

Library Project Advances

(Rome, WI) The Lester Public Library of Rome project will begin planning to build a new addition and remodel the existing building to deliver needed services to more people. The project has been developing over a period of years with a groundbreaking target of early 2016. Lore Ponshock, Library Director, has announced the completion of contracts for the design and construction management of the project. "The Rome community is excited to see the beginning stages of planning with Arc Central Inc. of Wisconsin Rapids as architect and Earth Design Construction Inc., also of Wisconsin Rapids, as construction management," reports Ms. Ponshock.

The project will result in a community room functioning as space for children's programming, after-hours community meetings and flexible seating for day use. Two study rooms will provide quiet areas for tutoring and studying. Defined areas for children, young adult and adult materials will provide comfortable surroundings for all. Expanded and improved workspace for library staff will create efficiencies. The approximate size of the project, including renovation of the current building is approximately 5,000 square feet, about double the size of the current structure, and will be located at the library's present location at 1157 Rome Center Drive in the Town of Rome.

This project is the result of the vision and many years of hard work by Rome residents. Generous gifts by area residents, the Lester Public Library of Rome Foundation, and a three-year Capital Fund Raising Campaign of the Friends of the Library managed by In courage Community Foundation of Wisconsin Rapids provided \$250,000 for this project. The Town of Rome matched this amount with an additional \$250,000. The present project budget of \$500,000 is for construction and remodeling, and does not include the costs of furniture, fixtures, and equipment. The Friend of the Lester Public Library of Rome will be accepting tax deductible donations throughout the construction of the project.

The first phase of construction is scheduled to begin early summer followed by the second remodeling phase with a completion target of year end.

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