

Library buys land for new building

25th anniversary celebrations planned

By Katelyn Larese
klarese@digitalfirstmedia.com
@katelynlarese on Twitter

Plans to find a new, larger permanent home for the Chesterfield Township Library are moving forward.

The Chesterfield Township Library Board in late November closed on a purchase agreement to buy 5.698 acres of vacant land on the southeast corner of 21 Mile and Sugarbush roads to build a new library.

"This is an exciting and historic moment for the residents of Chesterfield and a bold step in establishing a permanent library for our community," library officials said on Facebook.

The next step is a site-specific library building design, library officials said.

With nearly 80,000 vis-

itors walking through the doors in 2017, library leaders have been exploring the acquisition of land for the purpose of constructing a new building for the past several months.

Concerns about the size and location of the library's current space have been brought up over the years. The library leases a 21,000-square-foot converted warehouse off of Chesterfield Road. Tucked between Gratiot Avenue and 23 Mile Road, it is not easily visible from surrounding roadways.

The library purchased the land for \$100,000 from the Macomb County Public Works Office. The Macomb Interceptor Drain Drainage District Board agreed to sell the property at below its appraised value to support the

development of a new public library, county officials said.

"We are so grateful to Macomb County Public Works Commissioner Candice Miller and the Macomb Interceptor Drain Drainage District for this opportunity that allows the library to continue to do what it does best — improve lives," library officials said.

Wetlands along the edge of the property could potentially be developed into an outdoor educational walkway, Miller said on Facebook.

The library offers programs and services for both children and adults, including music, magazines, movies, audio books, story times, crafts, movie nights, club meetings, technology-based workshops and more. As a mem-

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VOICE FILE PHOTO

The Chesterfield Township Library Board is looking to build a new library at 21 Mile and Sugarbush roads.

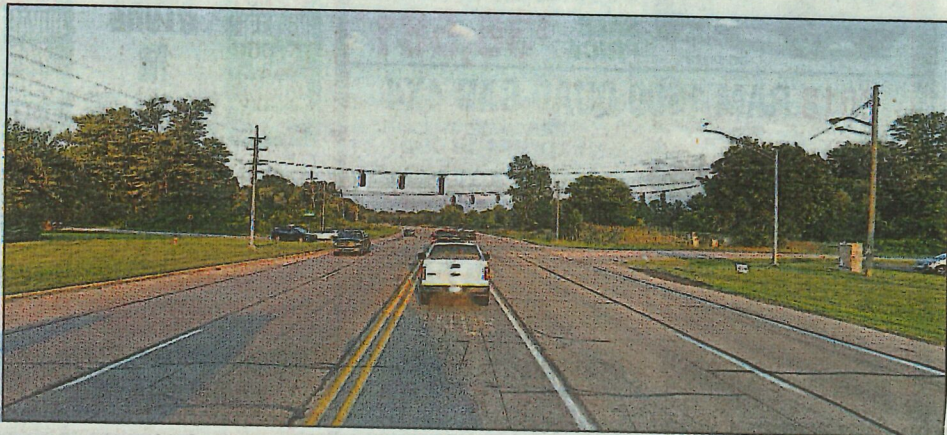


IMAGE COURTESY OF GOOGLE MAPS

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Library

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ber library of the Suburban Library Cooperative, it shares resources with 21 libraries throughout Macomb County to circulate two million items.

In its first 20 years, the library circulated more than 2.6 million books and welcomed millions of visitors. In 2017, library staff answered nearly 12,600 questions and conducted more than 380 programs for 10,570 children, teens and adults.

Library leaders expect growth to continue and anticipate becoming a Class VI public library, the largest class size in the state.

Community-wide reading event planned

The Chesterfield Township Library was legally established by voters on Nov. 8, 1994. Monthly special events are being planned to mark the library's 25th anniversary in 2019.

A kickoff birthday celebration on Jan. 19, 2019, will include birthday cake, party favors, face painting and a visit from Rosco the Clown.

As part of the anniversary celebration, residents are invited to participate in the 2019 One Book One Community project, a community-wide reading event. The selected title for the project is "Fahrenheit 451," a science fiction classic by Ray Bradbury. A discussion of the book, a presentation of a movie adaptation and

a digital photography contest are planned.

"Fahrenheit 451" is an internationally acclaimed novel set in a dystopian future. Library officials said the book is as relevant today as when it was first published more than 60 years ago.

"'Fahrenheit 451' has been described by the Boston Globe as 'a masterpiece ... everyone should read,' library officials said in a news release. "According to the National Endowment for the Arts, Bradbury's novel is a 'visionary parable of a society gone awry, in which firemen burn books and the state suppresses learning.'"

Beginning in January, free copies of the book will be available at the library while supplies last. Copies of the book may also be checked out in a variety of formats, including print book, audiobook, e-book or e-audiobook.

The free books are provided through grant funding from the Anchor Bay Community Foundation.

A free showing of the film version of the novel is scheduled for 1 p.m. Feb. 5 at the library. A book discussion is scheduled to run from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Feb. 6.

The digital photography contest will run from Feb. 1 to 24. Up to three digital photographs with the theme, "A splash of red," in JPEG format can be submitted. Entry forms can be found online at chelibrary.org.

The winning photo will be selected Feb. 25.

The Chesterfield Township Library is located at 50560 Patricia Ave. For more information, call the library at 586-598-4900 or go to chelibrary.org.

Katelyn Larese is local news editor of The Voice. She can be contacted at klarese@digitalfirstmedia.com

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