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Ferndale Library Board Votes Improvement Plan

Ferndale, MI -- January 11, 2007 -- The Ferndale Public Library Board voted unanimously to seek funding for a major expansion and improvement of library services. The library board requested that the Ferndale City Council place the question of a 1.0 mill operating levy on the ballot of the city's next regularly scheduled election, Tuesday, May 8, 2007.

Since becoming independent in 2004, the Ferndale Public Library has improved dramatically with new energy, a new look, longer hours and many new services. The board recognizes, however, that library still has a long way to go if it is to meet the desires for library service expressed by the residents of Ferndale and that no further development is possible within the library's current budget.

The millage request restores Ferndale's traditionally strong commitment to library services. When it was built in 1954 the current library was a state-of-the-art facility, one of the finest in the state. While Ferndale residents have remained committed to their library, the finances to support the library dwindled over time and with insufficient funding, the building, the collection and the services fell behind those of neighboring communities.

After receiving its independence from the city of Ferndale in 2004 the library immediately began to plan for the future with extensive community surveys (<http://ferndale.lib.mi.us/survey2005.pdf>) and intensive strategic planning (<http://ferndale.lib.mi.us/improvement.htm>). These efforts immediately revealed a strong desire among Ferndale residents for a larger and more comfortable space, a larger staff capable of providing more services and longer hours, and a major increase in the availability of new books, dvds, audiobooks, cds and electronic databases.

After much careful consideration the Library Board decided to put this issue on the ballot as a way of ensuring that the library could serve all members of the community and match the energy that Ferndale has demonstrated in its recent development.