



FAQ

THE NEW LIBRARY PROJECT

<https://www.cbsnews.com/video/beyond-books-the-21st-century-public-library/>

Q. *Do we still need libraries?*

A. Yes! Today's modern library is more important than ever. Our library has continually adapted to meet the changing needs of our community.

The New London Public Library is our community's trusted hub for people to gather, learn, and convey our extraordinary values and history. By offering classes, events, book clubs and more, we are dedicated to building and maintaining solid social connections while contributing to a thriving community.

Our library is a vital resource to bridge the digital divide. Twelve percent of households in Waupaca County do not have reliable internet access. Of households with internet access, 73 percent indicate that their service is inadequate. For those who cannot access or afford digital technology, users of our public library internet connections tell us that they're applying for jobs, doing homework, getting information about health care, finding out about government benefits and managing their finances.

As we continue to offer new programs, events, and access for our community members, we are proud to report more and more people are using the Library. Our growing attendance and circulation mean we are outgrowing our current facility. A larger facility will help meet these needs.

Q. *Why does the New London Public Library need a new facility?*

A. The existing library on Pearl Street was built in 1914. We have maintained the facility and it has treated us well. However, the facility no longer meets the demands of our

community. Our outdated and undersized facility presents significant challenges, including:

- Limited Children's area inhibits programming needs and movement
- Inadequate meeting rooms for community needs
- No dedicated place for teens to gather
- Long wait times to access computers and technology
- Cramped areas that make it difficult to access materials and resources
- No quiet space for studying or research

Despite these challenges, we continue to experience growth in program attendance and circulation. In order for the New London Public Library to continue carrying out its mission of providing materials, services and programs to meet the educational and recreational needs of the community, we believe it's necessary to invest in our future by moving to a bigger facility that would provide the above needs.

Q. *Where will the new library be located?*

A. It will be located downtown in the First State Bank building.

Q. *How will the new library be different?*

A. In addition to the contents of the current library, the new library will include:

- Flexible meeting room with space to accommodate up to 75 people with an attached commercial kitchen
- Smaller rooms for meetings and collaborative workspaces
- Dedicated area for teens to gather in a safe and inviting space
- Increased access to computers and online resources
- Fab Lab and STEAM spaces to learn and create, along with music and video spaces.
- Expanded children's area including an interactive space
- Children's programming room

Q. *Why now?*

A. First State Bank donated their building to the library board. Being located downtown will help spur economic growth in the area.

Q. *Will my taxes increase?*

A. At this time, we do not foresee the need to raise taxes, increase the operating budget, or borrow millions.

Q. *How much will the new facility cost?*

A. The library is committed to raising \$3.5 million in private gifts and public support as part of a capital campaign effort. Even though the building was donated, funds are needed to support extensive renovation, technology and furnishings.

Q. *What will happen to the current library building on Pearl Street?*

A. The museum will expand into the entire building, giving them much needed space.

Q. *When will the building project begin?*

A. The project could begin in the fall of 2023.

THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Q. *Who is leading the capital campaign?*

A. Volunteer community leaders are organizing the capital campaign effort to raise \$3.5 million.

Q. *When do funds need to be raised?*

A. To meet the construction timeline, the capital campaign is seeking to secure financial commitments by the fall of 2023.

Q. *What happens if we don't raise the entire \$3.5 million goal?*

A. While we have work ahead, we are confident in our ability to achieve our \$3.5 million fundraising goal.

Q. *Is my pledge legally binding? Will it be confidential?*

A. No, a pledge is a gift, one you consider meaningful to you. All we ask is that you do your best and advise us of any financial changes that will affect your pledge. All pledges will be kept as confidential as possible. Only the people responsible for maintaining the records will have access to your pledge.

Q. *Can I be flexible with payments?*

A. There is flexibility in the payment of the pledge, i.e. weekly, monthly or annually. Options are indicated in the campaign folder.

Q. *How do I know if the company I work for will match my gift?*

A. The best way to know for sure is to contact your Human Resources department.