

CHAMBER CHAT

Vermillion Area Chamber of Commerce & Development Company
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Chamber Business:
The VCDC is the sponsor for Free Fridays at the National Music Museum throughout the month of May. Wind down after a busy week by touring the galleries of this amazing museum, located here in our own community!
Also, don't miss the fun on Friday and Saturday, May 3 (4-8 p.m.) and May 4 (9 a.m.-5 p.m.) at the museum's open house. Features include the celebrity guitar

exhibition including one played by Elvis Presley, the Elvis motorcycle from Pioneer Auto Show in Murdo, and Memphis BBQ (served both days)!
Business After Hours and Open House at Vermillion Ace Hardware, 812 Cottage Ave., Thursday, May 9 from 5-8 p.m. Please join us to make new contacts, socialize and find out what Ace Hardware has to offer! Appetizers and refreshments will be served.
Vermillion Public Library Dedication and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, Saturday, June 1 at 2 p.m., 18 Church St. The public is invited to attend the Dedication and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and also tour the beautiful new addition and renovation.

Save the Date: The 2013 VCDC Annual Golf Social is Monday, June 24, at The Bluffs Golf Course. More information available in the near future.
Business After Hours: Are you looking for an opportunity to showcase your business and network with your peers? Sign up to host a Business After Hours event! These events generally run from 5-7 p.m. on a weeknight and the hosting business provides hors d'oeuvres and refreshments. If interested, contact Ann at annb@vermillionchamber.com or at 624-5571.
Announcements: Foundation seeks members: The Clay-Union Foundation, which serves as a mentoring program for youths 5-17 years old, is

actively seeking new members and adult volunteers throughout Clay and Union County. There are two boys and two girls seeking an adult mentor in Elk Point, and volunteers are needed to make the matches. Volunteers spend two hours per week with their match; 134 matches have been made since the program began in 1997.
To sign up a youth, or apply as a volunteer, go to <http://www.clay-unionfoundation.org/> and click on the volunteer button for the forms. Or e-mail jgillerrsd60@yahoo.com or call John Gille at (605) 421-5050. The agency is funded in part by the United Way of Vermillion.

Library expansion nearly complete

By Travis Gulbrandson
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Approximately 10 percent is left to be done in the Vermillion Public Library's expansion project.
After more than a year of construction work, the project is closer than ever to completion.
"Overall, it went well," said library director Jane Larson. "There are always bumps in the road when you're doing construction. I think the design is really good. It's going to be a beautiful building. It's got a nice style, it gives us a lot more room, we'll have a lot more activities and places to do things."
"Once everything gets completed it'll be really nice," she said.

Most of what is yet to be done is on the outside of the building, including the installation of a new bike rack, and work relating to irrigation, façade and landscaping.

New shelves had to be installed, as well, which necessitated the closure of the library for part of this week.

The library closed for two two-week periods as workers moved all the materials from the old building to the new, and then to spread the materials out after the renovation of the old section was completed.

"We doubled in size," Larson said. "We now have a total of 22,890 square feet, and we had 11,000 square feet before."

In addition to the extra floor space, there is a new circulation desk and expanded employee area, a new community room, a computer room, a row of skylights down the center of the building, and several reading areas, including one with a working fireplace.

"(The patrons) are just amazed," Larson said. "They say, 'Oh my gosh, this is beautiful.' They want to know all the new activities we're going to have. Of course, we don't have them all planned, but ... now we have room to do more adult programming and more teen programming. We have a number of people come in every day."

With all of these accoutrements, it can seem

at times as if there aren't many patrons.
"When there are 40 people in here you don't realize it," Larson said. "Somebody said to me, 'There's hardly anybody in here,' and then he walked by the fireplace and there was only one empty chair. And that area seats 33."
Work also was done on the basement, which will be used for several purposes.
"The Friends of the Library are setting up a used bookstore down there, so we're getting that put up, and there's a storeroom, which we've never had. We had to use the Carnegie all these years," Larson said.

Although work officially began on March 5, 2012, much had to be done before that from a financial standpoint to ensure that it could be completed.

Two years ago the Vermillion City Council had appropriated \$1.4 million in second penny money, a Community Development Block Grant that brought in approximately \$192,500 and Edith Seigrist, a longtime University of South Dakota library science professor had donated \$800,000 toward the project before she passed away in July 2011.

Larson said that when everything is finished, there will be advantages for both the patrons of the library and its employees.

"To the public's perspective, there will be lots more space and more items, and more resources available," she said. "To the working side of it, it'll be much easier for us to work because now staff have their own desks. Before, we had to get a lot of things from storage from the basement next door, so there's convenience. ... The staff will now have their own workstations, which will make it easier for them to do their jobs."

An official dedication ceremony for the Vermillion Public Library has been scheduled for June 1, and will feature such guests as library board chairman John Flanagan, Mayor Jack Powell and Sen. Tim Johnson.



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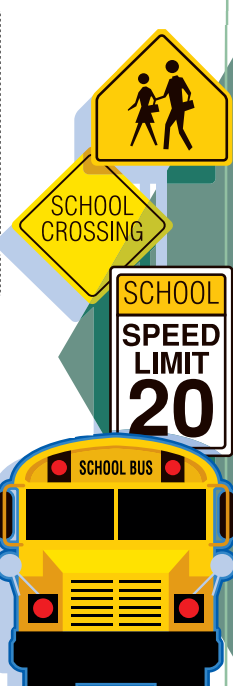
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Upcoming Early Dismissal Days for Vermillion Public Schools

Thursday, May 16th-
"Students" only:
Elementary Schools - 2PM
Middle School & High School - 2:10PM

Last Day of School - Friday, May 24th:
Elementary Schools - 1:50PM
Middle School & High School - 2PM




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