of the following:
- A two-thirds majority vote at a Town Meeting, on May 2nd
- A simple majority vote in a town-wide election on June 24th



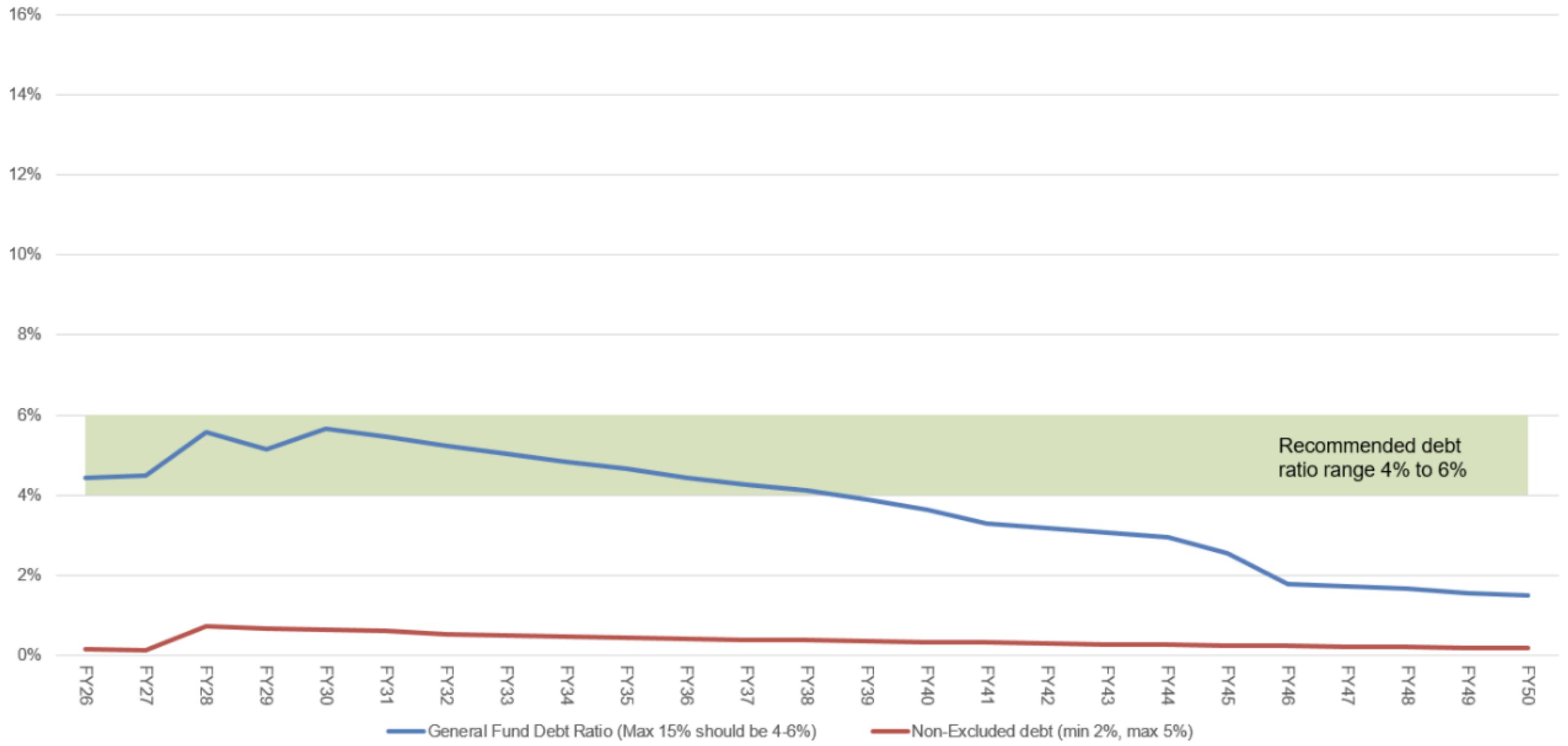
Levy Limits and Debt Exclusion Example



Montague Debt Service Library Scenario



Montague Debt Service Ratio Library Only



Short Term Debt Implications



There will also be short term debt implications as the library is being built. Long term debt is what is indicated in the charts provided, however, until the project is complete, the Town will need to borrow funds to cover the expenses.



