

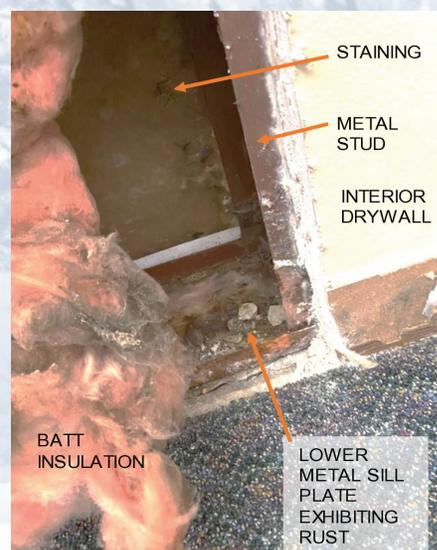
A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

In 1975, this community made the bold, yet wonderful decision to create a library district. At that time, there were scant resources and no book collection. However, from this humble inception, a Board of Trustees was appointed, and they were able to procure a contract for a bookmobile that was supported by the Suburban Library System. The following year, with modest revenue coming in, the District purchased a sizeable plot of land for the development of a physical library structure the following year.

From there, while seeking building finance opportunities, the Board made some key hires. One was for a group of architects to help design the future structure, and one was for a head librarian to help guide the organization and to coordinate services for the community.

Unfortunately, with limited funds, concessions also had to be made. While the construction of the 7,600 square-foot building was initially due to start in 1979, it had to be pushed back to 1980 to secure additional funds. Instead of a concrete block frame and brick exterior, the Board chose steel framing with a truss roof, which required an exterior cladding. Despite pushing for a more reliable material to use as cladding for the exterior of the structure, the Board was forced to use an inferior replacement due to that same lack of funding.

The construction choices along with the building materials that were made available would ultimately have devastating consequences. Due to an inadequate vapor barrier, moisture has been allowed to seep in behind the cladding for the better part of 42 years. This has caused the steel frame to experience significant rusting. Additionally, the minimal insulation and first layer of dry-wall has suffered significant water damage. Fortunately, the poor state of the exterior cladding has allowed air to penetrate behind the cladding, which has prevented mold growth.



In 2000, plans were made to make unassuming renovations to improve the aesthetic of the library's interior. The renovations did not involve modifying the structure, and the steel skeleton did not require an inspection. The majority of the project involved upgrading furniture, installing new carpet and updating paint on the interior and exterior of the building.

The future came in ways that could not be anticipated. The Internet became more than a passing fad, and the infrastructure required to meet those needs took up more space than was available. This forced leadership at the time to use the very limited space available to force the creation of a computer lab. The staff was forced to squeeze their own workspace into a small area behind the circulation desk.

Then, in 2019, the library Board believed that it was time to truly consider renovation possibilities to build upon and to expand the facility. Although in limited capacity, the renovations that were considered would have helped to reorganize space, allowing the library to function more effectively for staff and patrons alike. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic put those plans on hold until late 2021.

In the Spring of 2022, a mechanical and space analysis were done. In early Fall of 2022, an infrastructure discovery study was conducted on the building. It was during this time that the engineers uncovered the significant underlying structural problems that had been allowed to quietly develop behind the walls since the building's initial founding. Analysis of the situation also revealed the stark reality that the cost of repairing the existing structural

