

Dear Patron,

You may have noticed that the huge fundraising banner on the side of the library disappeared this spring. It fared badly in a storm, but Mother Nature is not entirely responsible for its absence! The banner served the library well, reminding the community of our ongoing building campaign and encouraging donations, large and small. With its removal, community members and patrons began asking more questions. Had we raised the money? Is the project still going to happen? When will the doors actually be open? About the same time, the library was contacted by the Trust of Walter E. Schirmer Jr. with news that we were to receive a \$100,000 unrestricted gift.

At its inception, the renovation plan for the library called for three phases. Phase one has been completed and included improvements to the main floor with a new local history room on the second floor. Phase two will be the installation of a two stop elevator and a new library entrance on Front Street, with improved exterior lighting and an awning over the new front door. Phase three, the most expensive phase, will include a large community room and bathrooms on the second floor and new windows throughout the building.

The library's history of excellent financial management allowed for the cost of the first phase to be met through the library's reserves. The current costs for phase two are now \$360,000, about 20% more than the original estimates from 2013. The many generous patron donations given to us since the completion of phase one raised \$203,000. Mr. Schirmer's gift has turned phase two's completion into an imminent reality. It also inspired Peter Lysy, Joellen Bellaire, and Janet Kuhn in memory of Margaret Swartz to each donate \$2,000 to the campaign, increasing our existing fund balance to \$309,000. We are now \$51,000 from our goal.

We are asking for your help to bring back the construction crew, the architects and the dust. When the upstairs is accessible to everyone, we will be more than a small library in a big building. The Buchanan District Library is busier than it has ever been. The collection is growing and the services we offer this community are expanding. We are out of room. The space on the second floor will provide this library an opportunity to serve in yet unimagined ways. The possibilities for more inventive and educational programming become real as does the idea of inviting more community groups to use our space and resources. Your support will ensure the library's continued relevancy and importance for this community for many generations to come.

Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to the Buchanan District Library. No gift is too small. Consider a gift which will leave a legacy. Consider a gift which will transform the library.

Most Sincerely,

Dave Perez
President, Buchanan District Library Board of Trustees

Barbara Wallace
Director, Buchanan District Library