MEMO · Town of Riverside, Parks and Libraries Committee
To: Town Council members · From: Committee chair · Date: 3 September 2026

Riverside Library renovation: plan, cost and closure

The committee recommends a full renovation of the Riverside Library at 41 Mill Lane. The building was last updated in 1994. The roof leaks in two places, the heating system fails most winters, and the upper floor cannot be reached by people who use wheelchairs.

What the work includes

The plan replaces the roof and the heating system, adds a lift to the upper floor, rewires the building, and turns the old storage room into a study room with eight desks. Shelving on the ground floor will be lowered so that every shelf can be reached from a seated position.

Cost

The total cost is **$2.4 million**. A state library grant covers $900,000. The remaining $1.5 million will come from the town's capital reserve fund. No increase in property tax is needed.

Closure and temporary service

If the Council approves the plan at its meeting on 14 October 2026, the library will close on 4 January 2027. Work is expected to take about five months. The library is planned to reopen in **June 2027**.

During the closure, a temporary library will run at the **Oak Street Community Center**, 9 Oak Street. It will open Tuesday to Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Holds, returns, printing and the children's story hour move there. Public computers will be limited to six.

Risks

The main risk is the lift. Lift parts have long delivery times, and a delay could push the reopening back by up to six weeks. The committee has asked the contractor to order the lift parts as soon as the contract is signed.

Recommendation

The committee asks the Council to approve the renovation and the use of $1.5 million from the capital reserve fund.

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