

Where to put library

C'fld considers its options

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VOICE STAFF WRITER

Chesterfield Township bookworms may soon be traveling to a new location to check out the great American novel.

With a for sale sign outside the Trinity Public Library off Sugarbush Road, township officials are scrambling to make a decision on a library location. The board has given Supervisor Jim Pollard the authority to appoint a three-member committee to study all options available.

"I know nothing about running a library, so I think we need a library committee," suggested Pollard at a recent board meeting.

Ceola Trinity, the long-time librarian, has retired and is selling her home and the building that has housed the library since she and her first husband, the late Bernard Trinity, founded it.

Pollard told officials that he had already looked at three locations that ranged in size from 1,100 to 1,500 square feet. Lease agreements call for anywhere from \$709 to \$900 per month, he added.

"Well, what square footage are we looking for?" asked Trustee Ray Novak.

"That depends what you want. I'm thinking around 1,100 to 1,200 square feet," answered Pollard.

Rodger Knight, a planning commissioner and a realtor who listed the Trinity property, suggested the board seriously consider purchasing the current library.

"The library is there now and only using half of the building," said Knight. "It's 1,900 square feet and you're only using 1,000 for that and the rest is a museum."

The asking price is \$199,000 and includes 2.8 acres, 500 feet of frontage on Sugarbush and 300 on Cotton, an 1,800 square foot house plus several other buildings, said Knight.

A parcel on Callens and 23 Mile Road that was donated for use as a library or fire hall was suggested as a new location by Novak.

Funding for a library could be addressed in several different ways, according to township attorney Gary Anthony. Dollars from the general fund could be set aside for a lease payment or a separate millage could be sought to finance it.

Carol Goodwin, director of Macomb County Library, pointed out that any state funds allotted for a facility would come with specific guidelines. The library would have to be open a certain number hours based on population and the librarian would have to have a certain amount of education, she said.

Officials agreed to establish a committee and let it review all options and bring a recommendation to the board.

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