The short-term debt implications will come in the form of interest paid on the notes that are needed to get through the different phases of the project. A recent example of a short-term note that was taken out for a 1-year term for \$2,560,800.00 with a 4.00% interest rate has an interest amount due at the expiration date of \$102,432.00. These interest amounts will need to be added to the operating budget each year which will further impact the tax levy.



The Town has an "AA" rating with Standard & Poors (11/11/21) which is defined as: "An obligor rated 'AA' has very strong capacity to meet its financial commitments. It differs from the highest-rated obligors only to a small degree"

New Library Tax Implications

Residential

- \$49 per \$100,000 of value
- \$159 per year for the average single family home (\$325,699)

Commercial

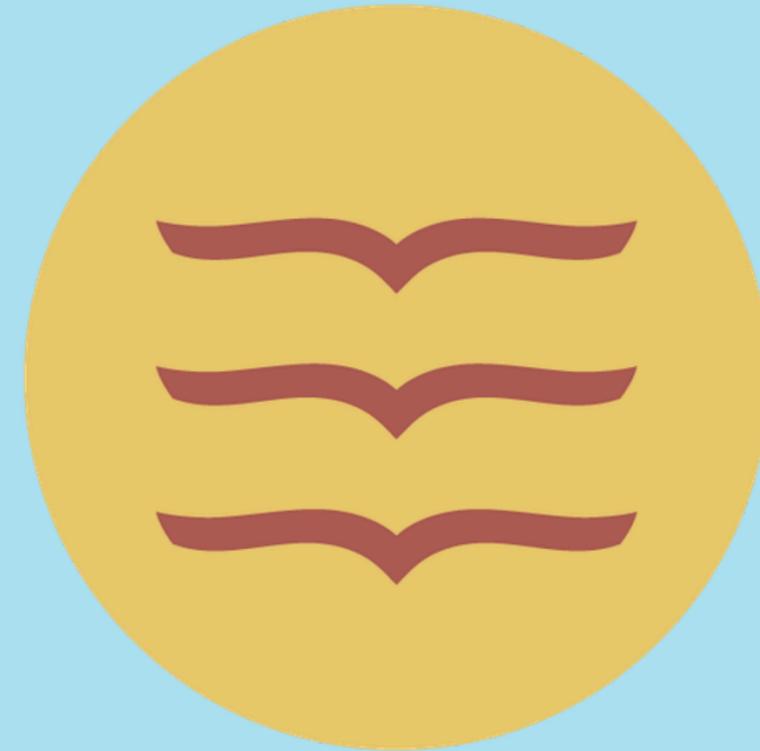
- \$81 per \$100,000 of value



The Big Picture

- **Library Vote: June 24 - \$12.4 M**
- **Decided by simple majority in town-wide election**

