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Geneva Public Library Moves Forward With Plans for New Facility

The Geneva Public Library District's board, administration, and staff are gratified by the community's support for building a new library at 210 S. Sixth St.

"We would like to thank the voters of the Geneva Public Library District for sharing our vision for the Geneva Public Library and for making this investment for the future," said Library Board President Robert Shiffler.

The April 4 referendum vote allows the Board to move forward with plans for a new, 57,000-square-foot facility that will offer community members at all ages and stages of life a library with space for additional technology to learn new skills, expanded collections, more programs, on-site parking, drive-up convenience, and many other resources and services.

Architectural firm StudioGC will begin work on the building's design for the Board to review, with an opportunity for public input through community forums at a later date. Then the plans will be submitted to the appropriate city agencies for review, including the Historic Preservation Commission, the Plan Commission, and Geneva City Council.

The goal is to start construction of a new building in the spring of 2018, with a prospective opening date in mid-year 2019.

The referendum was another step in a process that began more than two years ago when the board began to review how the library could best serve the community in the future.

After assessing the condition and upkeep of the current building, studying needs and

getting community feedback, the board concluded that it made the most fiscal sense to build a new facility that would provide the space and amenities the library district needs. The library is landlocked at its current location, and unable to provide additional services and resources, along with study space, meeting space, function rooms – and on-site parking. In addition, contemporary libraries meet community needs by offering resources like drive-up convenience, 3-D printing services, craft rooms, equipment checkout, early literacy play areas, and more. Those services cannot be provided at the current location.

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