YOUR VOTE COUNTS!

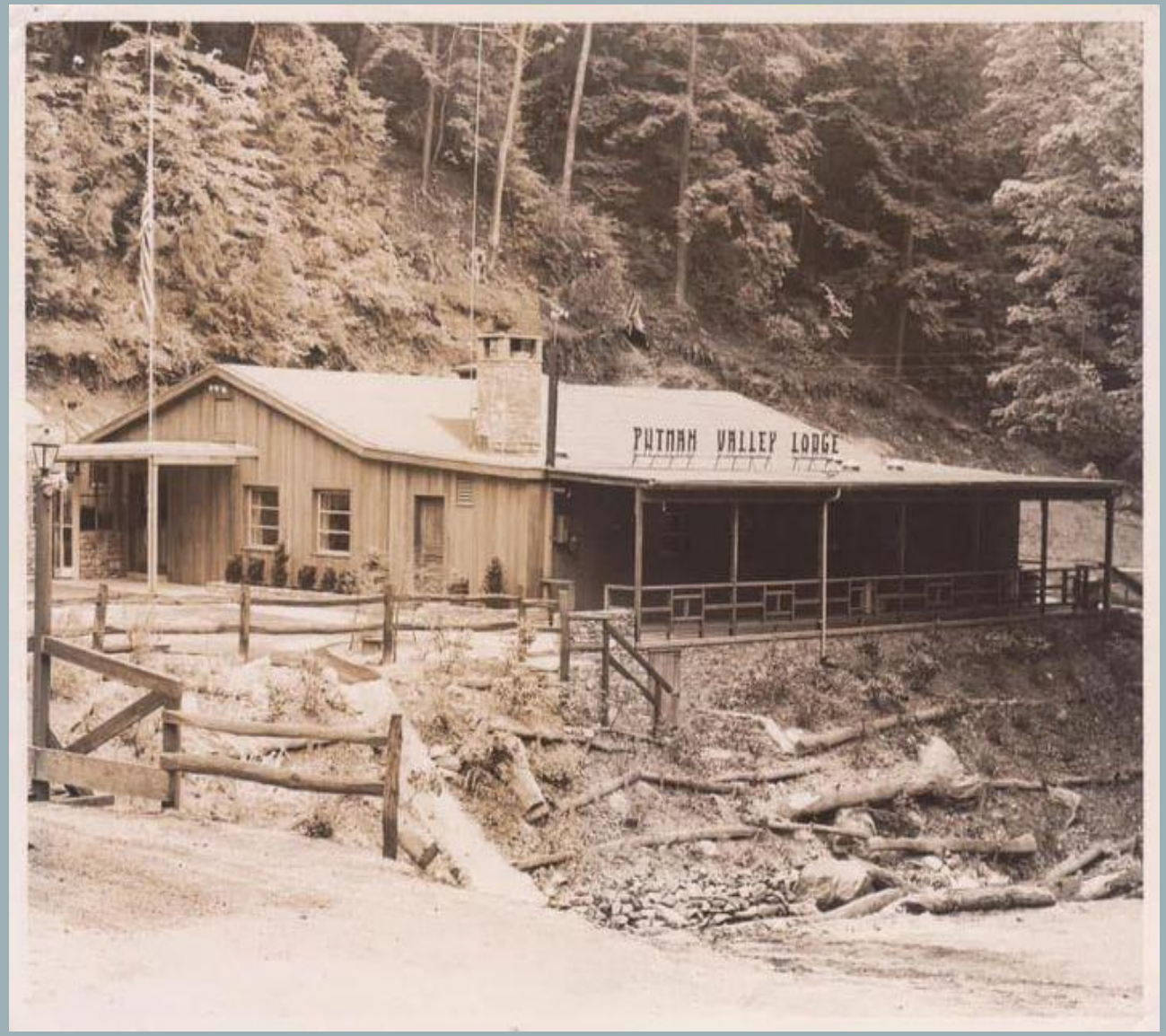
Putnam Valley LIBRARY

A public vote for the future of our library

Using NYS Education Law §259 to ensure sustainable funding

PUTNAM VALLEY LIBRARY A HISTORY OF SERVICE

Beginning in 1929 in a kitchen, the Library was chartered in 1937 and moved to its present home in 1968 – a tissue paper mill-turned toothpick factory-turned to the Putnam Valley Lodge – and then to its current incarnation.



FAQS ABOUT THE VOTE

1. ***Why is the library pursuing a §259 funding proposition on the school ballot?***

New York State Education Law §259(1)(b) allows association libraries to have a proposition placed on the school ballot. If the vote passes, then the library funding will be determined directly by the taxpayers.

