

Look What's Happening: Chetco Library Gets a New Interior in 2021!

For Immediate Release
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This summer, the Chetco Community Public Library will go through a major interior renovation to better serve the needs of the community. After nearly 30 years of operation, our beautiful building deserves new carpet, fresh paint, and a layout that better meets the needs of our patrons today.

During the strategic planning process in 2019, the library connected with community members and multiple stakeholders to gather ideas and input. We also conducted a space audit to learn how to best use our spaces, and a facilities study to help with long range facilities planning. These efforts led us to this renovation.

Vibrant new spaces will engage adults and children alike. The new design will have several key elements including a new meeting room, a new quiet reading room, dedicated private work spaces, a makerspace and craft area, a new teen space and an enclosed children's library with a museum-quality interactive installation. Lighting is being upgraded to increase efficiency and decrease electric costs, and lots of new comfortable work and study spaces will be added, all with easy access to power.

"Input during the strategic planning process showed us that we needed to update our spaces in several ways in order to meet users' needs," said Julie Retherford, the library's Director. "This renovation will cater to the whole community. We heard that we needed more meeting spaces and flexible furniture to allow the library to be used in a variety of ways, so we listened. We are excited about the changes, and we think the community is going to love them, too."

Approved by the Library's Board of Directors, this project will be funded with no new taxes or debt. The full cost of the renovation, approximately \$1 million, will come from the Library Improvement Fund, which was established many years ago to repair, maintain, and expand the library as needs arose. The library expects work to begin in May and continue into early Fall. During that time, the Main Library will be closed and the library will operate out of the Library Annex across the street at 402 Alder Street.

HGE Architects out of Coos Bay has been chosen to lead the architectural work, and a designer from Engberg Anderson Architects in Chicago, IL is leading the design. David Vinjamuri with ThirdWay Brand Trainers is helping to manage the project to ensure all parties stay on track with our original Strategic Goals.

The bidding process for the renovation project is underway and is being advertised in the Curry Pilot and other Oregon newspapers. The library will unseal and read bids on April 6, 2021 at 2:15pm in an online Zoom meeting.

For more information about the Library's renovation plans, visit our website at www.chetcolibrary.org.