THIS PANEL WILL BE FLIPPED 180°

IMPORTANT DATES

VOTER REGISTRATION

Monday, April 12th, 4 p.m.-8 p.m. at the Library

Budget Public Hearing

Monday, April 12th at 8 p.m. at the Library

BUDGET VOTE

Tuesday, April 20th from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. at the Library

FINKELSTEIN MEMORIAL LIBRARY
24 Chestnut St.
Spring Valley, NY
10977

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. Postage
PAID
Monsey, NY
Permit No. 7026

IMPORTANT BUDGET INFORMATION FROM THE FINKELSTEIN MEMORIAL LIBRARY

FINKELSTEIN
MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Dear Neighbor,

It's that time of the year again and we wanted to give you the information you need to make an informed decision when you vote on the Finkelstein Memorial Library's budget on Tuesday, April 20th.

The proposed taxpayer-supported portion of the budget, $6,561,193, represents a modest 1.96 percent increase over the current year's budget. This amounts to an average tax increase of $5 per year for a home in the East Ramapo Central School District with a fair property value of $425,000.

According to Richard Rothbard, President of the Library's Board of Trustees, the Library has been able to minimize the impact to our taxpayers by not filling vacant positions, buying smarter and reducing expenses wherever possible. In addition, the budget reflects cost-cutting measures implemented over the past year that enhance the Library's online electronic reference resources while eliminating the purchase of some non-essential and underutilized printed reference materials.

These taxpayer savings come at the same time as the Library has experienced growth in usage and demand for programs and services. Like many libraries throughout the state, we have seen a marked increase in usage since the economic downturn.

From 2007 to 2009:

- Annual patron visits have increased 14%
- Users of our public computers have increased 29%
- The number of programs we offer to the public has increased 52% while program attendance has increased 28%, and
- The Library's total circulation has increased 9%.

If the proposed budget is passed by the voters, the Library will be able to maintain its weekend hours as well as expand some of its highest use programs such as the literacy program that teaches English as a Second Language (ESL) to Yiddish, Spanish and Creole speakers and others. In addition, the Library will be able to offer more classes on how to make the best use of these online resources and will be able to maintain staffing levels for one-on-one help when patrons come to the library. The Library will also be able to maintain its 50 item check out limit.

In the event the budget is voted down, the Library will have consider cuts to its programming and online resources as well as reduce hours and staffing.

Important to note:

- Voter Registration, Monday, April 12th, 4 p.m.-8 p.m. at the Library
- Budget Public Hearing, Monday, April 12th at 8 p.m. at the Library
- Budget Vote, Tuesday, April 20th from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. at the Library
- In addition to voting on the library's budget, voters will also have the opportunity to vote for one of two candidates vying for an open seat on the Board of Trustees. Long-time Trustee Brenda Schlanger is stepping down and Denet Alexandre of Spring Valley and Stan Cohen of Suffern are both running for her seat. The winner will be elected to a non-paying five year term.

If you have any questions, please feel to call the Library's Director, Robert Devino, at 352-5700, ext. 230.

Thank you.

The Finkelstein Memorial Library Board of Trustees
Richard Rothbard, *President*
David Hershkowitz
Marion Reiss
Brenda Schlanger
Vivian Street