2. ***Is the library budget part of the school budget?***

No! The library budget is a separate line and is not part of the school budget. The school district will collect the taxes for the library according to the law, but the library and the school district are separate entities.

3. ***Will the library budget be on the school ballot every year?***

No! The library will need to petition the school district in order to have a §259 proposition on the school ballot.

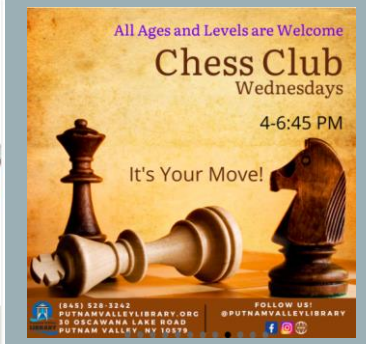
4. ***Does the library budget increase each year?***

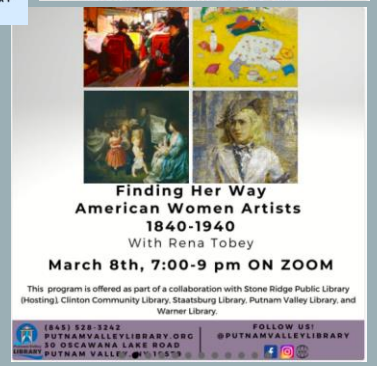
No! The library budget will remain the same unless there is another §259 vote. Sustainable funding will allow for long range planning for the library.

5. ***What will happen if the vote does not pass?***

We will continue to have no idea what our budget will be from year to year, making it impossible to plan for the future. The library will have to make further cuts to resource purchases and services. The opening hours may have to be cut back as well. The library infrastructure will continue to deteriorate.

HOW YOUR LIBRARY SERVES YOU





The Putnam Valley Library is a robust hub for patrons of all ages – From toddlers up through seniors – and all on a shoestring budget!

- Books and e-books, videos, music and movies
- Access to more than 1,000 periodicals
- Computers, computer training, Wi-Fi, Wi-Fi hotspots
- Museum passes, notary services
- The Library of Things –fishing equipment and a Seed Library!
- Programs for all ages and interests, in person and Zoom
  - Book clubs
  - Chess
  - Music
  - Dungeons & Dragons
  - Teen Advisory Group
  - Battle of the Books
  - Knitting
  - Mah Jongg
  - You can even read to a pup!
- NYS Summer Library Program
- Early Literacy programs
- Bilingual programs
- Seasonal Food Pantry & fresh food
- E-readers on loan to seniors at the Senior Center