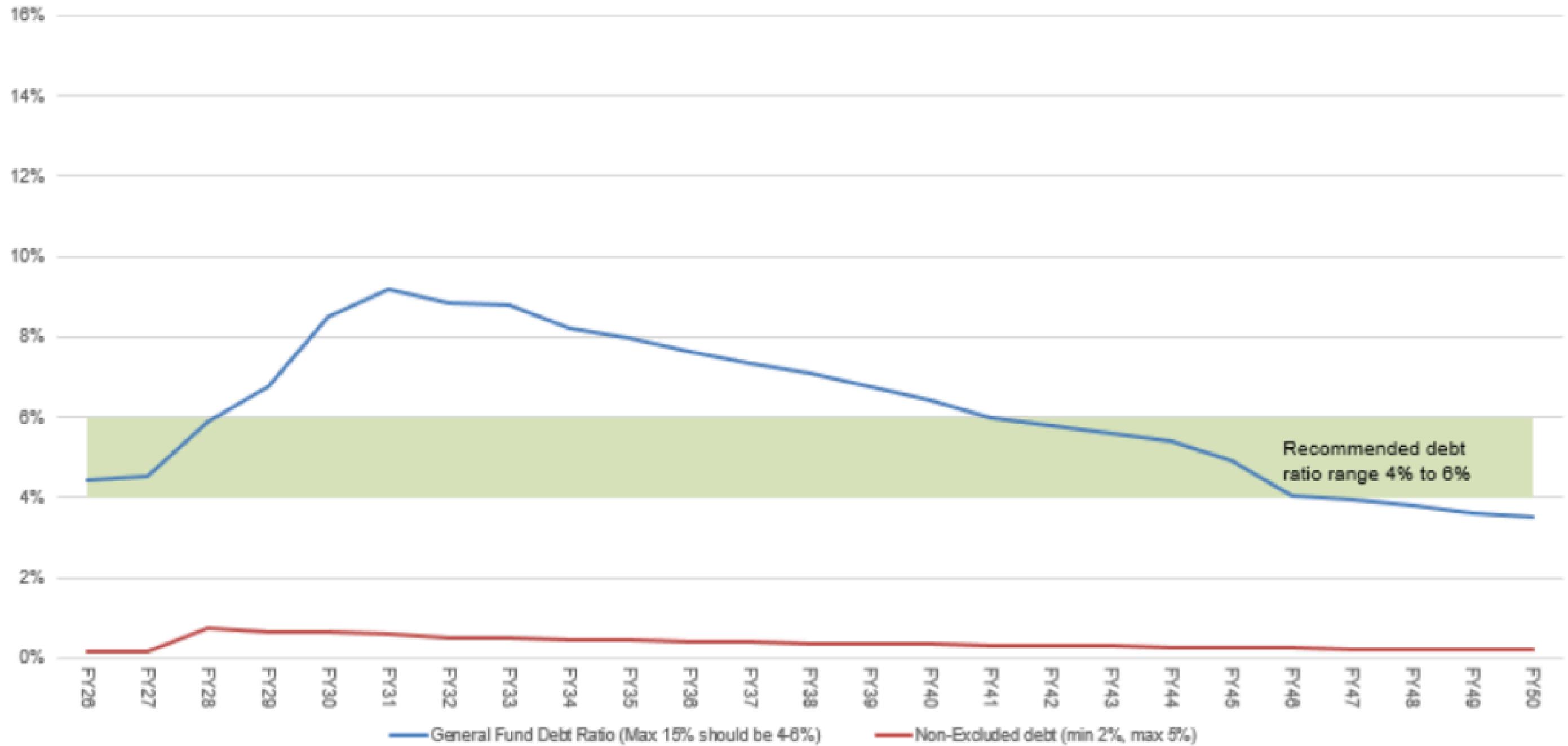
- **Franklin County Tech School Vote: Sep/Oct - \$16 M**
- **Decided by simple majority in 19-town district-wide election**



Montague Debt Service FCTS and Library Scenario



Montague Debt Service Ratio with FCTS and Library





**And now for a history
lesson**

The Gazette and Courier.

