## Fannin County Public Library Foundation

Your Investment in Knowledge Never Stops Growing

**July 2023** 



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## Fannin County Public Library Breaks Ground for new Facility!

On May 2nd at 1:00 pm the shovels were turned to break ground for a new Fannin County Public Library at 2290 East First Street!

The Fannin County Public Library Board of Trustees, in conjunction with the Fannin County Board of Commissioners and the Fannin County School Board took great pride in picking up shovels for the facility. Construction of a new free standing library will begin in the next few weeks.

After several years of hard work by the Board of Trustees and Regional Library System, it became Fannin County's turn to secure state funds for a long-needed free standing library. Speaker David Ralston was instrumental in securing those funds. After the funds were allocated, it was clear that Covid's influence on the cost of building materials and labor costs had risen to the point where those funds would not be sufficient, Speaker Ralston went back to the legislature on our behalf and secured additional funds in a similar amount.

Our County Commission, sympathetic to the need for a bigger and better library, secured county matching funds. The next hurdle came with the search for a site. They then encountered the rising cost of Fannin County real estate that would be central to our schools and business district. The Board of Education offered the site at 2290 East First Street.

A building sufficient to the needs of the community was then planned by the building committee. However it was soon apparent that we would need to get the generous citizens of Fannin County involved as we needed private local matching funds in the amount of approximately \$650,000. to provide for furniture, fixtures and equipment to complete the project.

The Friends of the Library and the Board of Trustees appointed a task force to establish a Foundation to raise the shortfall in funds. Several energetic members have formed a hard working crew to set about that task. At the Ground Breaking, the Foundation, with the responsibility for that last piece of funding introduced themselves.

Please plan to follow the progress toward our new library! Hope Burns, Chair



Things are happening!!!





Participation at The Spring Arts in the Park gave us the opportunity engage with patrons. Many were curious and enjoyed the book marks that were passed out. There was palpable excitement about the rendering of the new Library!





Thanks goes to the Fire Department for their generous donation from the Soap Box Derby!!