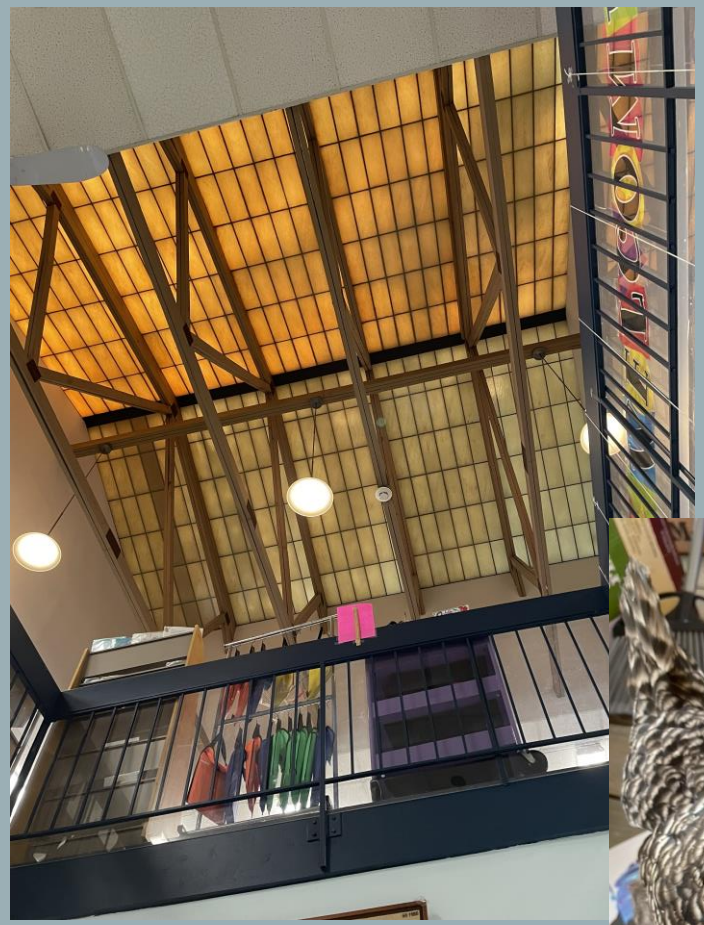
HOW THE NUMBERS STACK UP

Total annual attendance (2022)	**41,000**
Number of regular borrowers	**5,700**

WHO ATTENDS?	# OF PROGRAMS	ATTENDANCE
Adults	61	1,662
Young Adults	37	230
Age 0-5	97	575
Age 6-11	73	296
General Interest	56	61
Total:	324	2,824

Circulation (2022)	
Adult	10,113
Children	16,390
Other Materials	2,252
Physical Item Circulation	29,000
Electronic Circulation	34,500
Reference Transactions	3,000

WE NEED YOUR HELP



"The sky is falling! The Sky is falling!"

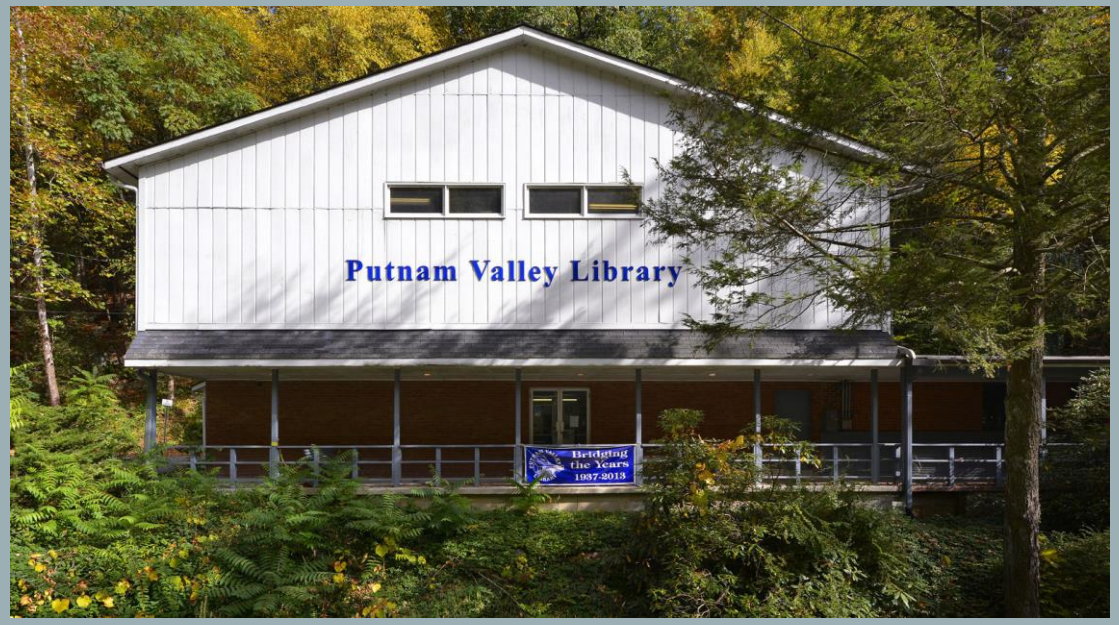
Only this time, Chicken Little is telling the truth.
The Library's skylight is rated to last for 25 years – it's been towering over the circulation floor for nearly double that – and its replacement is at the top of our infrastructure fix list.

Even with a partial State construction grant, which is a third of our cost; it will take more than $100,000 to complete the project. This will eat up most of the Library's reserves.

And then the trees fell!

The March storm blew down multiple, huge, old-growth trees that fell across the waterway and crushed our safety guard rail. Repairs require the trees to be removed, the guardrail replaced, and the resulting root sinkhole to be filled.

OUR IMMEDIATE SPENDING NEEDS



OUR MOST URGENT NEEDS:

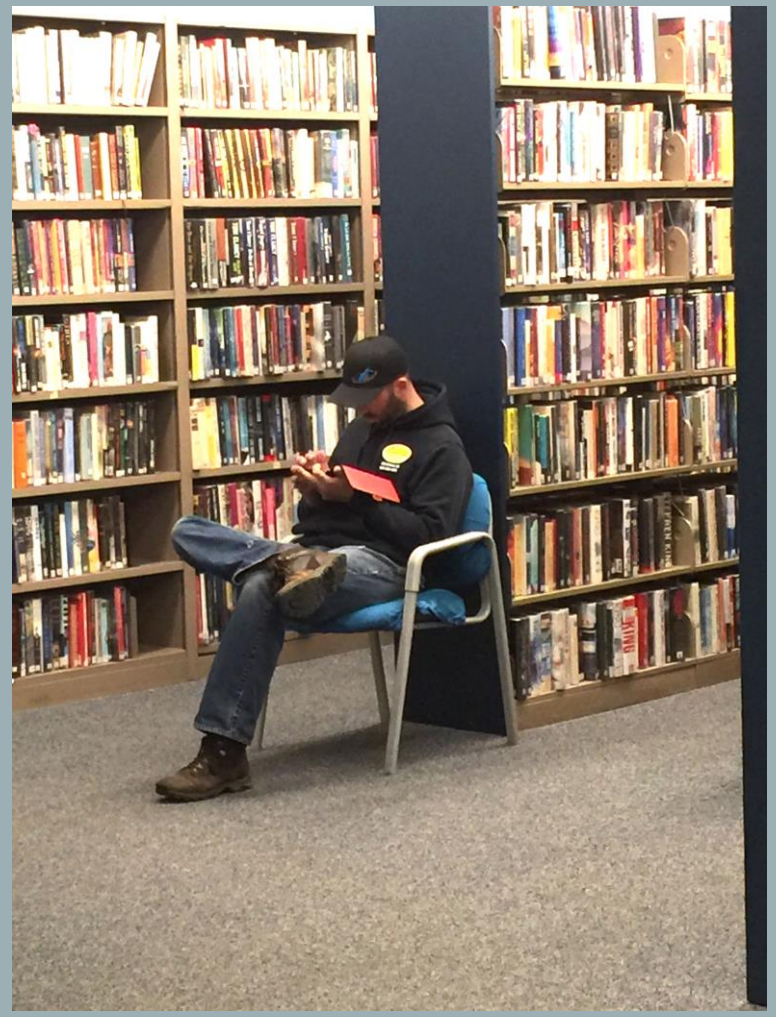
- Replace the skylight and repair a large portion of roof
- Replace failing HVAC system, including A/C units, boilers, radiators
- Repair faulty plumbing throughout the building
- Upgrade elevator so moms with strollers may get to Children's Floor
- Bring safety escape doors and exits into compliance
- Bring the library into compliance with the requirements of the Americans for Disabilities Act
- Replace outdated (13-year-old) computers for public and staff use
- Upgrade Wi-Fi and extend its range

OUR IMMEDIATE SPENDING NEEDS

With sustainable funding we can:

- Increase hours: stay open longer on weekdays, add another evening and even open on Sunday afternoons
- Hire an additional Youth Services staff member
- Maximize and update space/community room for library programs and to offer to the public
- Add up-to-date audio-visual tech to the community room for programs and community events
- Expand our *Library of Things:* more museum passes, increase our fishing supplies, add Things like microscopes, bird watching kits, seed bank, laptops, cooking equipment, yard tools, sewing tools – we leave it to your imagination!

OUR IMMEDIATE SPENDING NEEDS



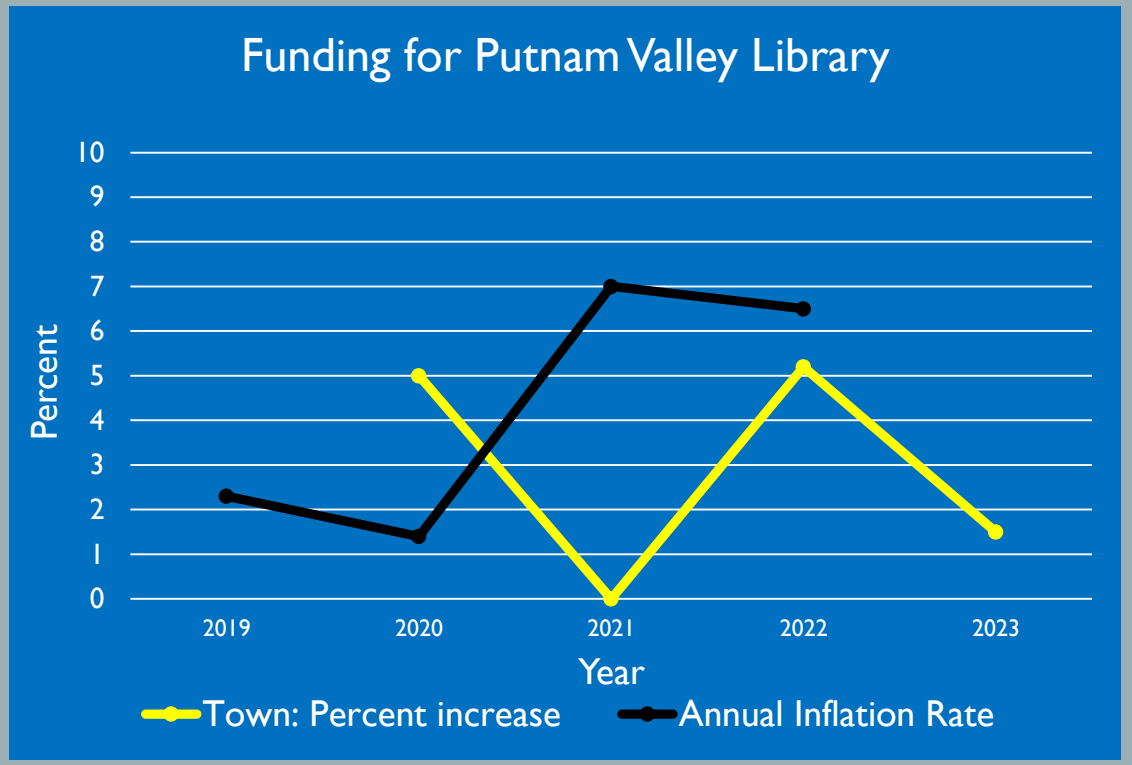
With sustainable funding we can:

- Update physical collection
- Develop business and educational support services such as 3-D printing and small business assistance
- Expand Digital Navigator program to provide more tech support to the community
- Keep up with local wages and minimum wage increases
- Develop our outdoor areas for library and community use

FUNDING

How is the library funded now?

Currently, the Town of Putnam Valley contracts for library services on an annual basis. This provides the library with the largest portion of its funding. Small amounts of funding are received from Putnam County, donations, and grants. A §259 vote would provide the library with a guaranteed and stable amount of funding from year to year as decided by the community. It would no longer contract with the town and any overlap of funds will be rebated to the Town. *NO DOUBLE DIPPING!*



Is the library asking for a budget increase?

Yes, the library has an annual contract for 2023 with the Town of Putnam Valley for $347,650. The §259 vote requests $460,000. This will allow the library to restore resources and hours, enhance services for the community, and complete overdue building maintenance.

FUNDING

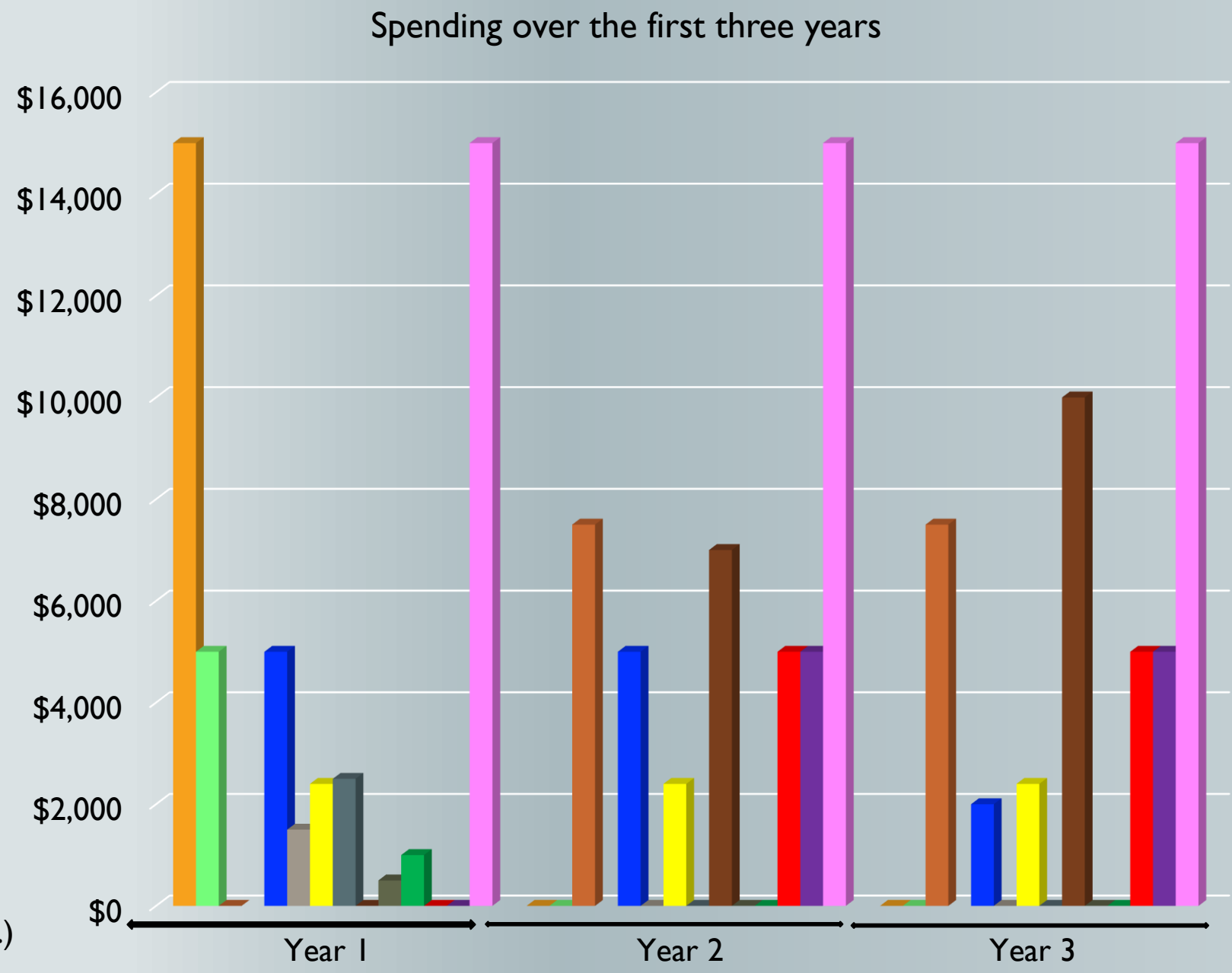
How much will I pay for library services?

