

# Cambridge Community Library unveils donor boards

By Nicole Poley

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On Nov. 17, the Cambridge Community Library held a celebration of thanksgiving for the community members who helped bring the new library to life. During this event, two donor boards were unveiled at the library's entrance, listing many of the donors who made the new library possible.

Library Board member Mary Gjerme welcomed attendees on behalf of Library Board President Sandi Szafranski, who was ill and unable to attend the event.

Gjerme shared that in a few moments, the donor boards would be unveiled by Steve Struss, village president at the time of the opening of the new library as well as now, and Dave Wilcox, library board president at the time of the fundraising efforts and library grand opening. Gjerme recognized the efforts of Patty Strobusch, who compiled all of the donors to be included on the boards, and Peg Sullivan, who worked on the design for the boards.

"I think we can all be very proud of what this community's done," Struss said. "It's a shining example of what can happen when

people pull together."

Struss said that along the way, many talked about the economic boost a new library could provide for the community. Just recently, Struss has seen this boost in action.

"There's a young family that just moved to Cambridge, and their reason for moving here, what tipped the balance for them, was this library," Struss said.

Wilcox recognized the Friends of the Cambridge Community Library for the tremendous support they provided.

"I'd also give big credit to Bob Salov, who was the chair of our capital campaign committee," he said. "He worked tirelessly with his committee."

Gjerme also thanked the Cambridge Foundation, who made a big impact in making the new library a reality.

"The Cambridge Foundation really stepped up," she said. "They helped us over a three-year period and believed in us when it looked like just a fantasy to some folks, and we weren't sure ourselves how long it was going to take."

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Cambridge Village President Steve Struss, left, and former Library Board President Dave Wilcox unveil the new donor boards at the Cambridge Community Library.

(photo by Nicole Poley)



"There were many, many memorials, family donations, individuals, smaller foundations, other municipal partners," she added. "Everybody pulled together to help us with this project."

Gjeramo explained that there were many who gave small contributions throughout the years, and although not all of their names could be included on the donor boards, there is a book at the library that lists all of those donations.

Joan Behm, library director, also took a moment to thank the community not only for its support in building the new library, but also for utilizing the local library. She said that the new space

has allowed community members to linger, visit and meet others. In a time when other libraries are experiencing a decrease in circulation, the Cambridge Community Library's is holding steady.

Major donors recognized on one of the two donor boards include: Cambridge Foundation, Village of Cambridge, Wisconsin Economic Development Corp, Friends of the Cambridge Community Library, United Community Bank (formerly Cambridge State Bank), Town of Christiana, Town of Oakland, Madison Community Foundation, Piggly Wiggly - Michael and Amy Day, Jerald and Janet Gunnelson, Philip and Paula Vasby, John and Elizabeth

Swain, Philip and Phyllis Sillman, Ralph Evinrude Foundation, Jill and Jeff Ball, The Evjue Foundation, Inc., Town of Deerfield, Village of Rockdale, Joe Arington - Alliant Energy, Thomas and Elizabeth Stoffel, Cambridge Elementary School, Robert and Lynn Swick, Herbert and Donna Hutter Miller.

To see the donor boards and the full list of donors, stop by the Cambridge Community Library, located at 101 Spring Water Alley.