

Cedar Springs



Public Library

Building The Heart of Cedar Springs
Questions and Answers

Capital Campaign

The Cedar Springs Public Library Today

Q *How many people use the Cedar Springs Public Library?*

A There are 2,874 active card users of the 9,467 people in the Library service area. During 2014, 28,774 people visited the Library, checking out 31,617 items. Average daily traffic exceeds 110 people.

Q *Who owns the Cedar Springs Public Library and how is it run?*

A The Cedar Springs Public Library was first established by the Village of Cedar Springs according to Public Act 164 of 1877 in 1936 when Village residents voted to have a public library and to support it with a dedicated millage of one mill in perpetuity, a campaign driven by Grace Hamilton and Nina Babcock. The "Clipper Girls" gave two rooms of their office space to the new library. The Library was run by a board of three elected members until 1959, when the Village was incorporated as a City. Board members were then appointed. In 1999 the City Council voted to include Solon Township representation on the Library Board. The Board is comprised of 4 members from the City of Cedar Springs, appointed by the Mayor, and 3 members from Solon Township, appointed by the Solon Township Supervisor. Daily operations are managed by the full-time Library Director who oversees a staff of 6 part-time workers.

The Cedar Springs Library is a public library created for the benefit of the community. For all intents and purposes, it is owned by the community which supports it.

Q *When is the Library open?*

A The Library is open five days a week for 30 hours a week. Hours of operation are Monday, Tuesday and Friday from 12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m.; Wednesday from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Q *What are the sources of income that are used to fund the Library?*

A The Library receives operational income from the City of Cedar Springs, Solon Township, enrollment dues, library fines, penal fines, state aid and donations.

The Need to Expand

Q *Why is the current building inadequate?*

A Over the years, the Cedar Springs Public Library mission has been to provide quality materials and services to educate, inform, teach and partner with the community. Through its leadership and library staff dedication, the programs being implemented have become so large that the current building cannot accommodate its visitors. The 2,016 square feet building currently houses 26,268 physical and eBook items.

The Library has expanded its services to reach adults as well as children through its summer learning programs. The success of these programs has required the Library team to move to other locations to hold events.

The Library also plans on promoting services for the Blind and Physically Handicapped in our community.

These programs have become popular in our community and promote lifelong learning, a gift that will benefit our community for many years to come. In order to meet the growing interest and excitement, the Cedar Springs Library Board believes that a larger building will help accommodate the current and growing interest in our library.

Q What needs to be done?

A The Cedar Springs Library Board is looking to construct a 9,998 square foot building. The proposed plan includes two meeting rooms that can be combined into a larger room, a computer lab, additional computer stations and technology portals for multiple patrons to connect with their personal devices; a children's area and handicapped accessible areas.

A new library building will do something more! It will increase the "Heart" in our already Big-Hearted community. In his book, *Expect More: Demanding Better Libraries For Today's Complex World*, R. David Lankes says, "Bad libraries only build collections. Good libraries build services (and a collection is only one of many). Great libraries build communities." Cedar Springs Public Library contributes every day to building the Cedar Springs community!!

Q Won't personal computers and the Internet make the Library obsolete?

A Currently, the library has 6 computers and 2 lap-tops available for use by its patrons. Those computers are used on average 6,938 sessions per year.

With the growing number of households with personal computers, libraries are transitioning into a center of culture. The new Cedar Springs Library will serve as a central hub in the community enhancing access to the world of knowledge through not only its books and technology, but also through mentoring, networking, collaborating and implementing personal growth opportunities.

Q *Does access to electronic information require less space?*

A Providing access to electronic information requires computer workstations. These workstations take as much space as print materials. Since electronic information allows people to explore many materials that are not found in the library's print collection, this service is in high demand. Additional computer workstations and areas of connectivity are needed to accommodate these patrons.

Q *Will the new Library be more easily accessible?*

A It is difficult for anyone with physical disabilities to access the Library as there is limited room to navigate and the doors do not have automatic openers. The new Library will have barrier-free access, providing full accessibility to all patrons.

Meeting the Need

Q *How much will it cost to build a new Library building to meet the current and future needs of our community?*

A The cost is approximately \$1.75 million for the new building.

Q *Who will pay for the rest of the building costs?*

A More than \$600,000 has been raised to date and the land has already been donated and/or purchased. In addition, a local non-profit called the Community Building Development Team has committed to pay for all costs associated with preparing the building site, as well as providing additional resources to pursue grants, in-kind funds, fund raising help, additional dollars, and more. This is truly a community-wide effort. The capital campaign committee has set a goal to raise \$750,000 additional dollars in order to build this beautiful new building with no debt to the community!!

Q *Who is conducting the Library capital campaign?*

A The capital campaign is being conducted by the Community Building Development Team, the Cedar Springs Library Board, the Friends of the Library, the Chamber of Commerce and community volunteers who are

dedicated to the development of a Library, Community Building, Amphitheater, rain gardens and the protection and enhancement of Cedar Creek and the White Pine Trail.

The grouping of these buildings is intentional as it supports the City of Cedar Spring's Master Plan. The area will serve as the Heart of Cedar Springs where people can gather to participate in community events and outdoor activities. The Library is the first phase of the project and will serve as the catalyst to help transform the north end of Cedar Springs.

Q *When will the campaign be conducted and the project started?*

A The campaign kick-off is scheduled for September 12, 2015. The ambitious goal is to raise the entire \$750,000 by Christmas, 2015! The project is expected to go out for bids in February, 2016 when building costs will be at their lowest.

Q *Is my library project gift deductible for Federal and State tax purposes?*

A All gifts to the Library capital campaign are tax-deductible.

Q *How do I make a gift?*

A You can print a pledge card on the library web site or pick one up at the library. If you'd just like to write an old-fashioned check, please make it payable to the Cedar Springs Public Library and mail it to 43 W Cherry St., P.O. Box 280, Cedar Springs, MI 49319.

Q *How much should I give? Will anyone be making a suggestion?*

A Giving is a highly personal matter. You alone can determine the amount of your investment in this capital campaign. We hope you will consider your pledge as an investment in improving the quality of life for the Cedar Springs and Solon Township communities and make your gift or pledge with this in mind.

Q *May gifts be made in memory of a friend or loved one?*

A Commorative gifts can be made in memory of a loved one or to pay tribute to an individual, a family, a business or an organization.

Q *Why should I contribute to the Cedar Springs Public Library capital campaign?*

A Cedar Springs has an award-winning library program. Investing in the Cedar Springs Public Library is an investment into the children and adults of the Cedar Springs and Solon communities. Many of the town fathers and

mothers have left behind gifts of money and property in order to provide a new library for the residents of our area. It is now our turn to bring the Heart of Cedar Springs to fruition so it can better serve us, our children and generations yet to come.

"I received the fundamentals of my education in school, but that was not enough. My real education, the superstructure, the details, the true architecture, I got out of the public library. For an impoverished child whose family could not afford to buy books, the library was the open door to wonder and achievement."

Isaac Asimov, Author