



Contributed image

An artist's image of how Waynesville's Mary L. Cook Library will look after an addition is placed onto the building.

Fundraising eyed for library addition

By **JESSE REEVES**
THE WESTERN STAR

Waynesville's public library — the Mary L. Cook Public Library — is embarking on a fundraiser to round out the money needed to complete its remodeling projects.

The total cost of the project is \$983,000. An addition will be added to the building at a cost of \$600,000, the interior renovation will cost \$246,000 and the rest of the total cost goes to insurance, soil borings, fees, permits, etc.

Library officials say they have \$805,000, which is enough money for the addition itself — \$600,000 — but short of the total which would include remodeling the inside of the building.

Fundraising committees have been formed and the officials are ready to try and raise the money for the project, since the total amount for both the addition and interior projects are needed to begin work.

MKC Associates, Inc., of Mansfield are the architects in

charge and will be doing both the building addition and interior renovation. Since they are doing both parts, they require the total amount before beginning.

Concerning fundraising, the first option will be approaching individuals and corporations for donations. Larger donations might allow a room to be named after someone or a business. The library will institute a direct mailing campaign for this.

A heritage walk will also be in front of the addition with bricks inscribed by those who purchase one.

To get area children involved, the library will be encouraging youngsters to gather a "mile of pennies." With a roll of pennies equaling three inches in length, a mile would bring in \$10,000. Also, the library will ask area businesses to place jars by their cash registers for the collection of pennies.

"We're trying to let people know that we have the money for the addition, but we just need a little extra for interior renovations," said Executive Director Linda Swartzel.

Those renovations include providing two new rooms (a children's department and a young adults room), doubling the Ohioana Room — a room dedicated to local history and genealogy, adding reading and computer areas and moving the circulation desk to the middle of the building.

"Our community is growing and the library needs to grow to fulfill our mission and doing what the patrons are asking of us," Swartzel said.

The library just received a conditional use zoning status for the addition from the village's planning commission on May 23. This was necessary to approve the addition of the extra square footage. There will be 4,680 square-feet added to make a total of 12,780 square-feet for the library located at 381 Old Stage Road.

A groundbreaking is expected sometime in 2002, but officials are not certain of when.

To contact the library with questions of the fundraiser or building projects, call (513) 897-4826.