

## **Atchison County Library Provides Update on New Library and Community Center Project**

The Atchison County Library remains committed to bringing a new library and community center to Rock Port and is pleased to provide an update on the project's progress.

Since announcing plans for the new facility, the library has continued working diligently with architects, engineers, community partners, and funding agencies to move the project forward. While the original timeline anticipated an earlier start to construction, the project has experienced delays due to an extended timeline associated with the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) process, which will fund the demolition of the existing structures located on the future building site.

The library is grateful for the opportunity to utilize grant funding for demolition, as it represents a significant cost savings for taxpayers and allows more project funds to be directed toward construction of the new facility. However, the grant process includes several federal and state requirements that have taken longer than originally anticipated to complete.

Although these additional steps have pushed back the project's schedule, library leadership remains confident that the new library and community center will be completed within the next two years.

"We understand that many community members are eager to see construction begin, and we share that excitement," said Library Director Jennifer Danley. "While the grant process has extended our timeline, it is ultimately helping us maximize available funding and ensure that we move forward responsibly. We remain fully committed to this project and are confident that our community will soon see the vision become a reality."

The planned facility will provide a modern, multipurpose space designed to serve residents of all ages throughout Atchison County. Features will include a dedicated children's area, genealogy room, computer lab, community conference room, indoor walking track, expanded book collections, family restrooms, outdoor green space, and areas for gathering, studying, and lifelong learning.

The new library and community center will replace the current Rock Port library building, which was constructed in 1851 and has faced increasing structural challenges in recent years. Once completed, the new facility will serve as a hub for education, technology, recreation, and community engagement for generations to come.

The Atchison County Library appreciates the community's patience and continued support as the project advances through the final planning and site preparation stages. Additional updates will be shared as milestones are reached.

Residents can continue to follow the project's progress through the library's website, social media channels, and local news outlets.