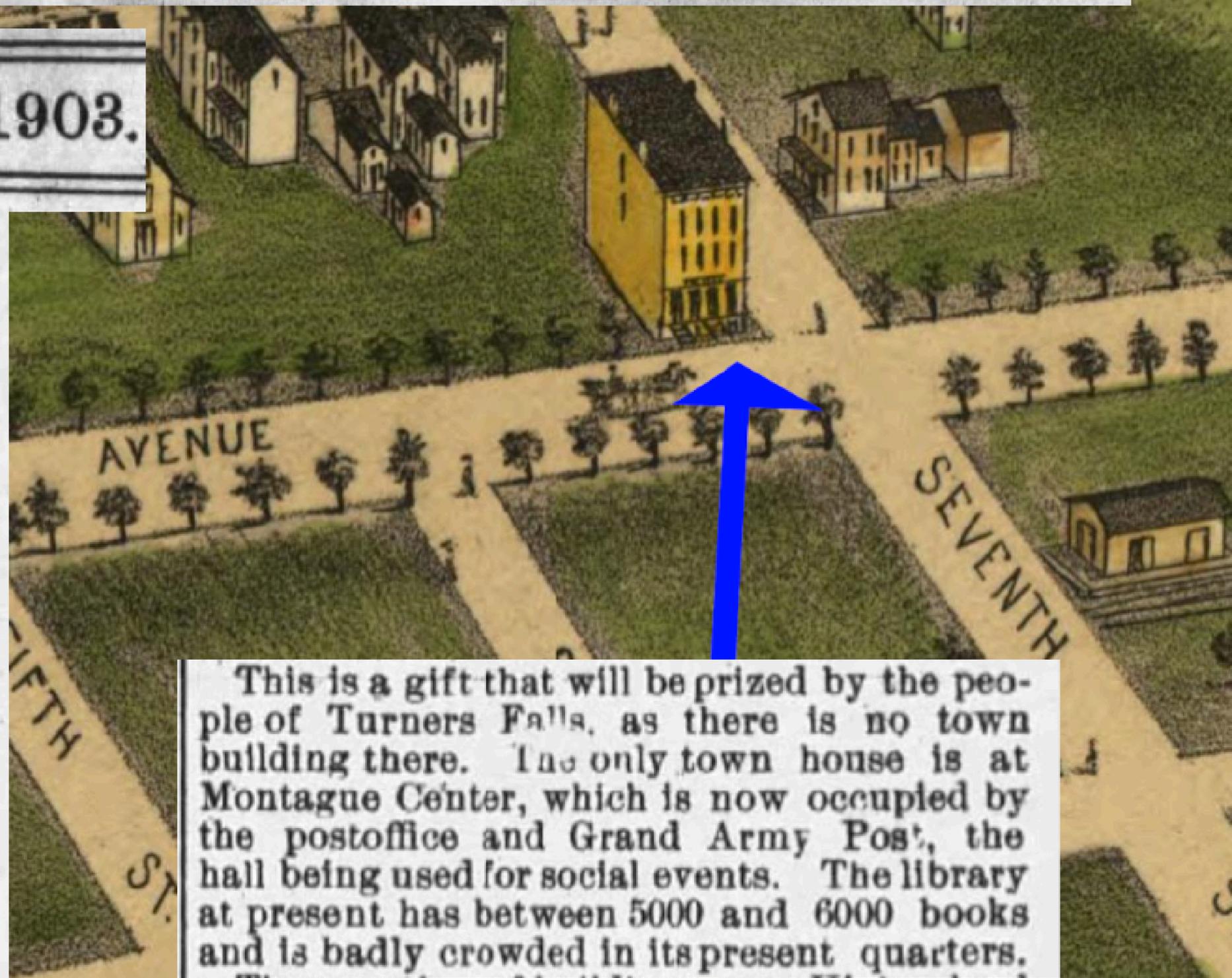
SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 1903.

TURNERS FALLS GETS CARNEGIE LIBRARY.

A Lively Struggle Over High School Question—Close Contests at Montague Town Meeting.

The special town meeting for the annual appropriations for the town of Montague was held in the Hibernian hall. Dr. A. J. Nims was moderator. The meeting was a large one, the town being well represented, Montague certainly being out in full strength.

The surprise of the day to most people was the gift of \$12500 to Turners Falls for a library building by Andrew Carnegie. The



This is a gift that will be prized by the people of Turners Falls, as there is no town building there. The only town house is at Montague Center, which is now occupied by the postoffice and Grand Army Post, the hall being used for social events. The library at present has between 5000 and 6000 books and is badly crowded in its present quarters.

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The question of building a new High school in Turners Falls was that which drew the people to the meeting.

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SATURDAY, JULY 18, 1903.

