

Cambridge Library receives \$250,000 grant

Fundraisers for a new Cambridge Community Library got a major boost toward finishing the job with news that the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation has awarded the project a \$250,000 community development investment grant.

The grant will put the library campaign within about \$100,000 of its \$1.8 million goal to build a 6,800-square-foot facility as an addition to the Amundson Center.

It would replace the 2,121-square-foot library housed within the Amundson Center since its construction in 1990, which the library has outgrown.

The grant was engineered by Cambridge's Economic Development coordinator, Linda Begley-Korth, in partnership with the Cambridge Library

Capital Campaign co-chairs Bob Salov and Mary Gjermo.

Begley-Korth said she worked closely with Jason Scott, community development account manager for WEDC.

"A financial partnership with WEDC will ensure that ground is broken and construction begins in April 2014," said Begley-Korth in acknowledging Scott's role in the grant. "And WEDC's contribution will continue to generate more donations as a result of increased awareness and excitement."

She went on to say that the community deserved the grant because it suffered setbacks due to two years of road construction and the loss of Main Street during those two years when Highway

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12 was redone.

This setback was followed by the recession that led to the loss of many Cambridge businesses and employers.

"An expanded, centrally located and well-equipped library plays an integral role in the economic renaissance of Cambridge," said Begley-Korth.

The drive for funds to build the new library has been underway for more than 10 years. The capital campaign recently raised \$100,000 to match a grant of the same amount by the Cambridge Foundation.

"That energized the campaign very much," said Salov.

In the last two years, the fundraisers have raised \$400,000 in support from the Village of Cambridge as well as lesser amounts from surrounding communities whose residents use the Cambridge library.

The Town of Oakland pledged \$70,000 over two years; the Town of Christiana came through with \$54,000, and

the Village of Rockdale and Town of Deerfield pledged \$10,000 each.

Friends of the Cambridge Library contributed over \$175,000 to the campaign, using a variety of fundraisers over the years to support a new library.

Begley-Korth used testimonials from area residents to solidify the grant applications. Among them was one from Tom and Barbara Lyon of the Town of Oakland which stated, "A modern and expansive library is one of the most important services a local government can provide its citizens. Young or old, rich or poor, the library is the most cost-effective way of providing opportunities for lifetime learning."

Those wanting to donate to this cause can also send funds through Pay Pal at www.newcambridgelibrary.com.

January donations for the Cambridge Foundation Matching Grant Challenge for the Cambridge Community Library Building Fund are shown

below.

Advocate

Lisa Chupack; Roger and Sharon Erb; Duane and Shirley Hathaway; Franklin and Bev Lien; Carolyn Scholten and William and Patty Strobusch.

Supporter

Charles and Joan Behm; Tom and Jan Benzinger; Clare and Matthew Carolson; Jeff and Laura Evenson; Sam and Eileen Fisher; Flying Zupan Brothers; Georgia Gomez-Ibanez; James and Patricia Hall; David and Charlene Kinzler; Colleen Ley; Stephen Naymick; Virginia Newcomb; John, Sue and Kathy Schmidt; and David Peterson and Vickie Kaufman.

Contributor

Alliant Energy Matching Employee Grant; Badger Bank; JoAnn Davis; and Margit Ohrn.

Sponsor

Barb Rinehart Memorial Fund; Steve and Debbie Davidson; Roger and Sharon Erb; Neil and Jackie Shively.

In Honor Of

Cambridge Community Library Staff.