

Love Letters For the Library Talking Points

Why Libraries Matter:

1. Libraries build bridges in a community.
2. Vibrant communities have functioning and efficient libraries at their core.
3. The library is for everyone and everyone has a place at the library.

Education:

1. VTL supports early literacy for kids under age 5 with twice a week story time and take-home book and craft kits.
2. VTL has a history of partnering with Teton County School District (TCSD), private schools, and homeschool groups through field trips, school visits and library programs like Girls Who Code.
3. VTL serves as a major afterschool destination for four of the six public schools in Teton Valley within walking/biking distance. Students can gather afterschool to pursue interests, do homework, and use the Makerspace.
4. The library is an ideal location for continuing education programs for adults. It offers study space, computers, free wifi, take home laptops, research books, printing services and librarians to serve as test proctors.
5. VTL's mission is to inspire lifelong learning, encourage exploration and creativity and enrich our community.
6. We offer many programs for adults to expand their knowledge including book clubs, writing workshops, classes, film collaborations and more.

Valley of the Tetons Library (VTL) in 2023:

1. VTL had **6,024 library card holders** which is **52% of Teton Valley's Population**.
2. VTL had a total of **3,222 people**, from all ages and walks of life, participate in library programs, **a 44% increase from the previous year**.
3. The total circulation of materials including books, DVDs, audiobooks, hotspots, storytime kits, tools and more was **143,330 items**, nearly **30,000 more items or a 23% increase** from the previous year.
4. VTL's popular program Makerspace, gets **15,000 visits per year**. People of all ages come to Makerspace to create, use audio-visual equipment, learn to cook or sew, or play.
5. Services have expanded dramatically since VTL began in 1966. Space has not.

Citizen Support:

1. Teton Valley residents envision a new library building that would:
 - o Improve their lives
 - o Help local families
 - o Provide resources for non-profit organizations
 - o Support mental health
 - o Benefit all citizens
2. In recent years, Teton Valley residents approved bonds to build new schools. This shows they are committed to their community and ensuring we have safe and adequate building space to foster a healthy, growing community.
3. Many remote workers (freelance writers, graphic designers, tutors, non-profit employees) regularly use the library to conduct business.