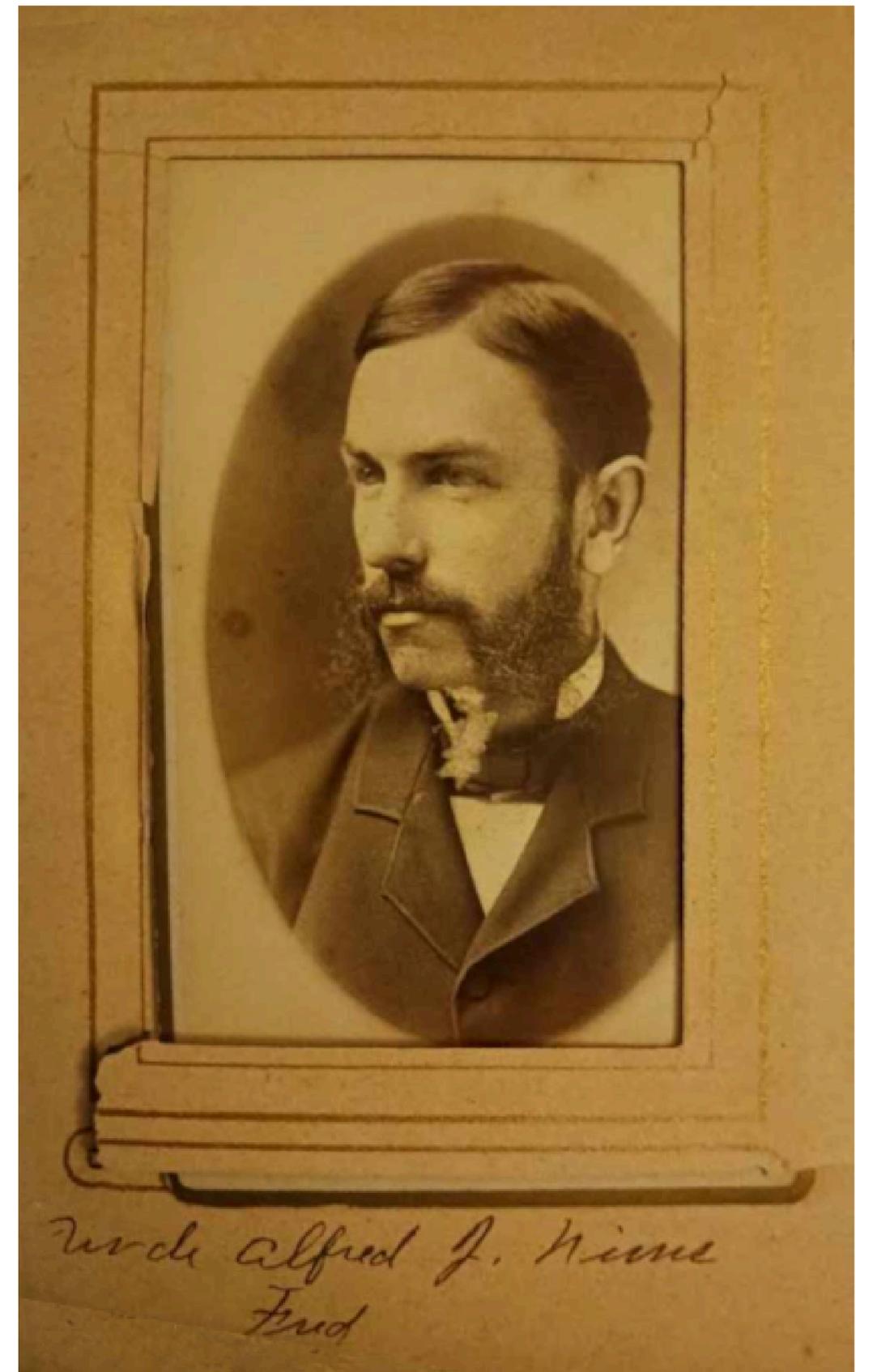
Views of Location Differ.

Turners Falls Divided as to Where High School and Library Shall Go.

The Peskeomskat club of Turners Falls held a special meeting Monday night to consider available locations for the High school building and the Carnegie library that is to be erected. The selectmen, school committee and the committees on the two new buildings were invited, and there was a free interchange of opinions on the subject. C. M. Burnett contended that both the school and the library should be on the large lot donated by the Turners Falls company. He did not believe the avenue would be the place for the buildings, for it is only a question of time when every avenue site will be wanted for blocks. W. H. P. Gilmore also favored the lot of the Turners Falls Co.

SATURDAY, JULY 18, 1903.

Fred E. Allen thought the school and library should be in the center of the village, handy to everybody. **Dr. A. J. Nims** said that the people who will derive the most benefit from the library could use it to the best advantage if placed in the business center. A special town meeting will probably be called to decide the matter.



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1903.

Long Time to Get Carnegie Library.

Hill Site Rejected at Town Meeting—Controversy over School and Library Site.

There was a hot town meeting at Turners Falls Tuesday night, lasting until almost midnight, in which much feeling was shown.

It was voted to reject the recommendation of the committee for a site on the bluff for the Carnegie library. The vote was 150 to 1. The feeling appears strong in favor of a lower site near the centre of the business section.

