

Heading soon to Schavey Road



KATHY KIELISZEWSKI/Lansing State Journal

Moving on: Steve Baeske packs for the DeWitt Public Library's move to its new home on Schavey Road. Opening of the new library is tentatively set for Aug. 10.

DeWitt community counts days for the move to its new library

DEWITT — The DeWitt area soon will have a new, user-friendly library with space for more books, specialized reading areas, handicapped access, current technology and lots of parking.

It's the DeWitt Public Library Board's 2000 Project come true. Opening of the library opening at 13101 Schavey Road is tentatively set for Aug. 10.

"For five years we worked toward a new library and, with a lot of help from the community, it is now a reality," said Joe DeFors, library board trustee and construction coordinator.

"This is truly a community project, which will in turn return benefits to the community."

There have been highs and lows in the library campaign.

"Most satisfying to me is the volunteer effort from the DeWitt community — we have had everyone from Boy Scouts packing books and high schoolers painting walls, DeWitt organizations and the DeWitt business community offering support," DeFors said.

It's not unusual for people to simply knock on the door and offer help — from cleaning the blinds to washing the windows. Support for the library comes in many forms.

When Judy Gerred, the DeWitt library's director, looks around the library in progress, she doesn't see bare walls, unfinished floors and holes in the ceiling.



Sally Trout

She visualizes shelves with books, children in their own special reading room, an area for taped books, an adolescent readers' corner, a computer niche and a local history room.

"Once we are open, I expect library usage to double, especially with this new location close to the area's family population center," she said.

Laura Webb, the library board treasurer, keeps close tabs on the library dollars.

The new library building, bought for \$450,000, is all paid for. DeWitt city and township each put up \$150,000. Money came from library savings and a major gift from Marilyn Woodruff Morris on behalf of the Woodruff family. There were gifts of time, labor and materials from residents and businesses.

"It's a big plus to have the building paid for, but we don't know what operating costs will be in the new building," she said.

In November, the board will ask DeWitt city and township taxpayers to approve a 0.5 mill tax for six years. That would cost the owner of a \$100,000 home \$25 a year.

The levy, if approved, would pay for the second phase in the new library's development — more books, technology, library hours, staff and added building furnishings.

More on transplants

A Saturday story about Don Burke and Dennis O'Brien, both of Mason, shows the value of organ donation.

Each received a kidney in June and both are recovering nicely. For those interested in the organ donation program, here is some information:

■ First, discuss with family members your wishes at time of death and loved ones' wishes, because organ or tissue donations must have consent of next of kin.

■ Contact Gift of Life, the state certified organ-recovery agency with 1,621 people on a kidney waiting list, at 1-800-482-4881.

■ Donors should indicate preferences on the back of driver's license or state identification card. A donor registry card also is available at secretary of state branch offices.

What do you think? Call Sally Trout at 377-1040, or send a fax, 377-1298. Her column runs Tuesdays and Saturdays.



PEOPLE NEWS

By Vickki Dozier

In and around Lansing **Celebrate library's opening**

Come attend the grand opening celebration of the new DeWitt Public Library from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday at 13101 Schavey Road in DeWitt.

Festivities will include a ribbon-cutting ceremony, free door-prize drawings for a handmade quilt, local merchant gifts and refreshments.

The move into the new facility has been made possible by donations of time, services and money by individuals and businesses in the community and by the support of the City of DeWitt and DeWitt Township governments.

The event is sponsored by the Friends of the DeWitt Public Library.