

March 18, 2011

Fowler Library To Open March 26th Library Trustees Raise Over \$3.4 million

The Fowler Library will once again be a busy place with young children and parents, middle schoolers, telecommuting adults, and seniors taking out materials, reading newspapers, using the Internet, working and meeting friends. This popular community center in West Concord has been renovated and redesigned with funds generously donated from local residents as well as \$375,000 of CPC funds for preservation of this historic building. The Trustees of the Library with architect J. Stewart Roberts and builders C.E. Floyd have completed the project on-time and on-budget. “The renovation of Fowler in 2011 completes our vision of two beautiful Library locations to serve the over 2,000 patrons that use our services every day,” said Sherry Litwack, President of the Library Corporation Board of Trustees.

What’s New

The new Fowler is now on two floors connected by an elevator and a beautiful glass-encased stairway. On the first floor patrons will first experience the familiar wood and glass entry way, which has been expanded to be handicapped accessible. Upon entering the building the new Young Adult Center, media area, and popular fiction and periodicals section are within easy reach. In the next room is the fiction collection with bookstore display shelving leading to the new Children’s Room addition. The beautiful new circular staircase surrounded by large windows brings in light and leads to the new lower level.

In the lower level, a cozy seating area just under the staircase is adjacent to tables for quiet work and study. The non-fiction collection is well lit with environmentally-friendly LED lighting and more bookstore display shelving. The new Community Meeting Room completes the downstairs space for patrons. “My colleagues and I are thrilled at how these renovated spaces will increase our capacity to fulfill the Library’s mission of meeting the informational and recreational reading needs of all ages while serving as a

community gathering place for culture, knowledge, and enrichment,” said Kerry Cronin, Library Director.

Additional enhancements include a new self-checkout station and an increased quantity of public computers. Non-public spaces include the addition of a new staff bathroom, office work space, and a lower level break room. Special Collections also has a substantial storage and archival area at Fowler, items from which will be periodically showcased in the custom-built display case on the first floor.

Friends with Programs

“We are delighted that the new Fowler has a community meeting room so that we can welcome more people to expand the audience for Friday Flicks at Fowler and bring other great programs to Fowler, as well as offer a place for other groups in the community to use for meetings,” said Claire Greene, President of the Friends of the Library. The Friends will continue to offer music, poetry, book discussions, and programs for all ages at both locations.

Funds for Fowler

“With overwhelming support from families in Concord who understand the value of having two Library locations offering free materials, concerts, readings, events and more to everyone, we have raised over \$3,420,000 for Fowler,” said Sue Gladstone, Development Director. The Trustees are grateful for the leadership donors who paved the way for this important renovation. The remaining \$80,000 to reach the goal of \$3.5 million needs to be raised from the community to complete the campaign that started in January 2008.

Opening Fowler

Fowler Library opens on Saturday, March 26th at 9AM. Library hours will be Mondays 9AM-7PM; Tuesdays and Wednesdays 9AM-6PM; Thursdays 1PM-6PM; Fridays 9AM-5PM; and Saturdays 9AM-5PM. Grand opening festivities are planned for May 14th. For more information visit the Library website at www.concordlibrary.org.