

Poughkeepsie Journal - 9.20.06 - Letters to the editor

Community library needs your support

East Fishkill voters have the opportunity Thursday to secure the future of their community's library by voting whether to create an East Fishkill Public Library District. As former East Fishkill Community Library trustees, we support a "yes" vote.

East Fishkill's library is the second busiest among 67 libraries in the Mid-Hudson Library System; that is average annual growth in library use over five years at 8 percent per year with only 2.8 percent annual growth in town financial support. Thanks to belt-tightening and squeezing capital reserves, the budget constraints have not been readily obvious to patrons. Clearly this path can't continue. If funding does not more closely track with usage, financial crisis is certain.

Converting to a public library district is good. It stabilizes the funding, avoids competition with town departments, insulates the library from political partisanship and empowers voters through trustee elections and direct funding approval whether increase or decrease. The district appears as a separate line on the property tax statement with other public benefit districts: fire, water, sewer etc., with pro-rata share plain to see.

The library is a great bargain. What it is costing us should be out in the open so we know the library gets what voters have approved. Please vote "yes" Thursday, noon to 9 p.m. at the library, and elect nine people from the 10 trustee candidates on the ballot. They will be accountable to us.

Ruth Erickson  
Barbara Manning  
Doug McHoul

Tom Tierney, Former East Fishkill Community Library trustees Fishkill