ELANCO Library
Eastern Lancaster County Library
New Holland, PA

Letter from the Director

Amber Timlin



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Dear Library Friends & Neighbors,

We've received many questions from our concerned patrons in the wake of the referendum vote and the announcement of the Gap library branch closure. Patrons are concerned about how this outcome will affect ELANCO Library.

I can assure you that the results of this vote will not have any immediate, visible impact on the services our library provides to our community. We will still have our same hours, new books on shelves, and exciting programs for the whole family. We can do this because of our remaining long-term savings and the generosity of businesses and individuals who continue to support the library.

I cannot, however, promise that we will always be able to provide these services at our current level. Our library has been operating in a deficit for many years, meaning we spend more each year than our income. We are draining from our savings just to keep our library operating at the standards our community deserves. This means that we will continue to defer maintenance to critical building needs, such as our elevator, and will not be able to expand programs or services the way we might wish to.

As anyone who has lived borrowing from next week's paycheck can tell you, operating in this way is not sustainable. Our board estimates that our library can probably continue for 3-5 more years at our current state before serious cuts in services will need to be made. In the past, we have occasionally been sustained by generous bequests of local residents which have allowed us to replenish our long-term savings.

While we do receive support from local municipalities, the County, and State aid, nearly 60% of our income each year needs to be raised through community fundraising and grants. This also pulls time away from staff who must dedicate more to fundraising than to programs or services.

We appreciate all those who voted in support of the libraries, and understand the reasons for those who voted against. We are here to continue to support you and your families, and we assure you that will continue to do so to the best of our ability for as long as we can.

Amber Timlin
Executive Director
ELANCO Library