

Norfolk Insider

City of Norfolk, NE

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August 24, 2010

“Library Heating and Cooling Project Started”



No one will be happier to see cooler fall weather than City of Norfolk library director Mike Caldararo and the City of Norfolk library staff. They made do without air conditioning in the library this summer by adjusting hours of operation and event times, using portable air conditioners and fans, and wearing cooler, more comfortable clothes to work. Although there weren't a lot of complaints from library users, patrons and staff alike are happy that work on the installation of the new library heating and air conditioning equipment began August 11. Work on it and an updated lighting system should be completed by the beginning of November.

Late last summer, the air conditioner at the library gave out and bids were obtained for a new system. The contractor at the time had not calculated costs correctly so the library needs had to be re-evaluated and bids put out again postponing the installment of the equipment until now. Volkman Plumbing and Heating in Norfolk was ultimately awarded the bid for the project.

Caldararo said he is grateful for the patience of the library patrons this summer and asks that they continue to be flexible about library usage as contract workers will be doing much of the lighting upgrades and HVAC construction during regular library hours.

“The entire air handler and boiler have to be removed. There are massive pieces of equipment that will take time to get out of the mechanical room. A new wall and a new door are also being installed to ensure that the room for the new equipment meets health and safety code standards,” Caldararo said.

Caldararo said that he hopes disruptions will be kept to a minimum but the library may be closed for periods of time if the work inside becomes a hazard to library patrons, is too noisy or power needs to be shut off. In order to protect library materials, parts of the library may be closed off while work is done in certain areas. Work that causes the most disruption will be done from 4:00 am to noon when there is less traffic at the library.

Knowing that snow can fly in October, Caldararo said that plans have been made to bring in portable heating units to provide heat if needed before the new heat and cooling system is operable.

“The staff and I are excited about the improved lighting and updated heating and cooling that will soon be in operation at the library. We thank members of the community for their understanding as work gets underway on this major improvement project,” Caldararo said.

Any changes in library hours will be posted on the City of Norfolk website at <http://ci.norfolk.ne.us/library>.