

Shelflife

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I'm not sure it will ever be old news, but by now the entire community has done a dance of joy and gratitude for the anonymous donation of \$5 million to be used for the purchase of the neighboring Unitrin office building. The building is being purchased for \$3,050,000, and the remaining donation will be used to do the required structural work to change from office use to library use, as well as some of the design and aesthetic upgrades. We anticipate the need for grant writing and fund-raising in order to really make the place shine and function well as one of Albany's core civic institutions. We cannot answer all the questions just yet, but following are a few answers to questions we've been hearing in the community:

- The City anticipates taking ownership of the building mid-April.
- The Carnegie Library will continue to thrive in partnership with the new Library.
- We may lease out space to other City departments on a short-term basis.
- The community identified Library needs in the 2002 Feasibility Study. Since we paid \$50,000 for that study, every attempt will be made to apply those results to the new Library. We call that a design challenge!
- The City has not yet decided what to do with the current Main Library.
- We do not know how long the renovation will take and, fortunately, construction will not impact operation of the current facility.



Director's Message

A few things we do know: the next step after taking possession is to issue a Request For Proposal for design services and put that out to bid. That process should take us into the summer, and we may have a builder on board toward the end of summer. We plan to set up a link on the Library Web site, so please stay tuned.

One other thing we do know is that this is the largest gift ever to an Oregon public library and certainly one of the largest in the Pacific Northwest. Several generations of Albany families will be grateful for this legacy, and I predict dancing in the aisles for decades to come.

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