

Moffat Library of Washingtonville

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January 2012

To the Patrons of the Moffat Library,

The summer ended for us at the Moffat Library with a tremendous amount of damage to the Moffat Library Building caused by Hurricane Irene followed shortly afterwards by Tropical Storm Lee. This left our library and our community with a tremendous amount of repair, recovery and repositioning to be done. The impact of the aforementioned events is still being felt even today.

In the case of the Moffat Library, the impact of the damage was not to one or two families but to an entire community.

Many comments have been made about the Historic Moffat Library Building. Before we go much further, it might be good to share some facts about that building:

- The Moffat Library Building was given to the library as a gift by David Moffat. This gift was given in 1887 by Mr. Moffat to have this building used for the express purpose of a library
- In 1956 the building's ownership was transferred to the Town of Blooming Grove because the library was not able to manage the building financially
- Presently, the Moffat Library does not own the building and as a consequence does not have any control over its maintenance, repair or use
- Part of the 1956 agreement was that the town would provide an annual budget for the library's operation
- In 1995, the Moffat Library became a school district library having its own budget
- The present Town Board wishes to return the building back to the library for its exclusive use
- The Board of Trustees of the Moffat Library is interested in taking over the building from the Town only after needed repairs are done. Some of these repairs are long standing and major
- The hurricane and storm have caused even more damage to the building placing it in even more disrepair
- To return the Moffat Library Building to its past grandeur and to have the library prominently positioned back in the building, the Town Board, The Library Board and the community need to work together to have needed repairs, renovations and restorations completed

With all of this in mind, after the flooding, The Board of Trustees of the Moffat Library (“The Board”) understood the sense of urgency needed to quickly address our three areas of focus in order to have the library functioning again. These areas of focus are the people, patrons and programs associated with the Moffat Library.

The “people” are the employees or staff of the Moffat Library that delivers the services that we provide. Each day the library was not in operation was a day a staff member was left unemployed. We wanted to minimize that.

The “patrons” are the individuals in the community we serve, our friends and neighbors of all ages, from the very young to our senior citizens. We understand their dependency on the library.

The “programs” are the services offered by the library and in particular our understanding of the critical ones that needed to be returned to the patrons quickly.

These areas of focus identified to us how we would spend our limited funds and manpower to get to our patrons the greatest value from our offerings. The community needs to be aware that our lean budget did not have an extensive contingency funding stream to cover all of what was experienced by this disaster.

The Board’s hope was to get something in place very quickly and this has brought us to where we are today. This effort was not a simple one and many have to be thanked for making happen what we see now in place.

We would like to begin by thanking Mr. Jimmy Smith, President and CEO of the Advance Testing Company for unselfishly offering to us his building to temporarily accommodate the library. We cannot thank him enough for his kindness.

We would like to thank Ms. Carol McCrossen, our relatively new, Library Director for rising to the occasion to deal with the unusual challenges that were placed before her. She has done a wonderful job.

We would like to thank the staff of the Moffat Library for their flexibility and service in getting things done as we, The Board, tried to get them back to work quickly.

We would like to thank our community members who came and lend of their time, manpower, materials and their vehicles to move our collections and equipment from our water damaged historical building.

Last but not least we would like to thank The Board of Trustees of the Moffat Library, a volunteer body, who met weekly and gave of their time and talents to provide direction to the director and staff to make the library quickly function once again.

The move to the Advance Testing Company Site was not without some cost. We endeavored to minimize the cost associated with the move to provide the needed critical program services. Since the Advance Testing Location is only a temporary one, monies must be conserved for our next move.

The Board’s plan is to open the library again in the village as soon as possible. Some of the sites that seem available in the village are cost prohibitive and others do not address our concerns for patrons walking to the library and for the provision for ample parking.

Over the past weeks we have solicited the feedback from our patrons and we were happy that many of you have provided that and in addition, many of you were able to attend our “Open House” on December 11th sponsored by “The Friends of The Moffat Library”.

Hopefully, some of the concerns and questions posed by the patrons have been addressed by our earlier comments but some questions on conveniences still require a response.

Here are some: our present hours of operation do not allow for many late night hours. Lighting is presently a problem in our present facility so; earlier hours were set to get the benefit of the natural daylight. To add additional lighting to the temporary building was considered. It does not appear cost effective for the lighting addition to be done for the duration of time that we will be remaining in the building.

The old drop-box feature provides a tremendous convenience for our patrons. We are investigating the cost of a new box to determine if this will be a wise investment at our temporary location.

Our budget has always been designed to provide the patrons with the programs that they most desire. This calamity will severely impact how our monies are spent under our present budget (2011-2012 FY) as we move from location to location while still providing the best program offerings that we can.

A tremendous amount of work has been done by many individuals to get us to our present location. We foresee the need for even more help as we move to our next location or back to the Moffat Library Building; after the building is repaired fully as desired by the Moffat Library Board.

We are going to solicit your help, in advance, as we work our way back to the original intention of David Moffat. You have responded with your comments and feedback, and we thank you for that. Now it is time to get your help. So, please feel free to give your names to the staff of the Moffat Library and let them know how you are willing to make a difference to help us to getting the library back to its original location as you and we all so desire.

We hope that the information presented is helpful to you in answering some of your questions. We thank you for your patience with us as we strive to make things happen. We The Board of Trustees of the Moffat Library endeavor to do all we can while remaining as faithful stewards of the community’s trust.

Respectfully submitted by

Dennis A. Barnett
President
Moffat Library Board of Trustees