

Cambridge Library plans revealed at potluck

By Sydney Krieger

Hometown News
Correspondent

On Thursday, Jan. 23, the Friends of the Cambridge Community Library held its annual potluck dinner and meeting. Over 60 people attended the meeting and design presentation update held in the lower level of the

Amundson Center.

After the meal Bob Salov made a few opening remarks, saying the library funding goals were very close to the amount needed to build the new library. Salov went on to thank the "Friends" for all of the commitment and hard work the members had shown in their dedication to bring a new library to

Cambridge a reality.

Sharon Erb, president of the Friends of the Library board then addressed the audience announcing the 2014 board members as Bruce Somers, Sharon Jacobson, Nancy Lust, secretary; Kathleen Grunwald, membership; Dave Peterson, treasurer; Jerol Reisch, fundraising; Loretta Byrne, publicity; and Louise Dalby, programs. She continued with updates regarding the activities and fundraising efforts over the past year.

"The Friends of the Library," announced Erb, "has contributed a total of \$178,750 toward the new library project fund."

Erb went on to say that funds raised in 2013 included \$2,800 from the plant sale in May; \$2,800 from the August used book sale; \$2,880 from Cambridge Piggly Wiggly receipts program for 2013 and \$1,630 for 2014; and \$13,000 from the Library Art and Craft Fair and raffle.

Erb finished with updates on the other activities and programs The Friends sponsored.

She explained the organization isn't just about money and fundraising. Community enrichment activities such as the summer children's reading program, Community Café in April 2013, volunteer help shelving at the library, purchasing library magazine subscriptions, books on tape and the "Books at Home" program which delivers books to house-bound community members are important facets.

The Library Capital Campaign Committee, which

handles the new library project financials and building projection details co-sponsored with The Friends of the Cambridge Community Library for an updated presentation of the library building.

Erb introduced Val Schute of river ARCHITECTS to the group and turned the remainder of the evening over to him.

Schute discussed the new library project and presented Power Point charts with financial and design comparisons and the current schedule for bids and groundbreaking.

Schute addressed details regarding the building process, safety and code issues and construction, and features such as an outdoor patio/ WI-FI area, drive-up book drop and trans-action window, possible addition of solar, and parking.

During an illustrated 3-D video of what the library would look like, he answered questions and addressed concerns from the audience.

Bids for construction will be solicited this February, with the current date for open bids set for March 20.

The construction contract is expected to be awarded in April, with the groundbreaking scheduled for May. The tentative move-in date for the new library is set for March 2015.

Although, the majority of the organization's fundraising efforts in the past decade has focused on contributions to the new library project, The Friends of the Cambridge Community Library is not the main financial fundraiser for the new library project. The overall project is overseen by the ad hoc Library Capital Campaign Committee which handles the project financials and building projection details.

The Library Capital Campaign Committee is comprised of independent members as well as members from both The Friends of the Cambridge Community Library and the Cambridge Community Library Board of Directors.

The new library is continuing to push forward but community support and funding is

(Continued on Page 11)



Friends of the Library president Sharon Erb was seen greeting guests at a potluck, annual meeting and presentation on the new library held Thursday, Jan. 23 at the Amundson Center. Photo by Sydney Krieger.

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still needed.

An estimated amount of \$300,000 is still required to complete the project.

Fundraising efforts are ongoing.

Those interested in donating funds toward the new Cambridge Community Library project can make checks out to "Cambridge Library Building Fund" and drop them off at the library or mail

them to P.O. Box 490, Cambridge, WI 53523.

Those wanting to donate can also send funds through Pay Pal at www.cambridgelibrary.com.

Always dream and shoot higher than you know you can do. Don't bother just to be better than your contemporaries or predecessors. Try to be better than yourself.

~William Faulkner