

**PRESS RELEASE**
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**County Library Board Plans Renovations**

(WYNNE) In a called session yesterday afternoon, the Cross County Library Board of Trustees took action on many renovation tasks to improve library facilities for the community.

The Board received and approved plans from Wynne native and architect Colley Burrow of the Little Rock architectural firm of Fennell-Purifoy for Phase II renovations to the old Burnett Drug building on Front Street in Downtown Wynne. The Library is converting the structure into a “Center for Lifelong Learning” to house and expand educational programs, host the library’s collection of Delta-related artworks, and to house offices. The project should go to bid within the coming weeks, and will include ADA-compliant restrooms, mechanical and janitorial workroom, lobby and space for the Cross County Adult Education program operated by Arkansas State University Mid-South in roughly half of the first floor. The remaining space on the first floor will be used for community events and hopefully will be renovated into meeting rooms and exhibit space. A portion of these renovations are being generously funded by a grant from the Cross County Community Foundation.

In other business, the Board approved setting aside $32,882 to match a state historic preservation grant which the Library applied for earlier in the year. If this grant is awarded, it will provide $95,258.00 for window and door replacement, repointing masonry, and other activities to insure the long term-preservation of the Center for Lifelong Learning building.

The Board was apprised of the status of replacement and reconstruction of the roof on the main library building on Merriman Avenue. After a late start, crews began work in early June. The project, which is being funded by Cross County on the county-owned building should be complete within the next few weeks. While waiting on the re-roofing, the library’s roof was badly damaged in the storm of May 22nd. The Board was also apprised of work to be done due to that storm and the resulting insurance claim.

The Board also approved expenditures for the Wynne library for creation of two group study rooms and a small meeting room, furnishings, a new circulation desk, relocation of some library offices, and various painting projects. All of these renovations will take place inside the footprint of the existing building and no new construction is necessary.

The public libraries of Cross and Woodruff Counties will be reopening to the public on June 15th.

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