



The Window

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Campaign Goes Public with \$500,000 Buchanan Pledge

Ellen and John Buchanan of Iowa City have pledged a \$500,000 gift to the Iowa City Public Library Friends Foundation's "Reaching for New Heights" campaign to expand the Library and enhance its permanent endowment, ICPL officials announced May 16. The Buchanans' gift was among \$900,000 in gifts and pledges raised to date toward an overall goal of \$3.5 million.

In recognition of their leadership gift to the Library campaign, the expanded children's area will be named the **Ellen Buchanan Children's Room**, according to library director Susan Craig.

The Friends Foundation has embarked on a two-pronged goal to raise \$1.5 million toward the \$18.4 million Library expansion project approved by Iowa City voters last November. In addition, the Foundation is raising \$2 million to increase the Library's endowment fund. Half of the Buchanans' \$500,000 pledge is earmarked for the Library building expansion, scheduled to begin at the end of the year. The remaining \$250,000 is pledged to the endowment fund. This is in addition to the Buchanans' \$525,000 deferred gift, which they promised to the Library in 1993.

Of the \$900,000 raised so far by the Friends Foundation, just over \$550,000 has been earmarked for the building project, according to Julie Pulkrabek, Friends Foundation Board president. Once in place, the \$1.5 million will be given to the City to reduce the bond debt used to finance construction and renovation of the expanded Library.

The Foundation also announced a Sept. 22 kick-off date for the public phase of the campaign. An array of family-oriented activities is planned in the Library and on City Plaza, including painting the construction fence to be erected around the former Leno & Cilek building just west of the Library. The building will be razed in October for the new 57,000-square-foot addition to the existing Library building. When completed, the Library will expand to over 83,000-square-feet. Some 20,000-square-feet of the new structure will be returned to retail and commercial use at the conclusion of the expansion project.

"John and I love being part of a community that values and supports its public library," said Ellen Buchanan, a longtime ICPL volunteer who hosts "One of a Kind," a program featuring interviews with prominent Iowa Citizens, which is cablecast on The



John and Ellen Buchanan (center) join library director Susan Craig and ICPL development director Larry Eckholt at May 16 announcement of their \$500,000 Library pledge.

Buchanan Pledge

Library Channel. "Libraries in general—and this library in particular—touch something deep within my core."

"There is no more egalitarian institution than a free public library which Andrew Carnegie envisioned over 100 years ago," said John Buchanan. "So it is with great pride that we help to continue that vision for a private and public partnership to help keep the Iowa City Public Library at the forefront of library institutions."



Ellen Buchanan and Chuck Huss

The Library has applied for a \$150,000 Challenge Grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, which must be matched on a 4-to-1 basis if the grant is approved, according to Larry E. Eckholt, the Library's director of development and public relations. The Library received a \$125,000 NEH Challenge Grant in 1986 which became the catalyst for creating the Library's Centennial Endowment Fund.

Since then, the Library's endowment has generated \$700,000 in direct support to the Library, according to Eckholt. The 1986 federal grant was matched on a 3-to-1 basis. NEH guidelines require that an organization must match a second Challenge Grant on a 4-to-1 basis. The Library will learn later in the year if it is awarded the grant.

Public Phase of Campaign Kicks Off Sept. 22

Plans for the Sept. 22 kick-off of the public phase of the "Reaching for New Heights" campaign are shaping up with a full day of activities designed for the entire community.

Kids will be invited to join Iowa City artist Deanne Wortman in painting plywood panels for the construction fence that will be erected around the former Leno & Cilek building just west of the Library. Children also will be able to decorate plastic "hard hats" to wear at groundbreaking ceremonies later in the year.

In keeping with the "Reaching for New Heights" theme, a variety of climbing and rappelling demonstrations will be scheduled. A literary scavenger hunt, a street dance and outdoor movie also are in the planning stages. Dr. Chuck Huss, campaign honorary co-chair, will present a slide show of his ascent of Mount Everest in 2000.

Watch for details in the special "Welcome Window" edition of the Library's newsletter, published in early September.



Stormy Weather

What happens at the Library when severe weather threatens....

In an average year about 35 tornadoes are spotted in Iowa, although most cause little or no damage. Nevertheless, the Library is committed to providing the highest possible degree of safety for the public and our staff when a severe weather alert has been issued for the Iowa City area.

When weather reports have indicated the possibility of severe weather, ICPL staff monitor local weather station broadcasts and the City's emergency radio. If a weather "Watch" is issued, staff are alerted that conditions exist that might pose a threat, but no announcement is made. If a "Severe Thunderstorm Warning" is issued, an announcement is made over the public address system, but patrons and staff may use the Library as usual.

When a "Tornado Warning" has been issued—by the City emergency radio, a local weather broadcast or the sirens have blown—an announcement is made. The public is instructed to move to areas that have been designated as safe shelter (the Library garage and our meeting rooms) and the Library ceases normal operations.

Staff members are assigned to assist people in moving to safety and then to specific shelter areas to answer questions throughout the emergency. Safety areas are equipped with battery-operated radios and flashlights in the event that the electricity goes off. The public may leave the building by designated doors at any time but may not move freely about the building.

People coming to the Library after we have taken shelter have the option of staying in the safety of our meeting rooms. But, in order to maintain the safety of staff and the public, we do not allow movement across the main floor open area of the Library to get to or from the garage area. We do not allow use of the telephone during the emergency to protect users from possible electrocution and to keep our line free for calls coming in related to the emergency. When we are informed that the all-clear is given, the Library will resume normal hours and operations.



We understand that these procedures can sometimes be an inconvenience or cause anxiety when you desire to be with your loved ones. We ask your patience as we do all that we can to provide for the safety of visitors and staff.

Barbara Black
Technical Services Coordinator