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## Library Building Project Update

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Libraries are the hub of the community they serve. They are inclusive gathering spaces that make irreplaceable contributions to communities through resources, services, and engagement.

The idea of a new and improved library building for our community has been a dream for many years. It is with great pleasure that I can say the dream has finally become a reality. We break ground on the new library on July 29th!

With the expansion and renovation, the Irvin L. Young Memorial Library will meet the community's needs for many years to come. The additional 4,400 square feet and the redesigned existing space will make our library an even better place where people can come to read, learn, connect, create, and feel welcome. As our mission states "We will have the space and the stuff to do the things that you want."

I must thank our community for their dedication and generosity, as they are the individuals who made this dream possible. They believed in the vision and worked tirelessly to transform that vision into a reality. Special thanks must also go to former Library Director Stacey Lunsford, the Library Board of Trustees, the City Council, the Campaign Planning Committee, the 100 Extraordinary Women Planning Committee, and the Library Building Committee.

I met with Marisa Urbina, the architect we are working with from Studio GC, on April 29th, and she provided me with an updated timeline for construction. I have included that timeline along with the phases of construction below.

### **Preconstruction Timeline:**

May 3: The architect will submit for a Wisconsin State Permit.

May 16: The library building project will be out for bid.

May 21: A pre-bid meeting will occur.

June 13: The architect will submit for a Whitewater City Permit.

June 18: The opening of bids will occur and be reviewed and a letter of recommendation prepared for the Library Board of Trustees.

June 24: The Library Board of Trustees will hold a special meeting to approve a contractor for the building project.

July 29: Construction will begin.

**Construction Timeline:**

Phase 1 (July 29 -August 23, 2024): Demolition of the area to be renovated will occur, and the existing library building will be closed with no water service (approximately 4 weeks).

Phase 2 (August 23, 2024-May 30, 2025): The addition will be under construction, but the existing library building will be open.

Phase 3 (May 30 - October 17, 2025): The addition will be 90% complete, and the existing library building will be closed to public for renovation. Library services for the public will be operated out of the new addition.

Phase 4 (October 17, 2025): The library addition and renovated area will be complete.

I plan to keep the public updated on the building project through our website and informational flyers within the library. There is a section on our website [www.whitewaterlibrary.org](http://www.whitewaterlibrary.org) that is dedicated to the building project and that is where we will continue to make updates as they occur.