

## ✓ What's the status of the new library project?

Plans to modify blueprints to be more affordable, promote fundraising events, and research loans/financial partnerships are the current focal point of the new library project. The economic situation over the past two years has made fundraising challenging, but as the pandemic is reaching less dire proportions, and as individuals and businesses adjust to the new normal, we feel comfortable continuing our mission.

## ✓ What we've raised

So far, the campaign total for gifts/pledges and Foundation donations have reached \$1,159,103.25, an impressive amount, especially in an Appalachian community. Approximately 630 constituents have committed to the project, totaling nearly 1,570 gifts and pledges! To all of those who have supported us monetarily, in encouragement, or both, we extend our deepest gratitude!

## ✓ What's taking so long?

The Next Chapter new main library original plans were developed over six years and one world pandemic ago. Since that time, the economy has suffered, building material costs skyrocketed, citizens were encouraged to stay in their homes for safety, and projects with high priority (like our new main library) had to take a backseat to general survival and the overall health and wellness of the community. Grant and funding opportunities became even more competitive, and the ability of individuals and businesses to sponsor such projects became severely limited. In addition, finding funding sources for infrastructure projects is extremely difficult. Most grant/sponsorship opportunities are available for projects already in place, not for projects starting from the ground up.

The inflation of building materials costs and services prices is another issue the library faces. The \$3M facility that was designed in 2015 would most likely cost over \$4M today. The library is currently working to adjust the building design to better fit within the budget. Alternative fundraising options are being looked into, such as a private developer

partnership, loans against our Public Library Funding we receive from the state, loans from the USDA, and adjusting the amount of our operating levy.

### ✓ I don't live in Waverly, why should I care about the new library?

Individuals from all parts of Pike County would reap the benefits of a new main library facility, either directly or indirectly. More space and a different location provide opportunities for mentor programs, increased participation in educational programming, an increase in the number of materials we offer, more technology space for job search help, and other excellent benefits. All branches of the Garnet A. Wilson Public Library of Pike County are important, and it's through a strong main branch that we can focus on important community needs in each corner of the county.

### ✓ What does the library offer?

The public library welcomes and includes people from all diversities, age, income level, race, religion or identification. The library is literally for everyone. Since opening in 1939, GAWPL has provided the community with free resources, programs of interest, and access to technology. Since expanding to four locations in each part of the county, the library has extended its services to not only provide better materials, but to provide community collaboration. As an example, the library is proud to partner with First National Bank by providing a designated space inside our Eastern and Western locations to offer their services. Rural community members can go to their local library and do their banking all in the same place without excessive travel. Other important services offered are as follows:

- Book/Audiobook/DVD/Hotspot/Laptop borrowing
- Print/Copy/Fax/Scan/Lamination
- Internet Access/Wi-Fi/Wireless Printing
- Storytime/Young Adult & Adult Programming/Homebound services
- Community Outreach/Voter Registration/Exam Proctoring

...and much more!

It may be taking longer than originally anticipated, but rest assured we are still working hard to make our new main library a reality. We extend our deepest appreciation to our patrons and our community for not only financially supporting our library, but also for the patience that has been shown and the continued encouragement we receive on a daily basis.

Many naming opportunities are still available. Donations can be made directly to the library, and also to the Pike County Library Foundation, Inc., a 501 (c)(3) organization. If you are interested in making a donation towards The Next Chapter and our new main library facility, please contact the library for more information. Or to make a donation online, visit [www.pikecountylibrary.org/donate](http://www.pikecountylibrary.org/donate).