

# STATE GAZETTE

## Plans moving forward for new library building

Wednesday, December 7, 2011



Ermco recently presented officials with McIver's Grant Public Library with a donation of \$25,000 toward the capital campaign for the new library building. From left, front, Library Trustees Carol Harris and Joan Ryland, Library Board Foundation Chairman Bob Harrington, Capital Campaign Chair Katie Winchester, Ermco President and CEO Bill Reffert, Library Trustee Penny Hearn Law; back, Library Project Manager Porter Ryland, Library Board and Library Foundation member Don Crews, Friends of McIver's Grant Public Library President Sylvia Palmer, Ermco Vice President of Human Resources Jerry Ray and Ermco Vice President of Finance Kent Raffath.

Dyer County's vision for a new library building is making great progress.

With a lot of help from the community, Downtown Dyersburg's old Piggly Wiggly building is steadily completing its transformation into a new home for the state-of-the-art, ADA-compliant McIver's Grant Public Library.

With plans now in place for the interior, members of the library's Foundation Board are in the process of awarding the bid for construction. After the bid is accepted, the organization will begin the approval process with USDA Rural Development and officials.

The library's interior plans feature many amenities allowing the library to become the center of the community, including an updated façade, an adjoining learning garden, a large 'avenue' leading into the heart of the library and a roomy children's section. A safe room, coffee bar, an area dedicated to genealogy, project rooms, conference rooms, plenty of storage space and a birth- to 3-year-old room where mothers may read to their infants and toddlers are also included.

A large community room complete with a kitchen and restrooms will allow residents to use the library for additional community events. Featuring a separate entrance, restrooms and a kitchen, the space is designed to be accessed after hours.



Burks Beverage recently donated \$10,000 to the new library building, as well. Gathered for a presentation in front of the new library building are McIver's Grant Trustee Penny Law, Friends of McIver's Grant President Sylvia Palmer, Trustees Kay Fowlkes and Dr. Doug Haynes, Mary Burks-Minton of Burks Beverage, Foundation Chairman Dr. Bob Harrington, Ben Edwards of Burks Beverage, Trustees Joe Emery and Joan Ryland and Project Supervisor Porter Ryland.

One of the most important aspects of these new amenities is that they are all located on the same floor. The new plans - including spacious sidewalks meandering through the garden - will allow the library to become ADA-compliant.

Work has already begun on the building, with roof repairs already under way as the public attended a preview party in late June. Library officials feel the more accomplished prior to the actual construction, the less it will cost in the loan process.

All the while, the capital campaign continues - steadily growing in a difficult economy, with individuals, civic organizations, industry and local business joining together to invest in the community through the new library.

To date, \$1,914,190 has been raised toward the capital campaign's \$3,000,000 goal, with an additional \$115,471.17 received as in-kind donations.

In-kind donations range from dogwood trees and a grand piano to professional services and even a home donated by the Dyersburg Women's Club.



Interior plans for McIver's Grant Public Library feature an updated façade, a raised ceiling, a large central avenue, community room, large children's section and a room dedicated to genealogy. The plans have been approved by the library Foundation Board, with members currently navigating the bidding process.



McIver's Grant Library has reached \$1,914,190 toward its capital campaign of \$3,000,000 toward a new facility. Donations from local residents, industry, businesses and civic organizations have boosted the total in the past few months, but more is needed to fund the USDA loan awarded for the project. The campaign received two significant additions in the past few months, a \$10,000 donation from Burks Beverage and a \$25,000 boost from Ermco.

"Burk's Beverage has been very supportive of the effort to build our new library," said Capital Campaign Chair Katie Winchester. "They continue to stay involved in fundraising efforts and we appreciate them greatly."

"We believe that a community needs a good library to attract and inform people who can help our city progress," said Ermco President and CEO Bill Reffert. "We are pleased to be a part of this great effort."

"We truly appreciate the support of Ermco and the generosity of Plant Manager Bill Reffert," said Winchester. "The programs and added services of a new county library will be a tremendous asset to everyone in our community. An attractive, modern public library sends a strong signal to residents and visitors that Dyer County is serious about education, cultural enrichment, community development and economic growth. This generous contribution from Ermco moves us closer to our goal."

"I am amazed at the backing we've had from the citizens," said Project Manager Porter Ryland. "(In this economy), it shows that they feel it is a worthwhile cause. I think it is going to be a wonderful project for Dyersburg and Dyer County, a real benefit for the city."

## COMMENTS

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Great idea! If it was 1950's. Libraries are a thing of the past. What a waste of money. Have you people ever heard of the internet? In 5 years or less, publishing hardcover books will cease. Don't believe for a second this albatross isn't going to cost taxpayers millions over the next 20 years. Who do you think is going to pay the ongoing operational costs of this project? Staff utilities maintenance etc.

Even if someone did need a library there is a perfectly good one at Dyersburg State.

It will serve as nothing more than a homeless shelter for all our downtown low-lifes.

-- Posted by **bulldog84** on Wed, Dec 7, 2011, at 8:11 PM

 Report comment to editor

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bulldog84 is extremely off base regarding the future of libraries and their importance for our communities. It appears this person's idea of a library is a bunch of hard cover books perched on shelves and nothing else (incidentally, books WILL continue to be published - just attend any of the national or international library conferences). The purpose of a public library escapes him/her and the suggestion that a community college learning resources center fufills that need is truly uninformed. Finally, regarding the comment about "homeless .. low-lifes" is uncalled for and heartless. Is this person disconnected with American society and it's challenges? It's all over the internet !!

-- Posted by **Librarydude** on Fri, Dec 9, 2011, at 12:43 PM

 Report comment to editor