



imagine discover connect

**books are
just the
beginning**

February 2012 Special RENOVATION Newsletter from the Sioux City Public Library www.siouxcitylibrary.org



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 help you find the stories you want and the information you seek.

Connect to the world of ideas at the newly renovated Wilbur Aalfs (Main) Library.

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

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 a renovated Wilbur Aalfs Library at 9 a.m. Thursday, January 5, 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," Library Director Betsy Thompson explained on media day, January 6. "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." One month later, the range ends are up and the punch list is nearly complete.

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 Aalfs Library can

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The Sioux City Public Library Foundation gratefully acknowledges contributors to
The Wilbur Aalfs Library 2011 Renovation Campaign

PLATINUM CIRCLE \$25,000+

The Aalfs Family Foundation, Inc.
Michael L. and Margie Bennett Foundation
Friends of the Sioux City Public Library
with proceeds from the Book Lovers Book Sale
for the New Book Section
Ella L. Lauritsen Bequest
Kenneth R. Mosher Bequest

GOLD CIRCLE \$5,000 - \$24,999

Lynelle and Scott Bieber
In Memory of Joanne L. Bieber
for the Arts & Crafts Section
William J. & Carol G. Heimann
In Memory of Zoe E. and Verne R. Heimann
for the Mystery Section
Pokey and Colin Jensen
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for the Conference Room
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Karen and Rusty Clark
for the Genealogy Section
Joan Waitt
through Kind World Foundation

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Dr. Ray and Susan Sherman
William and Cora Sibley
Siouxland Federal Credit Union
Garrett Smith
Betsy and Bob Thompson

READER'S CIRCLE \$100 - \$999

Anonymous
in honor of all the Story Ladies
Barbara and Peter Benson
James and Gail Bernstein
Joyce Beumler
Mr. and Mrs. Larry Book
Connie and Richard Brown
Amy Chace
Margo J. Chesebro
in memory of G. Virginia Chesebro
K. Anne Cowley
in memory of Catherine A. MacNicol
Tricia Currans-Sheehan
and Bob Sheehan
Jay and Jennifer Denne
Glenn Donnelly, Wood & Nails
FEH Associates Inc.
Nancy S. Giles
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in memory of Beth Schroder
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in memory of Marguerite M. Seff
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Steven Warnstadt and Mary
Green-Warnstadt
Helenanne R. Williams
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DONATIONS \$1 - \$99

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in memory of Alma Graham
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Robert K. and Marian V. Moor
Joanne Olson
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Maita Sadoff
Elaine M. Seubert
in memory of John F. Seubert
Beverly B. Smith
Frank Tenuta
in memory of Rhoda Tenuta
Lucinda Tryon
Jim and Bev Wharton
in honor of Joanne Grueskin

Renovation by the Numbers (not Dewey Decimal related)

4	months closed to the public with service via phone, computer and extended hours at 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
128,800	books, magazines, DVDs and audio books moved and handled 7 times
1.7	million dollars needed in the renovation budget
1.1	million approved by Council from the City Capital Improvement Program
300,000	dollars to be provided by grants, state program funds and funds previously set aside
300,000	dollars to be raised from private donations
140	donors to date; to make a donation call 712 255-2933 x 251 or email bthompson@siouxcitylibrary.org



By banner, bus ad and billboard the Library announced its return at 529 Pierce Street.

Customer-focused Service Connects You to the World of Ideas

Checkouts & Library Cards

Circulation staff will help you with all your Library account questions and transactions. See us to update contact information, pay extended use fees, or check out your borrowing choices.

No time to wait in line? At The Wilbur Aalfs Library you can now pick up your holds and check them out at one of our self-check kiosks—we'll show you how!



Circulation staff from left to right: Peg, Val, Laura, Jenn, Sarah, Jan, Carol, Sienna, Laura, Billie and Marla

Information & Children's Services

The Ground Level Information Desk handles children's services and helps people of all ages find what they seek.

We help teens find read-alikes based on their favorite authors, and guide readers to age-appropriate literature for any reading level. We prepare themed book deliveries for 7-10 childcare centers each week; if you want books about fun in the snow, first day of school, stories about dogs or trucks, or any special topic—just ask!

We plan initiatives that foster reading enjoyment and understanding through creative activities for all ages. At our Family Storytimes children improve listening comprehension and develop social skills while building a foundation for reading.



Youth Services staff from left to right: Carol, Shelby, Kathy, Jeanette and Joanne

Research, Information & Technology

The Upper Level is where you come for research, technology and information help. It's the perfect place for one-on-one consultations with research staff at a time convenient for you.

We'll help you learn how to navigate a Library database, master a tech device, or help you find new authors or similar stories based on your favorite books. We are experts at finding the best resources to meet your needs. We're only a phone call or email away. Our service desk is located by the computer lab and study rooms.



Research staff from left to right: Rolin, Amanda, Dave, Sara, Kim, Nancy, Mary Anne and Troy

Sioux City Public Library

529 Pierce Street
Sioux City, IA 51101-1203

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

MISSION: The Sioux City Public Library connects people and ideas to empower and enrich our community.

“A Dramatic Transformation”

That’s how one of the painters described the Wilbur Aalfs Library renovation. How perfect, since those words also describe what can happen to people who use the library.

Back and Better Than Ever continued from page one

participate in a Library treasure hunt. This self-guided tour—experienced the old fashioned way by following a paper trail, or by going digital with the help of smart phones—includes a commemorative gift upon completion.

Thousands of patrons already 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 self check kiosks located on both floors.

Biography aficionados will discover that their favorite people have a new place, over what used to be the open space in the floor. The collective and individual biographies and autobiographies (920s and 921s) now reside at the end of the general nonfiction. Paperback readers will find the new shelving much more user-friendly than the spinner racks of old. We invite you to browse the “just checked in” shelves to see what others have returned. The Ground Level will tend to have more active areas while the Upper Level will offer quiet spaces with multi-purpose study nooks, study rooms, and a new computer lab.

Got gadgets? Get help. Library Tech Talks are held the 4th Tuesday each month, from 6 to 7:30 in the Library’s new Security National Bank Conference Room. Topics 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.

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!” 