

I think the health of our civilization, the depth of our awareness about the underpinnings of our culture and our concern for the future can all be tested by how well we support our libraries.

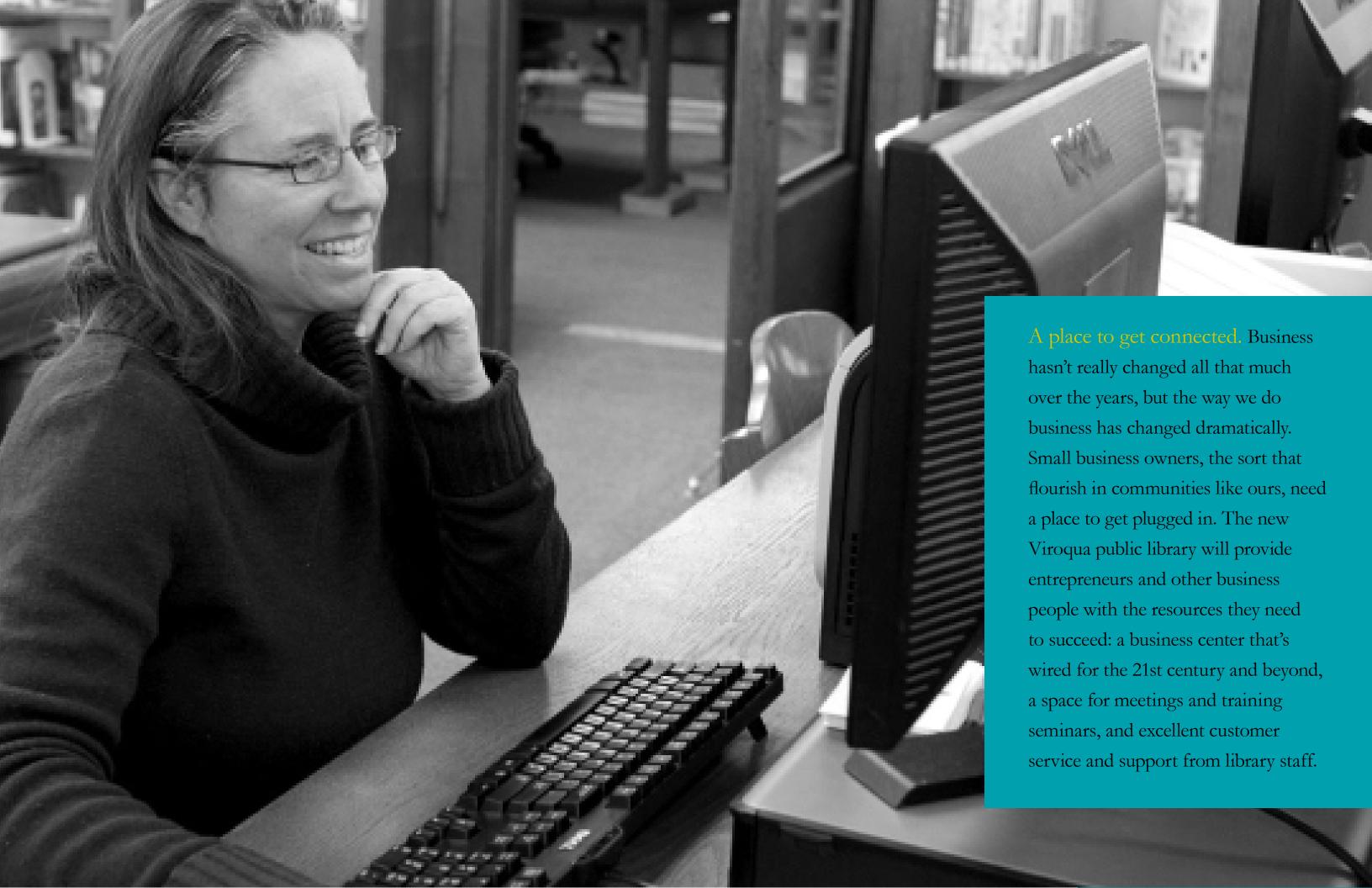
-Carl Sagan



Viroqua's public library has always been a place to explore, share, discover, and dream. But the existing library, which has served us well since 1904, can no longer provide all that our community needs to move boldly into the future. The time has come for a new library, one that's expansive enough to provide private reading spaces and public meeting places—a library that offers a warm, welcoming atmosphere and the latest resources and technology. It's time for a library that offers toddlers, teens, seniors—and lifetime learners of every age in between—a home away from home.







A place where all are welcome.

