Lake Odessa Community Library

Capital Campaign
Fact Sheet

The Good & Bad News

GOOD News:
The library is a valuable community asset that is heavily used by people of all ages.

BAD News:
The library is out of space, hindering every aspect of service and ability to meet the demand for collections, services, technology, and programs.

GOOD News:
An exciting plan has been developed to expand and renovate the library to meet the community needs and enhance the overall quality of life of everyone in the community.

Revised Dec. 18, 2012

ALL BOOKED UP AND READY TO GROW

All Booked Up and Ready to Grow is a capital campaign to raise the necessary funds to renovate and expand our community library. The project entails expanding the existing 4,300 square foot library with an additional 4,200 square footage and remodeling the existing 4,300 square foot library to address serious space constraints.

LIBRARY NEEDS

The library has steadily increased services, programs and resources to meet the changing needs of our community. Although our building has served us very well, current usage far exceeds its capacity. Lack of space hinders every aspect of service, as well as our ability to meet the community's growing demand for collections, services, technology, and programs.

Did you know…

- The library is heavily utilized by all ages of the community
- Total collection has increased by **43%**
- The number attending programs is **233%** higher than other Michigan libraries with similar populations
- The library offers **205%** more educational programs than other Michigan libraries with similar populations
- Circulation and computer usage has also increased
- Lack of dedicated space/room for programs and meetings forces programs/meetings to the middle of the library with standing room only
- There is high demand for additional computers and technology workstations and no space to expand.
- Sufficient seating is wholly inadequate for all ages, uses, and levels of mobility
- There is no collection or study/seating space for teens, school groups, or young adults
- A separate designated children's area is needed so other library patrons and services are not disrupted
- Insufficient stack space prevents display and easy access to the current collection. New items cannot be added unless other items, still in circulation, are removed.
- All libraries must adapt to the changing needs of technology and society.

HISTORY OF FACILITY PLANNING

- Planning began in 2009 with the Library Board and Friends of the Library evaluating solutions to serious facility space constraints.
- Various potential solutions were assessed including new buildings, existing buildings, and expanding the current library.
- Library pre-qualified for a low-interest Rural Development loan.
- Funding plan developed to ensure fiscal responsibility and to not impose additional property taxes on our community.
- Conceptual architectural plans developed to compliment the Downtown Development Authority efforts to unify and beautify downtown.

NEW AND UPGRADED SPACE

The exciting plan for renovating and expanding the library offers something for everyone. With double the space, community members will enjoy comfortable seating for reading and personal technology use, as well as more technology stations and work spaces to accommodate more patrons looking for jobs, researching, etc. There will be a designated meeting/program room for up to 96 people, and increased shelf space.

Features of the library plan include:

- Room for conducting children's programs eliminating the interruption of other library patrons
- Dedicated space to accommodate a teen collection, study, research, and technology
- Expanded collection and display space
- More reference and research space
- Expanded computer/technology spaces
- Additional patron seating to accommodate all ages and physical abilities for casual reading, study, and research
- Meeting/program room with seating for up to 96 for meetings and "how to" programs like using the Internet
- More restrooms and storage
- No loss of parking
- Lounge area for casual, quiet, and comfortable reading
- Walk through access to neighboring coffee/bake shop.
- Barrier-free access in/throughout the building

COST AND FUNDING

The preliminary project cost is approximately $1 million. The library board has determined that a combined funding approach offers the best solution that assures fiscal practicality. The board plans to secure a $700,000 low interest loan from the Rural Development Authority and determined current library income will be sufficient to make loan payments and offset increased operational expenses. The library will raise the remaining approximate $350,000 through a community-wide capital campaign. Donors may make pledges and contributions payable over three years. Special naming opportunities are also available.

FINALE

The expanded and remodeled library will be a warm and welcoming gathering place offering comfortable seating and ample space for collection, services, and programs for all ages. Updated and increased technological resources will assure everyone in the area has access to state-of-the-art technology. The library envisions collaborating with other area libraries in coordinating the delivery of services and programs to respond to an ever-changing society and technologies. **The expanded library will continue our community's commitment to progress and will positively impact the quality of life of everyone in the area.**