The sum of \$50,000 was appropriated for the new High school building to be built upon the lot offered by the Water power company, or the lot beyond W. L. Salmon's or elsewhere.

The lot offered by the power company was a large lot of about a dozen acres running along the bluff, and the original plan was that it should be a kind of public building park for both school and library, and available for other purposes as time should show the need.

It is supposed by some that the company will not be willing to give a lot there merely for a High school, while others think that the company might do so. It is probable that the school will go on top of the bluff and that the library will go down town. The effort to get the Carnegie library involves a great deal of negotiation as the next thing will be to agree upon a lot, and then the arrangements must be satisfactory to the representatives of Mr. Carnegie, and it is a long drawn out process before the building can finally start.



The High School, Turners Falls, Mass.

16M11 PUBLISHED BY TUCKER THE DRUGGIST

1905

*Our New
High School.*

Liggett.

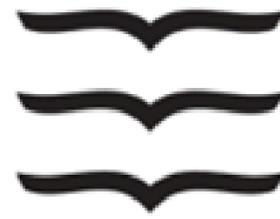
1906



The Carnegie Public Library, Turners Falls, Mass.

The libraries already bring immense value to Montague.

Imagine how much more we could do with a main library that meets community needs!



**MONTAGUE
PUBLIC
LIBRARIES**

**MPL Activity between
July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025**



24,730

Library Visits



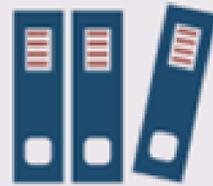
114,375

Items Circulated



Total Value of Library Programs and Services

\$2,593,999



9,397

People Attended

272

Library Programs



900

Wireless Sessions



For every town tax dollar invested

\$9.90

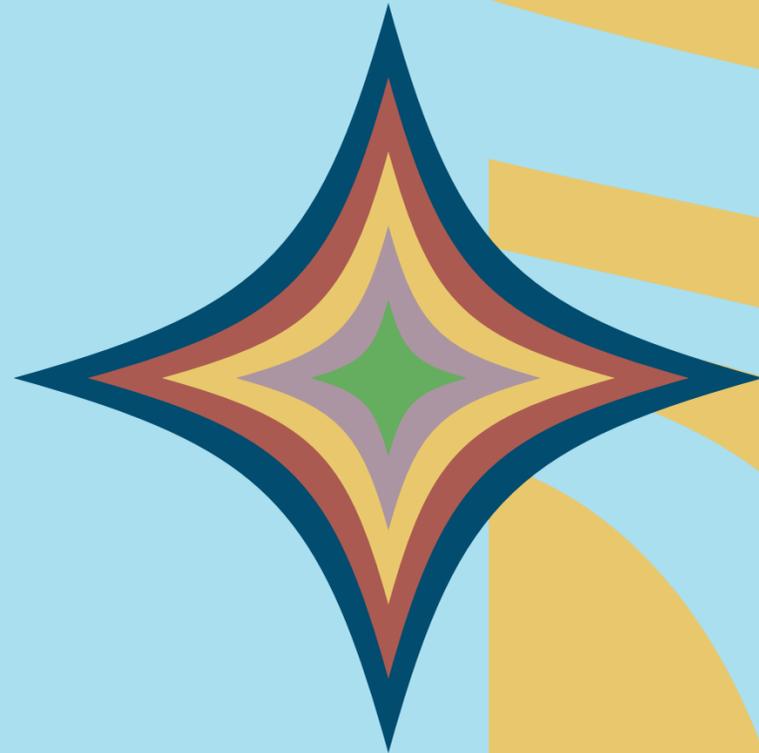
Return on Investment



2% of your total taxes go to the Library

These numbers come from the Library's 2024-25 Annual Report Information Survey (ARIS) administered by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners. The Return on Investment is derived from dividing the amount of town public funding into the total value of library programs and services.

Why now?



The current building is inaccessible, inefficient, and does not meet community needs

This project was asked for and directly shaped by the Montague community

Receiving \$11 million dollars in state funding is a once in a generation opportunity that we don't want to miss

A new building would support economic activity, community vibrance, and the town's desirability

Questions?

