



Dear Library Patrons:

Demand for materials, services, programs, computer access and other library resources continues to increase. In fact, the number of items checked out of our library has tripled since 1990. More than 1.6 million items will be checked out of our library this year.

Increasing demand for library resources is the result of an increase of more than 30,000 in the district's population, as well as the popularity and quality of our services.

As we expand our services to meet the needs of more and more residents—without adding more space—access to materials, programs, public meeting rooms, study areas, parking and other library resources is becoming increasingly difficult. There also is a tremendous stress placed on our community's library as we operate it well beyond its designed capacity. This wear and tear will increase maintenance costs and reduce the expected useful life of the building.

Where do we go from here? I urge you to participate in one of our upcoming public meetings and a community opinion survey that will be mailed to district residents. Your thoughts and recommendations will make a difference in how we move forward in meeting our community's library needs.

Sincerely,

Diana Brown
Library Director

Come learn more at one of our upcoming public meetings.

- Updated renderings, floor plans and site plan of proposed addition
- Proposed improvements to existing space
- Sustainable design initiatives

St. Charles Public Library
Norman C. Huntley Meeting Room
One South Sixth Avenue
St. Charles, IL 60174

Sunday, May 23
1:30 - 2:30 pm

Thursday, June 17
7:00 - 8:00 pm

Saturday, July 17
2:00 - 3:00 pm



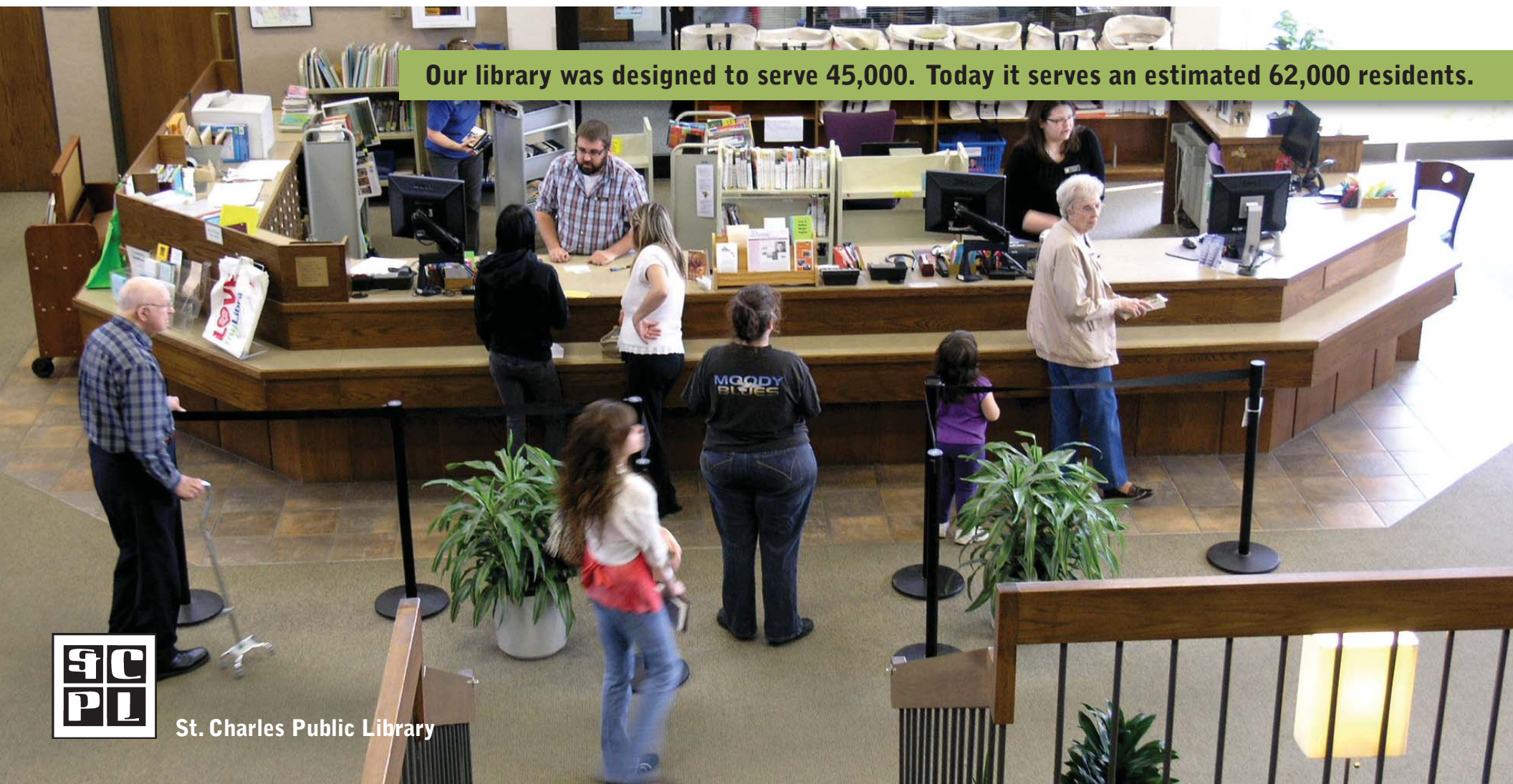
More than 1.6 million items will be checked out of our library this year—triple the activity since 1990.



