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"Norfolk Public Library expansion/renovation project beginning soon"



Bookshelves are being moved and seating areas rearranged in the Norfolk Public Library in preparation for the expansion and renovation of the library planned to begin next week.

Jessica Chamberlain, Norfolk Public Library Director, said that since construction will begin on the north side of the library, a temporary wall will be placed inside the library about 50 feet south of the north wall of the library.

"Our priority is to keep the library resources available to our patrons as best as we can in the coming months. We are going to have major construction going on which means we'll be adjusting where things will be as we go along. Just ask a member of the library staff if you need help finding something," Chamberlain said.

A half-cent sales tax that expires after 36 months was approved by Norfolk voters in 2014 for the expansion and renovation of the library. No money was borrowed for the project so the necessary funds needed to be collected before any construction could begin. The City has been collecting the funds since the spring of 2015.

Street staff member Ron Stender, Library staff members Amy Fuxa and Judy Hilkekmann, and Street staff member Tom Marks move books and shelves in preparation for library construction.

The expansion and renovation plans include the addition of 16,000 square feet to the library that is expected to satisfy the community's library building needs for the next 20 years. It's estimated that the construction will be

completed in Spring 2018.

“We’re excited for the construction to begin and we know that our patrons are excited for increased parking, larger space, drive up access to the book drop and more room for the children and teens,” Chamberlain said.

For more information about the library expansion and renovation go to norfolkne.gov/library