



Sioux City Public Library

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Media Day: Welcome to the Renovated Wilbur Aalfs Library

Imagine a beautiful space filled with millions of dollars worth of written and recorded information. **Discover** a state-of-the art resource center where friendly professionals provide the stories you want and the information you seek. **Connect** to the world of ideas at the newly renovated Wilbur Aalfs (Main) Library...

Sioux City's biggest and busiest Library is back and better than ever. After a 4-month major renovation The Wilbur Aalfs (Main) Library is ready to help young children learn to read, to support workforce development, and to enrich the lives of readers and learners of every age, wage, and life stage. Library officials quietly opened the doors to The Wilbur Aalfs Library at 9 a.m. Thursday, January 05, 2012, with contractors still in the building and signage still in production.

"When we closed to foot traffic at the end of August, we promised our public that we would reopen as soon as possible," said Library Director Betsy Thompson. "The building had to be safe for us to do that. We have a certificate of occupancy and our service desks are operational. We are eager to serve people in our new spaces and we know the public is anxious to get back to their books, recordings and Internet access. Staff worked extremely hard this past week getting ready to provide service, knowing that we are without range end signs and lights in the foyer."

If you plan to visit in the next week or so, please avoid the caution-taped areas, and don't mind the dust, it's still settling.

What you'll find:

- Dazzling lights (at half the wattage)
- Crazy-fast (thanks to upgraded data cabling) Internet computers, and more of them
- Carpets, lounges and furnishings in beautifully blended colors
- Aisles, railings and bathroom stalls up to current building code
- Exciting, reallocated spaces that highlight the collections people use most
- Revitalized learning spaces where individuals read, relax, research and reflect
- Collaborative study rooms and a conference room to increase meeting room availability
- Customer-focused service points
- Friendly staff

The Library's service model is one-on-one at a time convenient to each individual. Renovation celebration activities support individual exploration. To showcase new spaces, visitors to The Wilbur

Connecting you to a world of ideas

AalFs Library can participate in a Library treasure hunt. This self-guided tour—completed the old fashioned way by following a paper trail, or by going digital with the help of smart phones—includes a date due receipt holder as the final prize.

Thousands of patrons now request books and renew items from their personal computers. With a new self-service option, patrons at The Wilbur AalFs Library can pick up their requested books and check out all their items at express kiosks without waiting in line to do so. As part of the grand reopening, each self-check session January 9-31 earns the user an entry in a drawing for a Nook eReader.

Got gadgets? Get help. Library Tech talks, usually held the 4th Tuesday each month, will be offered every Tuesday in January, from 6 to 7:30 in the Library’s new Security National Bank conference room. Topics will include downloading Library ebooks, finding online tax forms, and tips on how to use those new gadgets received over the holidays. For personal consultations, bring devices (handhelds, laptops and cables) and Library cards to the session.

Youth Services staff are planning a Meet the Muskies Night, a Princesses Night, and a Construction Night, and will provide make-and-take bookmarks all month.

The Gleeson public meeting room and the Security National Bank conference room are available for meetings; book clubs and service groups that reserve either room for their next meeting can also have a tour, courtesy of Library staff. Whatever the reason for your Library visit, staff will help you get started, get you unstuck, or keep you growing.

The Library lets you pursue passions and interests in an environment unlike any other. Longtime patrons are well acquainted with the Library’s transforming influence. After touring the new facility, donor and avid reader Marilyn Hackett exclaimed, “I’ve always considered the Library my second home. I love my new home!”

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Background information

The Wilbur Aalfs Library first opened February 25, 1990. At that time, 4 million of the 6.5 million-dollar project was raised through private contributions, making it the first modern public-private partnership in the City.

1.7 million dollars are needed for the 2011 renovation budget, of which \$600,000 will be provided by grant programs and private donations.

Some numbers (not Dewey Decimal related)

4	months closed to the public with service via phone, computer and Branch Libraries
24	trade and vendor contractors working on the project; H & H Builders, Inc was the general contractor
4,500	maroon bookshelves disassembled, moved out, set up in storage, disassembled, returned—and cleaned—before final placement
128,866	books, magazines, DVDs and audio books moved and handled multiple times
1.7	million dollars needed in the renovation budget
1.1	million approved by Council from City Capital improvement funds
600,000	dollars to be provided by grant and state program funds and private donations
22,000	dollars left to raise
131	donors thus far

Brief history of The Wilbur Aalfs Library

1990	February 25 dedication day followed by a weeklong celebration; \$4 million of the \$6.4 million dollar project is privately raised, completing the City's first modern public/private partnership
1992	A car hits the building, interrupting then Mayor Bob Scott's press conference, in progress
1995	Upper Level is remodeled to accommodate a Skywalk connection
1996	Carpet is replaced in heavily trafficked areas
1998	Ground Level remodeling allows direct access to the parking lot with one checkout desk serving three entrances
2002	New family-friendly service desk makes staff more visible in the children's area
2008	Sidewalk replacement and redesigned entrances at 6 th and Pierce Streets give new look to the building and bring sidewalk up to code; new carpet and tables enhance ambiance in the Gleeson meeting room
2011	\$1.7 million dollar project moves forward; \$600,000 to come from grant programs and private donations
2011	Library closes August 30; giving contractors complete access to the building cuts construction costs in half
2012	Media Day January 6 with final touches still in progress
2012	Grand reopening activities all year long