St. Charles Public Library
One South Sixth Avenue
St. Charles, IL 60174

www.stcharleslibrary.org

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 213
St. Charles, IL 60174



Our library was designed to serve 45,000. Today it serves an estimated 62,000 residents.



St. Charles Public Library



Our library is operating well beyond its current capacity...

- Continued population growth and increasing demand for library resources are negatively impacting our facilities, furnishings and equipment
- The number of items checked out from our library has more than tripled since our library was expanded 20 years ago
- Our cardholders checked out approximately 1.5 million books, periodicals, DVDs, audio books and other items last year, an amount that will surpass 1.6 million items in 2010
- The district's service population has doubled since 1990, an increase of about 30,000 residents
- Meeting and study rooms are consistently booked
- The current collections at our library are more than double the size of the library's capacity, crowding out seating and study space
- Patrons are often turned away from our study, reading and computer areas due to overcrowding
- The library's parking lot is often completely full, including handicapped spaces
- The library is out of storage space, affecting efforts like the *Friends of the Library* book sales which help fund library programs and services
- CDs, DVDs and recorded books have far exceeded the popularity, diversity and space needs envisioned in 1986 when the current library was designed

Main Entrance



St. Charles Public Library District's Board of Trustees has spent more than three years gathering public input and refining a plan to address space needs at the St. Charles Public Library. With construction costs down and demand for library services rising, the Library Board is considering asking voters this fall for permission to move forward with an addition to the existing library (pictured above). A decision about the proposed bond issue will not be made until August, allowing for additional public input.

Proposed solution...

- The Library Board is considering an addition to the existing library, parking improvements and major improvements to the existing library building
- The additional space and improvements would reduce the wear and tear on existing facilities, furnishings and equipment, extend the life of the existing facility, and allow the library to better meet the needs of our residents
- Parking would be significantly expanded, including handicapped spaces
- Accessibility of books, DVDs and other materials would be improved, and a more flexible design would allow for quicker adaptation to new collections and services
- Additional space would be made available for study and reading areas, computers, meeting rooms and community gatherings
- The proposed improvements include cost-saving technologies as well as systems and materials that conserve energy and reduce operating costs
- A proposed \$35 million bond would pay for construction costs, and a proposed 1-cent operating levy increase would pay for additional operating and maintenance costs of the addition
- The estimated annual tax impact of the proposed bond issue and operating levy increase is \$24.12 and \$2.76 per \$100,000 of a home's market value, respectively

Northeast View



Northwest View

