

Harvard Diggins Library 2023 Renovation Frequently Asked Questions

1. What renovation is happening at the Library?

- a. The library is replacing the linoleum flooring in the main library area, remodeling the public restrooms, installing a new drinking fountain, and painting the large meeting room and small study rooms. Behind the scenes, the Library is also installing a water softener.

2. Why are the renovations being done?

- a. The library opened in 2001. It is beginning to show its age in a few ways. The grout between some linoleum sections has worn out which results in the linoleum to curling away from the sub-floor. This presents a tripping hazard for patrons and staff. The flooring and fixtures in the public restrooms are worn and needs replacing. The addition of a water softener will improve the quality of the water, leaving fewer mineral deposits throughout the plumbing. In short, these changes are needed for both structural and cosmetic reasons.

3. What will the renovations cost?

- a. The cost for the entire project is \$231,969.

4. Where is the library getting the money?

- a. The funds are a result of the 2018 referendum which allocated expiring construction bonds to the library's general operating revenue.

5. Why does the library have to close?

- a. The library must close because it will not have functioning restrooms for public use. Also, since the flooring in the main area of the library will be removed and replaced, the collection will not be accessible.

6. What will library staff be doing during while the library is closed?

- a. Library staff will be working during the closure but will be restricted to the staff area at the request of the contractor. Staff will not have access to the materials until the project is complete.

7. Can I call the library if I have a question?

- a. Library staff will be available to answer questions and provide account assistance from 8:30AM – 5PM, Monday through Friday, while the library is closed. Questions can also be emailed to harpgeneral@harvard-diggins.org.

8. Can I get books or movies if the library is closed?

There are several ways to feed your need to read or watch a great movie.

- a. Stock up by checking out lots of items before the Library closes at 8PM on January 31. All materials will have a March 1 due date.
- b. Visit another library. Your Harvard library card enables you to check out materials at any Illinois library (you may need to complete additional paperwork to register your card based on each library's circulation policies). All libraries in McHenry County have been

alerted to Harvard's closure so they are happy to welcome Harvard patrons. The Woodstock Public Library and Marengo-Union Public Library are the closest libraries and, like Harvard, are in the PrairieCat consortium. You do not need to register your library card at either library.

- c. You may continue to place holds on materials from other libraries but the pickup location must be changed to be another PrairieCat library. Woodstock Library and Marengo-Union Library are the closest PrairieCat libraries to Harvard.
- d. The library's digital collection of downloadable books, audiobooks, magazines, and videos are available 24/7/365 through Overdrive. To use Overdrive on a smartphone or tablet, download the Libby app from your device's app store. Complete the one-time account setup process to begin downloading digital items to your device. You will need your library card number and PIN during the setup process. If you do not have a PIN or have forgotten it, call the library Monday through Friday between 8:30AM – 5PM for staff assistance. For more information, visit the Library's website, www.harvard-diggins.org, and review the 'Media Downloads' guide found under Reading and Listening on a Device under the 'Borrow' tab.

9. Can I return materials to the library while it is closed?

- a. Materials may be returned to the library but they will not be checked in until the library reopens on March 1. Fines will not be assessed on Harvard materials with February due dates.

10. Can I send a fax, use a computer, or print a document while the library is closed?

- a. These services will not be available while the library is closed. However, they are services provided by the Woodstock Library and the Marengo-Union Library.

11. My library card expires in February. How can I renew it if the Library is closed?

- a. All library cards expiring in February have been updated with a new expiration date of March 13.

12. How can I get a library card while the Library is closed?

- a. Visit the library's website, www.harvard-diggins.org, and select 'Library Card Information' under the Library Services tab. Complete the online application. Library staff will mail the new library card to your residence.

13. Is the Library offering any activities during the renovation?

- a. Yes, the library is offering several activities during the renovation. Visit the library's calendar or refer to event listings in the 'Renovation Program & Event Guide' under the 'Programs and Events' tab on the library's website.

14. Who will take care of the fish while the library is closed?

- a. Library staff will be feeding the fish regularly so they stay healthy and happy to welcome you back to the library on March 1!