The taxed amount depends on the assessed value of your property. For a property assessed at $400,000, the cost will increase by about $4.00 per month (based on 2022 total taxable assessed values). The increase is only on what you're now paying for the Library.

Assessed value of home	Current Assessment ($347650)	New Assessment ($460000)	PER YEAR increase (new vs old assessment)
200,000	35.36	60.00	24.64
250,000	44.20	74.99	30.80
300,000	53.04	89.99	36.96
350,000	61.88	104.99	43.12
400,000	70.71	119.99	49.28
450,000	79.55	134.99	55.44
500,000	88.39	149.99	61.59
550,000	97.23	164.99	67.75
600,000	106.07	179.99	73.91
650,000	114.91	194.98	80.07
700,000	123.75	209.98	86.23
750,000	132.59	224.98	92.39
800,000	141.43	239.98	98.55

HOW WILL WE SPEND THE MONEY?

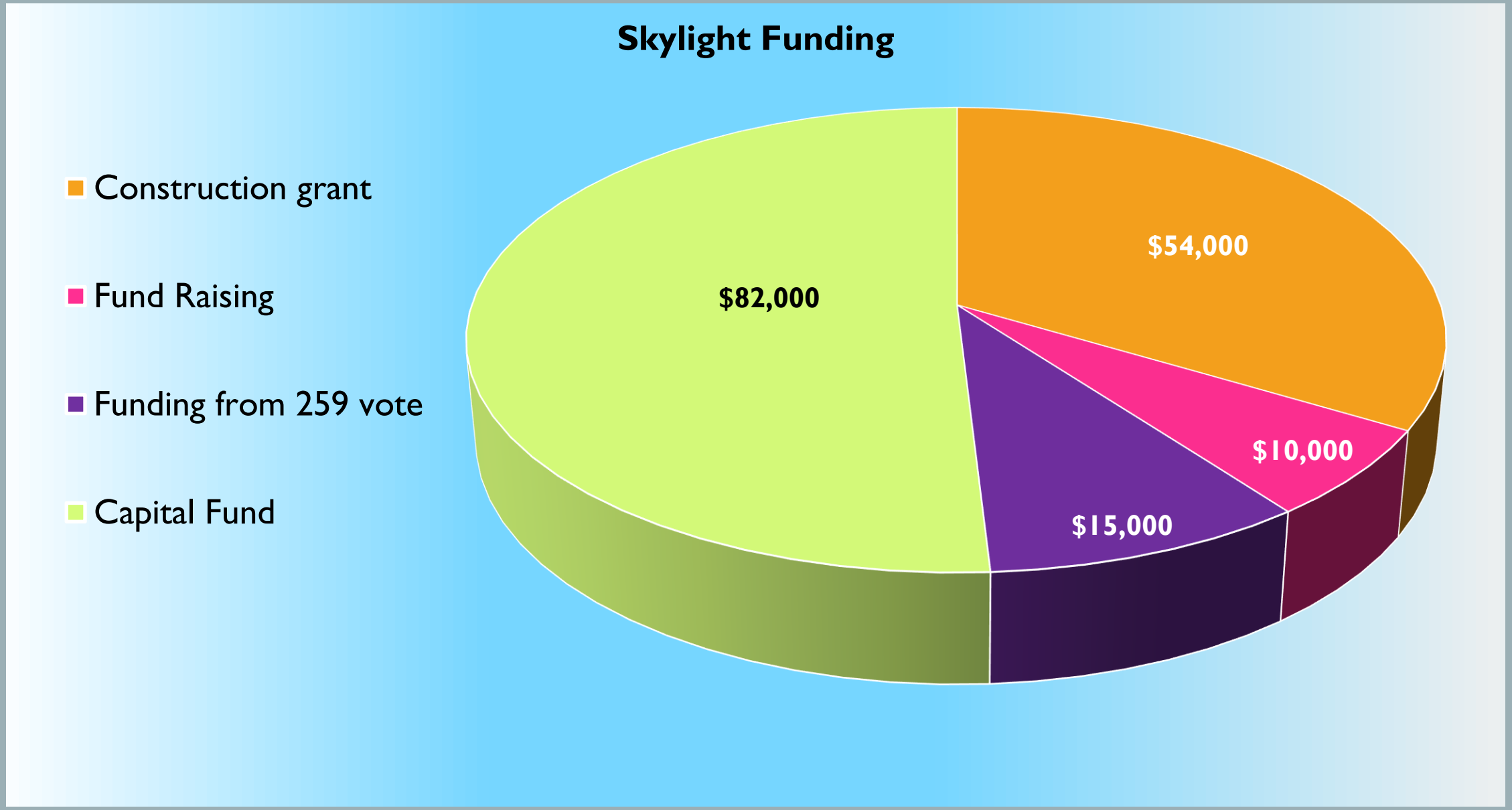
- Skylight
- Plumbing, restoration of hot water, radiators
- Fire exit doors brought into compliance
- Elevator upgrades
- Computers
- Wi-fi boosters
- Static IP address yearly
- A/V improvements for programs
- Community Room refit
- Flagpole/flag to replace temporary
- Tree damage
- Rebuild of capital fund
- Rebuild contingency fund
- Resource development (collection services, etc.)



HOW WILL WE SPEND THE MONEY?

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Expenses to be spread over subsequent years
Restore operations (will be incurred every year):				
Increase Library hours by 6 hours x a minimum of two (2) staff members @$15/hr.	$9,000	$9,000	$9,000	
