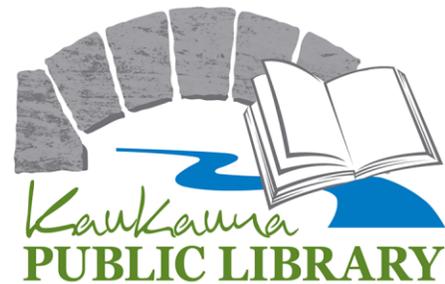


To: Kaukauna Public Library Board of Trustee  
From: Library Director Ashley Thiem-Menning  
Date: 2/12/2026  
Re: Carnegie Donation



We were notified in late 2025 that we were eligible to receive an unrestricted donation from the Carnegie Corporation in 2026 for being an original Carnegie library in operation. While we are no longer in the Carnegie building, we were still eligible for the donation.

We received the donation on February 10. It was quite serendipitous, because I had just asked the local historian to get me a quote to see how much it would cost for us to finish the microfilm digitization project. The project quote came back much higher than we anticipated because we had more reels to send than we had originally thought.

However, the funds from the Carnegie will cover almost 75% of the cost to finish the entire project. The Friends of the Library will cover the outstanding portion, so that we can complete it in two phases instead of three or more.

This is a major milestone in digital preservation. Until we sent our first batch of reels in, there were no records of the three Kaukauna papers available online or as searchable.

Since we are using NewspaperArchive as a host for the files, we purchased access originally just for library staff to utilize the records and then expanded access to cardholders last year. Anyone with a Kaukauna Library card can use it in house or remotely to search the Kaukauna newspapers or any other digitized Wisconsin newspapers. Without this resource, we would have had to go through the reels by hand to find the requested articles.

Once the entire collection is available online, all our reels (that we have the rights to) will be searchable and accessible for anyone with access to NewspaperArchive. We are extremely excited to be offering this to our community and for the preservation of our local documents. Our sincerest thanks go to the Carnegie Corporation of New York.

A press release was sent out to media on February 12, 2026. Fox 11 came and filmed, however, we do not believe the story has run yet.