



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Susan Serino

## SERINO ANNOUNCES OVER \$500,000 TO BENEFIT LOCAL LIBRARIES

SUSAN SERINO September 8, 2021

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HYDE PARK, NY – Senator Sue Serino today announced that over \$500,000 in construction awards will be directed to six public libraries in the local area.

*“Our local libraries have always played a critical role here in our community, but they truly went above and beyond to help support our neighbors during the COVID-19 pandemic,” said Senator Serino. “These grants will go a long way in ensuring our local libraries have the resources they need to continue doing what they do best—educating, connecting and providing resources for neighbors of all ages.”*

The awards come to the community as a result of a \$14 million State Budget capital fund appropriation that was established to support the construction and renovation of public libraries and library systems throughout the state. 135 construction projects were approved statewide by the NYS Education Department and NYS Library as part of the initiative.

The following projects were approved in the 41<sup>st</sup> Senate District:

- **East Fishkill Public Library**; \$13,155.00: Replace HVAC system; improve fresh air mix; install UV lights for health, safety, comfort benefits; see energy savings from high efficiency equipment.
- **Hyde Park Library District**; \$28,784.00: This project will improve the efficiency of lighting and windows, create more flexible program space, and allow easier accessibility in the library.
- **LaGrange Association Library**; \$89,745.00: The LaGrange Association Library is relocating to an expanded physical plant in which to operate in the long term and be fully ADA compliant.
- **Morton Memorial Library & Community House**; \$3,710.00: A handsome and welcoming Library entrance - safe, accessible and historically preserved.
- **Pleasant Valley Library**; \$357,970.00: The historic Library was devastated by fire and this project will both renovate and expand the sq. ft in order to incorporate community needs.
- **Desmond-Fish Library**; \$23,412.00: Create a Reading Garden and ADA-accessible paths to enhance use of grounds and educate the public about natural habitats and sustainable initiatives.

The announcement comes during the month of September, when many local libraries are celebrating 'Library Card Sign-Up Month.' Neighbors can find a library near them, or learn more about all the services their local library has to offer, by [clicking here](#).

With over half of New York's public library buildings being over 60 years old, public libraries across the state are currently in urgent need of construction renovation and upgrading to increase accessibility and improve access to services. Senator Serino has been an outspoken voice in support of local libraries since taking office.