Restore Children's Librarian position	$46,000	$46,000	$46,000	
Increase salaries to meet minimum wage requirements	$2,000	$2,000	$2,000	
Yearly financial audit	$8,000	$8,000	$8,000	
TOTAL COSTS THAT WILL BE INCURRED EVERY YEAR	***$65,000***	***$65,000***	***$65,000***	
Essential infrastructure upgrades				
Skylight	$15,000			
HVAC repair and replacement				$250,000
Plumbing, restoration of hot water, radiators	$5,000			$10,000
Fire exit doors brought into compliance		$7,500	$7,500	$15,000
Elevator Upgrades				$30,000
Computers	$5,000	$5,000	$2,000	$2,000
Wi-fi boosters and static IP address	$1,500			
Static IP address yearly	$2,400	$2,400	$2,400	$2,400 yearly
A/V improvements for programs	$2,500			
Community Room refit		$7,000	$10,000	$13,000
ADA compliance				$125,000
Flagpole/flag to replace temporary	$500			
Tree damage	$1,000			
Rebuild of capital fund		$5,000	$5,000	$5,000
Rebuild contingency fund		$5,000	$5,000	$5,000
Resource development (Library collection services, etc.)	$15,000	$15,000	$15,000	$15,000
TOTAL COST OF ESSENTIAL UPGRADES	***$47,900***	***$46,900***	***$46,900***	***$470,000***
TOTAL COSTS THAT WILL BE INCURRED	***$112,900***	***$111,900***	***$111,900***	
Amount left over from extra funds provided from 259 ($112,350), for programs, books, eBooks etc.	-$550	$450	$450	

HOW WILL WE SPEND THE MONEY?



WHO GETS TAXED?

When the vote passes, will part of the 2023 contract be returned to the Town of Putnam Valley?

