

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

With the internet and ebooks, are libraries irrelevant? Actually, the library is used now more than ever. Since the last renovation in 1986, the number of materials available at the Library has increased 62% and circulations have increased 86%. In the last year alone, visits to the library have increased 20%, attendance at programs has increased 23% and the summer reading program has grown by over 100%. Demand for internet and other technologies, non-existent in 1986, has grown to a major service.

Why are we looking at a building addition now? We have run out of space, the library is not completely accessible to people with disabilities, and maintenance of an aging structure has resulted in a patchwork of fixes.

But with the economy the way it is, isn't it a particularly bad time? Now is an ideal time to build because construction costs are down which will help to lower the cost of the project. Should we wait until the economy heats up, construction costs could rise appreciably.

How soon will building begin? As soon as the funds are raised construction can start. If we have the funds available, we could break ground as early as the summer of 2014.

Will the annual operating expenses of the Library increase? Creative design of the addition allows more space without the need for additional staff. With the energy saving features built into the design, utility expenses are not anticipated to increase.

How much will this project cost? The estimate of the construction cost is \$2.6 million. This investment will serve the community of Three Lakes well into the future. We have a great start on meeting this goal with a nearly \$400,000 gift from the Lawrence Demmer estate.

Will the Library be open during the construction? It is our intent that there will be no interruption in Library services. The plan is to construct the addition first while serving patrons out of the current building. When the addition is constructed, library services will move to that part of the building while the current structure is renovated.

Will there be more parking available? In the current plans, additional parking will not be available. There are other plans by the Town of Three Lakes that may provide more parking in the future.

Won't the addition impinge on the Three Lakes Museum and Historical Society? The addition will extend the current library to the west toward the Johnson House. There will still be room to drive between the two structures. Alternative entrances and exits are being considered as plans develop.

What is the Three Lakes Public Library Foundation? TLPLF is a 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation dedicated to insuring the future of public library services in Three Lakes. It was founded in 2003 for the purpose of accepting major donations and seeking grants from Foundations.

What are the major features of the Demmer building and renovation?

- Additional 4000 square feet of space
- New Children's area and increased young adult space
- Enhanced Local History Section
- Places for quiet study
- Upgrades to accommodate patrons with disabilities
- Additional public computers and seating for patrons using electronic media
- Green technology including solar panels
- Abundant natural lighting

What type of green technology will be incorporated?

- Low Energy Lighting
- Ultra-High Efficiency Boilers and Heating Equipment
- Energy Management Programs
- Solar – Photovoltaic panels to produce electricity
- High Efficiency Windows

Will my taxes increase? Our goal is to complete the project without using property tax dollars. That is why we are starting our fundraising campaign now. We will be seeking private donations, corporate donations, public grants and trust and foundation funding.

Why should Three Lakes support the Edward U. Demmer Memorial Library? The “Demmer” is the heart and soul of Three Lakes. Public libraries provide people of all backgrounds and interests with free access to information and entertainment. They provide internet and computer access to all and provide a neutral place for people to meet. It is a free source of educational opportunities and lifelong learning. The “Demmer” makes Three Lakes a more vibrant and attractive community.