

# Public library hopes to expand

Are you planning a party but don't have a room big enough to handle all of the guests you'd like to invite? And you can't afford to rent a private facility? Call the library! They've got exactly what you need, for free!

Need a couple of quiet hours alone, away from the kids? Take them to Story Time, which is held Monday and Thursday. It's a free movie, which is both educational and entertaining, and it's all compliments of the library.

How about that craft or hobby everyone is always advising you to show off? The library is ready again, with display space that is prominent, centrally located, and, once again, it is free.

Maybe you have a vision problem or other physical handicap which prevents you from reading. The Thomas Public Library can provide you with large print books or with talking books, at no charge. If you don't have a record player, the library can provide that as well.

From framed art prints, to film and film projectors, these services and many others are available at the library, but the library also needs your help.

According to Milton Brown, co-chairman of the building fund committee, the library needs approximately \$160,997 to cover the cost of expansion. The 6,773 square foot expansion is required in order to meet American Library Association (ALA) standards for adequate service. If the facility does not meet these demands, all state funds to the library will be discontinued.

The library was built in 1971, with a 19,000 book capacity, which is considered adequate for a town of 7,000. ALA standards call for a 66,000 book capacity which is considered adequate to meet the next countywide census, predicted to be 23,232. Library Director Jimmy Smith added, however, "We feel almost certain that this addition will be adequate for the next 40 years."

Plans are already underway for a 4,000 square foot library in Byron which will solve a similar problem at the public library there.

Included in the expansion plans at Thomas Public Library are: increasing the seating capacity from 42 to 84, increasing work space from 410 to 2,500 square feet, enlarging the study area to include additional large study tables as well as individual study carrels, expanding the staff work area and renovating the assembly room. In

addition, several new areas will be added to the building, including an audio visual room, a small meeting room, a room specifically for special collections, genealogy, and local history, microfilm readers and an area for them, and a talking book area. Although the staff work area will be enlarged, there will be no increase in the number of personnel.

The state is providing two-thirds of the \$482,932 building program, but the remainder must be raised locally. Although pledges do not have to be paid until August 1983, the funds must be pledged by August 15 of this year. All donations are tax deductible, and according to library officials, can be spread out over two fiscal years.

During the next three weeks, Friends of the Library members plan to conduct a community wide fund raising drive, and will be going on a house to house canvass to explain all about the expansion plans. The door to door campaign is slated for August 9 to August 15.

At the most recent check, library officials report that the fund-raising effort has "gotten off to a healthy start, thanks to 10 individuals, two of whom

gave one per cent each of the total amount needed."

Co-chairman Brown added that the amount of the donation is not what is being stressed. "We are asking for community-wide support," he said. "The widow's mite, or the businessman's or industrialist's mite, we are not shunning any contribution."

Construction is expected to begin next fall, and all work should be completed by that Christmas. According to both Brown and Smith, the work is not expected to interrupt service at the library at all. "The plans have been very carefully scheduled so that there will be as little disturbances as possible," Smith explained.

The library presents special features such as these free of charge, year round, to adults as well as children. Few other organizations offer so much to so many, for a small amount of

For more information about what is going on at the library and what you can do to help the expansion, contact Library Director Jimmy Smith at 825-8540.