



FAQs - ONE

Why support a new library?

New Glarus is considered a good place for families to live – with good schools, parks and services. But, while New Glarus scores high on many quality-of-life factors, the current library facility is an embarrassment to our otherwise justifiable community pride. The library is tiny, overcrowded and inaccessible by people in wheelchairs or parents with kids in strollers. It's the smallest library in the area -- and yet serves more people than Belleville or Monticello.

Why does that matter to a business owner?

A library is an important part of a thriving community, and a thriving local community supports local business. It's not all tourists. Libraries are one of the things families – and your employees - look at when deciding where to live.

Why do we need a library? Why not just use the Internet?

Libraries are no longer just places to store books. A good library is an important resource to parents with children of all ages; it provides community meeting and activity spaces, sponsors educational programs and is a center for cultural events. We can't do those things at the current library.

Many library users order books, audio books, videos and other materials on the Internet and pick them up/drop them off at the local library. A new library would make that more convenient with a drive-through book drop. The current library has room for only 3 public computers, which as with everything else in the library, are very crowded. A new library would have up to 10 public computers for use by residents of all ages.

The library also provides access to the Internet, news publications, databases, and programs for those who can't afford to subscribe. The new library will have an adult reading area with access to more publications than any one person would have at home.

Why not just expand at the Village Hall site?

The Library Board considered that possibility in both 2005 and 2015 – yes, this discussion has been going on for 20 years. Engineering studies done in 2005 showed that it would cost more to remodel the Village Hall than to build a new library. Those studies are available at newglaruspubliclibrary.org.

Contrary to what many people assume, the Village Hall has no historical significance. Underneath its Swiss façade lies a plain, flat-roofed masonry building. The building would require expensive renovation to meet current building codes and ADA requirements. And most people are not aware that there is a municipal well and accompanying chemical storage room in the middle of the Village Hall, which would have to be maintained even if the building were converted to a library.

Finally, the Village Hall site would be less than 8,000 square feet rather than the 12,000 needed to meet current needs and would have no room for expansion. In short, we would spend more and get less.





FAQs - TWO

Why so big?

The size of the proposed building was determined by applying statewide standards for libraries designed to serve 7,480 residents, which include the Village of New Glarus and the surrounding service population. For comparison, Belleville is building a 13,700 square foot library for a service population of around 5,000 that includes the village of Belleville and the towns of Exeter and Montrose.

Won't operating costs increase?

In addition to the capital campaign that is raising money for construction, there is a parallel campaign to raise the additional \$52,000 a year it will cost to run the new library. We are also seeking funds to grow the library's endowment.

Why build at Glarner Park?

The Library Board has considered 21 sites around New Glarus. Resolution 16-18 states that the Village Board affirms Glarner Park as the site for the proposed new library facility. The Village Board offered the Glarner Park option because it is located downtown, provides easy access for all, and is a property that would **not** be removed from the tax rolls. And in a 2014 referendum, the citizens of New Glarus chose Glarner Park over the West Side location.

Why do we have to lose our softball field?

The Village Board is looking at several alternative locations for a softball field, including some closer to the high school. It should also be noted that Glarner Park requires extensive repairs and updates even if the softball field remained.

What about the flooding?

The library plan includes a detention basin and a vegetated biobasin that will improve drainage and reduce flooding effects in the area.

What about the property the library owns on the west side near the Swiss Center of North America?

That location is no longer being considered for a library. In a 2014 referendum residents said they wanted a downtown location. The Library Board is planning to sell the property on the west side and put the money toward construction and/or operation of the new library. We do not know how much the property may bring because the Library Board is still in discussions with potential buyers.

What happened to the money that was donated earlier?

Scores of New Glarus residents have donated money for the library project over the past 20 years. That money is still there, waiting for the final funds to be secured.

