



## The Newsletter of the Argyle Public Library Building Committee

# Off the Shelf

March/April 2022

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### Patron's View: Adrianna Gale

Adrianna Gale and her husband Spencer moved to the Argyle area six years ago, where they now live with their three young children Remi (7), Bear (5), and Raquel (3). As a homeschooling mother of three, Adrianna makes use of both the Monroe and Argyle Public Libraries. She uses Monroe's library where there is more space for story times and children's activities, but often chooses to use the Argyle Public Library



because it is closer and provides a “personalized, small town feel,” and she provided some examples.

She remembers very well her first visit to the Argyle Public Library. Having just moved here she didn't have a library card yet. So the librarian offered to let her take some books with her that day, and get a library card on her next visit. Adrianna said she was surprised that a library would offer this great service and be so friendly.

Another example of the Argyle library's personal service is how the librarians have gotten to know her family over the years. With a simple phone call she can tell the librarians what subjects the children are interested in, and they prepare a bag of materials for her to pick up. This saves time and helps to keep the children engaged in a wide variety of topics and excited about learning.

Adrianna loves to read, but as a busy mother she often does not have time to sit down with a book. Her solution is the Argyle Public Library's audiobooks. Now with a set of earphones she can “read” while doing other tasks.

Regarding the search for a larger home for the Library, Adrianna says that a larger space would provide opportunities to attend more types of programs, meet other moms, and have a more comfortable space for children's story times and other activities.

“Libraries are like a second home for us. We enjoy the interactions with our librarians and the different programs that they offer for children. The Argyle Library is such a great resource for our community.” 🐾

**Learn about the project! Over→**

## New Library Project

- Complete a library space assessment for the community (Fall 2020)
- Site visit and community presentation by John Thompson, Director IFLS Library System of west-central Wisconsin (June 2021)
- Form a Building Committee (June 2021)
- Visit area libraries that recently were built or remodeled (July 2021)
- Carry out a community survey to learn what people want in a new library (Fall 2021, survey results are available at the library)
- Complete Articles of Incorporation for Friends of the Argyle Public Library (Jan 2022)
- Apply to IRS for nonprofit status for Friends of the Argyle Public Library
- Explore sites and funding options including grants, loans, private donations (ongoing)
- Identify a site
- Retain an architect
- Get architectural renderings
- Launch fundraising campaign
- Look at design options and gather community input
- Final selection of design plan
- Select contractors and complete construction

### About the Building Committee

The Committee is made up of 15 community members working to find a larger space for the Argyle Public Library. The need for a larger library was recognized as far back as 2004. A formal space assessment completed last year said that a community Argyle's size should have a library with a minimum of 3000-4000 square feet of space, compared to the current library of only 900 square feet.

The most critical factor is that the current library is not fully accessible to those using walkers, strollers, and wheelchairs. It also lacks sufficient space for children's story times and for chairs for people to sit. Why now? A new crop of programs, stimulus funds, and foundation grants has become available to help pay for a library project like ours, and the Committee sees this as the right time to move forward.

To stay informed, find *Off the Shelf* in the *Pecatonica Valley Leader*, at the library, or on the library's website. Subscribe by sending an email to [communicationscommittee53504@gmail.com](mailto:communicationscommittee53504@gmail.com).

**Mission Statement: To move the Argyle Public Library to a fully accessible space that will better serve the needs of all patrons and that can also be used for community events such as meetings, lectures, and elections.**