Firmly rooted in this place—honoring its history and unique cultural traditions the new public library will bring fresh energy and vitality to downtown Viroqua. Designed with long-term sustainability in mind, the structure and grounds will provide indoor and outdoor spaces that are light-filled, energetic, and harmonious—a celebration of our region's abundant natural beauty. At more than double the size of the existing library, the structure will house a much-expanded offering of books and other media as well as much-needed public spaces, including:

- A larger youth program room
- A senior center/community room
 - A conference room
- Both indoor and outdoor reading spaces

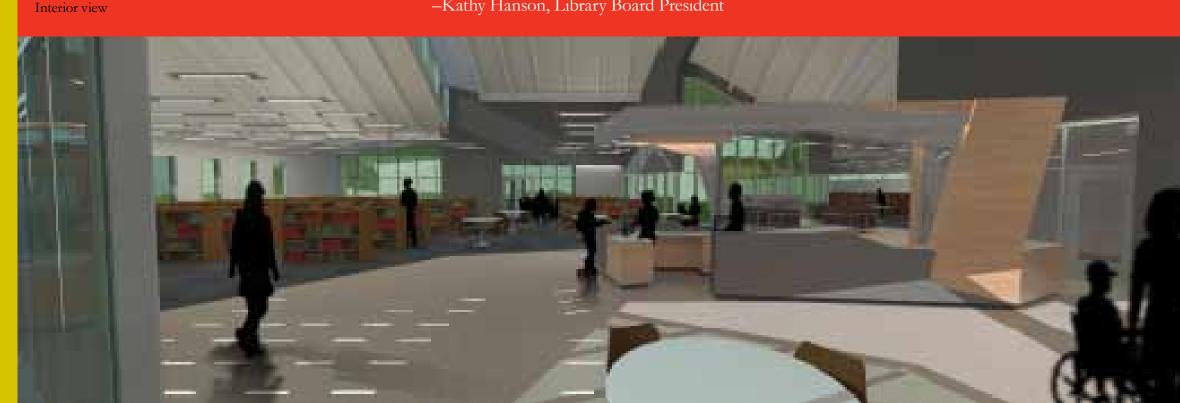
Viroqua's new public library will truly be a place our community will be proud to call its own!



Front elevation

The longtime dream of a new library is becoming a reality! The timing is perfect, as the need for a new facility is greater than ever. Library participation is at an all-time record level and our present structure is simply not adequate in terms of space and accessibility. The library serves as a center for information, technology, and programming opportunities in these times of economic pressures. A new facility will greatly expand our ability to serve the needs of the community!

-Kathy Hanson, Library Board President







A place to leave a legacy.

Our new library will be a community center where people of all ages will be able to access information, whether it's from books, tablets, or the latest technology available. This information will allow our patrons to find jobs, to reach academic goals, to learn about something of interest, or to just read for the fun of it.

-Angie Lawrence, Building Committee Member



In this age of technology are libraries really needed?

Libraries are more vital and necessary than ever! Numerous studies in Wisconsin and elsewhere reveal that public libraries have experienced a dramatic increase in usage, both in materials checked-out and program attendance, even while technology is more and more available in homes. Particularly in difficult economic times, libraries offer all people equal access to the tools they need to stay informed, educated, and connected.

How will the library use technology?

The new library will offer a wide range of technology-based resources and the training patrons need to learn how to use it. Resources will include online databases and collections, computer stations, laptops, e-book readers, and free Wi-Fi. The library will be flexible and scalable enough to accommodate fast-changing technology. Now more than ever, offering these resource is an important way that libraries serve and support their communities.

How will the library partner with Western Technical College?

WTC and the library will operate separate facilities, connected by a shared lobby. While the library is being constructed, WTC will remodel their existing building. The possibility of sharing resources such as parking, lobby space, landscaping, and heating and cooling systems creates opportunities for further cost savings.

Will the library have public meeting space?

There is a considerable need for public meeting space throughout the Viroqua community. The new library will provide sizeable public meeting space, with a separate outside entrance, which will allow the space to be used before and after library hours. The space will be designed to accommodate groups of different sizes and ages and will be available on a first come, first served basis.

How will the library partner with local businesses?

The library will have opportunities to work with local businesses by providing adequate space for the businesses to use if they have a meeting, reception or training needs. The library will also be able to work with businesses to bring speakers, seminars, and workshops to our community.



How much will the new library cost and how will it be paid for? The cost of constructing the new library is currently estimated at \$4 million. The project will be paid for with a combination of private funds and grants. A fundraising campaign is underway to help raise money for the construction of the new facility. Over \$1 million has already been pledged by community leaders who have stepped up to show their commitment to the new library!

What will it cost to operate the larger library and how will that be funded? The library will continue to be funded by the City of Viroqua, Vernon County, and surrounding counties. Energy modeling will be conducted to help project monthly utility costs. In addition, the new library will be a one-level structure, resulting in staffing efficiencies.

How will donors be recognized?

Every gift to the library is an important step toward making the vision of a new library a reality. Gifts will be recognized in many ways ranging from inscribed bricks and tiles, to a small number of naming opportunities. All gifts will be recognized in a prominent place in the library. While we feel strongly that support at all levels should be publicly acknowledged, anonymity will be strictly respected if requested. All donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

When will the new library be open to the public?

Groundbreaking is planned for the fall of 2013. Construction will take 14-16 months to complete. The opening date depends on many factors—funding, building design, and construction schedule—and will be announced as more information is available!

Donations can be sent directly to:

Viroqua Area Foundation
PO Box 262
Viroqua, WI 54665
www.viroquaareafoundation.org

Questions? Contact:

Library Director Trina Erickson at (608) 637-7151 ext. 5. t.erickson@wrlsweb.org Additional information can be found at: www.wrlsweb.org/viroqua.

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