

Library History

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Read how this library was established and how it has evolved to become such an important part of our community.

The Cushing Community had its beginning in April of 1999 when representatives of the River Valley Middle School met with the Cushing City Council to discuss a proposal for a school and community library, which would be housed in the Middle School that was located in Cushing at that time. An agreement was reached and an election was held to withdraw from the Woodbury County Library System that had provided the services of a bookmobile for many years. This action became effective on July 1, 2000. The Cushing School and Community Library officially opened in June of 2001. The opening of this facility offered many services for the residents of Cushing and the surrounding rural area. Services included summer reading programs, author talks, a book discussion group, and children's story hours in addition to the availability of print, audio and video materials for checkout. Barbara Miller was hired as the first library director; she served in this capacity until March of 2006. The Library Board of Trustees included representatives from the River Valley Community School, the Cushing City Council and the community at large. The members of the initial board were Connie Baumann, Julie DeStigter, Jerry Hylar, Sandra Johnson, Virginia Reyman, Mavis Smith, Gail Stanton, and Lee Nette Wiese. Virginia Reyman was elected chairperson of the board and Mavis Smith was selected as secretary. According to the Library Ordinance, the city clerk, LeeNette Wiese, automatically became the treasurer.

In April 2004 notification was received from the River Valley School that the Cushing building would be closed on July 31, 2005. Thus, the library partnership would discontinue. A discussion needed to be made regarding the continuation and relocation of the community part of that library.

In August of 2004 the Cushing City Council purchased a building at 202 Main Street for this purpose. This building had formerly housed Stoneking's Plumbing and Heating and prior to that Fritz Hettwer's grocery store. A Steering committee consisting of members from the City Council, the Library Board, and the community was formed. Margaret Crow and Don Joy Jr. from the City Council, Virginia Reyman and Lee Nette Wiese from the Library Board, and Dave Wiese from the community at large served on this committee. Flyers were distributed to the entire community soliciting help for remodeling this building and relocating the library. In April of 2005 the first of many *Wednesday Night Work Nights* was held with many volunteers coming to do whatever they could to help renovate the building and get the library moved. For the next year, volunteers worked faithfully and diligently to create a warm and comfortable environment for the library. They literally shed blood, sweat and tears. Over fifty volunteers that ranged in age from 10 to 85 contributed over 2500 hours toward this effort.

An Open House was held at the new location on June 10, 2006 with many community members and local dignitaries in attendance. Representatives from the Missouri River Historical Development organization were also present.