Yes. The Library will return the overlapping portion of the 2023 contract fund to the Town of Putnam Valley. **NO DOUBLE DIPPING!**

Will the §259 vote change who can use the Library?

No, anyone who resides, works, or goes to school in Putnam Valley will be able to get a Library card. This has always been the case and will not change.

Is the taxable area going to be different?

Yes, Library taxes will be paid by residents who reside in the Putnam Valley School District. This includes a small area in Cortlandt Manor. Conversely, Putnam Valley homeowners in the Mahopac and Haldane school districts will no longer be “double-taxed.”

WHY KEEP THE LIBRARY OPEN? WE CAN JUST USE MAHOPAC!

Uh, no!

Libraries are a public good, like schools. We all contribute so that equitable access to essential services are possible.

The Libraries of the Mid-Hudson Library System operate under a state-approved Free Direct Access Plan. Therefore, overuse of another community's library by individuals from a town either with or without their own library is regulated and can lead to restrictions for residents who are not adequately funding their own library.

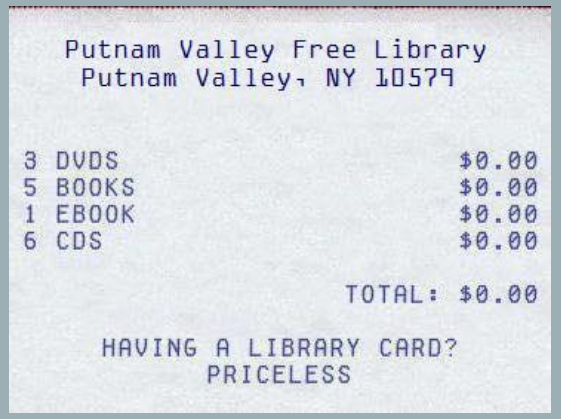
The Mahopac Library has been supported by the taxpayers of their school district for many years. In that community the per capita cost is over $110 annually. Why should another community underwrite the use of their library for residents of another town that is not pulling their own weight in supplying library services?

The ability to use other libraries is only thanks to the cooperative lending agreements facilitated by the Mid-Hudson Library System and thanks to NYS regulations, and it requires each community to support its own library to ensure fairness in the cooperative agreements.

HOW OUR LIBRARY'S FUNDING STACKS UP WITH THE OTHERS

	Charted Population	Library Type	Funds from:	Funding	Total Funding	Funds per capita
Brewster	18,404	Public	Town of Southeast Brewster School District	$420,000 $ 9,524	$429,524	$23
Carmel	7,698	Public	Special District Levy	$312,153	$312,153	$41
Cold Spring	2,641	Association	Town of Philipstown Haldane Central School Dist.	$276,000 $ 73,150	$349,150	$132
Garrison	7,021	Association	Endowment draw School Referendum	$341,071 $300,000	$641,071	$243
Kent	13,507	Public	Town of Kent	$566,686	$566,686	$42
Mahopac	26,662	Public	School district public library	$2,814,709	$2,814,709	$106
Patterson	12,023	Association	414 Funding	$1,016,160	$1,016,160	$85
Putnam Valley	11,809	Association	Town of Putnam Valley	$347,650	$347,650	$29

VOTE ON TUESDAY MAY 16TH



If your house is assessed at $400,000 your expenditure of just $10/month will:

Allow children and adults access to books and learning through a great variety of programs and activities; encourages family time with opportunities to role play, build and discover — ***all these things foster brain development, literacy, and math skills.***

Allow increased use of a treasure trove of high quality, selected resources, information and tools, in all formats including digital, that ***provides information and entertainment.***

Allow for a welcoming safe place for children to do schoolwork and learn. *The Putnam Valley Library is a* ***place to meet and develop social links and engage with the community.***

Libraries preserve the past and lead to our town's better future.

Putnam Valley LIBRARY

VOTE ON TUESDAY MAY 16TH

"[There is] persistent improvement in [children's] reading test scores in the years after library capital spending" – study by Montana State University, the Chicago Fed, and Miami University, as reported in MarketWatch 5/28/21

"The only thing that you absolutely have to know, is the location of the library." Albert Einstein

"Libraries allow children to ask questions about the world and find the answers. And the wonderful thing is that once a child learns to use a library, the doors to learning are always open." Laura Bush

"When you are growing up there are two institutional places that affect you most powerfully: the church, which belongs to God, and the public library, which belongs to you." Keith Richards

Voting takes place Tuesday May 16th from 6AM to 9PM at the PV Elementary School

For absentee ballot information: Voter and School Board Trustee Candidate Information – Putnam Valley Central School District (pvcsd.org)