Westward ho! (or maybe south) Library Plans Expansion

Eleven years ago Librarian Kathy Johnston and the Baldwin City Library staff were anxious to move into the newly completed library building at the corner of High and Seventh streets.

“The old library building at the corner of Eighth and High was bursting at the seams, all 900 square feet of it,” Johnston said.

But it took far less time to run out of space than anyone imagined. Over the past 11 years Baldwin City has grown significantly and along with it, the needs of the library patrons. No longer just a provider of books, magazines, and reference books, the library now must make space for DVDs, audio CDs, and access to the Internet via public computers.

The new building boasted 6,000 square feet of space with room for a reading area, a children’s section, and ample space for routine and special work by the library staff. Johnston thought at the time that they would have adequate space for the next 20 or so years, given that the library didn’t even own enough furniture initially to fill the new space.

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Once again the library is out of space and is beginning the planning phase for library expansion. At its December 30 meeting the Baldwin City Library Board of Trustees approved a proposal submitted by Emig and Associates, an Emporia architecture firm, to perform a series of activities that will assist the community in determining how best to expand its library facilities.

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Library hours extended!

The library has expanded its Friday hours. Since November, Baldwin area readers have been able to visit the library on Friday mornings instead of having to wait until 1 p.m.! Our new hours are:

Monday 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Tuesday 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Wednesday 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Thursday 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m. to Noon

Drop in and say hello!

2003-2004 Friends of the Library

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Cynthia Beall, President
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Newsletter
Amy Albright, layout
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Baldwin Book Review
Reviews of new books in the library

by Peggy Baker, Glencoe Wordsmithing

Coyote Cowgirl
Kim Antieau
Unusual mix of supernatural and culinary mystery, set in American Southwest.

Silver Lies
Ann Parker
Complicated mystery set in Leadville, Colorado, at the height of the silver strike, 1879.

Operation Iraqi Freedom
Walter Boyne
Retired military man presents the first “history” of the initial phase of the Iraqi war.

Buried Diamonds
April Henry
Fourth in the Clair Montrose mystery series.

Paranoia
Joseph Finder
Thriller set in the world of business espionage.

More Than You Know
Meg Chittenden
Chittenden leaves the Charlie Plato series for a standalone, with a cop pursuing his father’s killer.

Check us out on the Web!

Ever wonder exactly which weekend the Baldwin City-Wide Garage Sale will be held? The Friends of the Baldwin City Library’s Web site will answer that question and more.

To access the Friends’ new Web site, log on to the Library’s Web site at: http://baldwin-city.com/library/, then click on the link “Friends of the Library.” From here you can download a copy of the membership application, which makes joining or renewing your membership easy.

You can also learn about the organization and its many activities. You’ll find the mission of the Friends’ organization and a list of the activities the Friends sponsor: the Night of a 1,000 Stars reading event, the Spring Plant Sale, the City-Wide Garage Sale, and the Fall Mum Sale.

“We also hope the site will help alert people to the Friends’ excellent Book TALK series, which Friends board member JoAnne Krekel organizes for both the fall and the spring,” said Friends of the Library President Cynthia Beall.

An archive of Friends newsletters can be found on the site. If you would like more information about helping with the Friends’ activities or have suggestions for improving or adding to the Web site, please contact us at the e-mail address provided on the site.
Katharine Kelley, Baldwin City Library archivist and historian, has been busy with several projects this fall and winter.

“I’ve talked with several people about the Santa Fe Trail lately,” Miss Kelley said.

In November four women from the southwest United States who are taking several years to walk the trail in 50-mile sections didn’t let a rainy day spoil their fun. Instead of fighting the wind and rain, they took shelter in the library and visited with Miss Kelley to learn the history of this section of the trail. And earlier in the month a reporter from the Topeka Capital-Journal interviewed Miss Kelley about the Santa Fe Trail for a story that appeared in the Jan. 18 edition.

Miss Kelley is also organizing two books of clippings about Baldwin area residents: the Local Gentlemen’s Book and the Local Ladies Book. Miss Kelley has collected newspaper clippings and photos of residents ranging from those who settled the area and founded the town through current residents. She is arranging them in books alphabetically by the subject’s last name.

Each page reminds Miss Kelley of a story. Many of the subjects are her former students (she taught at Clearfield and Hopewell, and from 1940 to 1974 at Baldwin). Many pages tell about residents who were instrumental in shaping the face of Baldwin City today. For example, Gussie Baker appears in the Local Ladies Book in a photo taken in her garden. Baker owned a nursery with her husband, Alvin Baker, across the street from the Oakwood Cemetery. According to Kelley, it was the Bakers, along with the garden club and a federation of women’s clubs, who encouraged Baldwin residents to plant hard maples and therefore were responsible for the vivid burst of color we enjoy each fall.

“It wasn’t the three unclaimed maples rescued from the train depot and planted at the school for the deaf and dumb (which was located near the corner of 10th and Indiana) that fathered all the maple trees in Baldwin. Those were soft maples. They don’t produce as much color as the hard maples. The last of the three died several of years ago,” Kelley said.

“It’s stories like these I’m trying to keep alive,” Kelley said.

**Library Plans Expansion**
(continued from front page)

“Emig and Associates was chosen to lead this effort because of their expertise in designing public library facilities, having recently completed work on new libraries in Winchester, Kan., and Burlington, Kan.,” Library Board of Trustees President Robin Bayer said.

Their experienced staff will guide library board staff in conducting meetings with community members to determine the needs for an expanded library. Emig and Associates will use this community input to determine the amount and type of space required to meet the expanding needs of Baldwin’s patrons. Once the architects analyze their findings, they will develop conceptual drawings of expansion options.

The library board will discuss scheduling for this initial requirements-gathering project at its January 27 meeting in the library community room.

“Scheduling information for these community involvement meetings will be made available to all library patrons well in advance so that everyone interested in contributing ideas will have the opportunity to attend a brainstorming session. We anticipate beginning this exciting project in late February or early March,” Bayer said.

Stay tuned for more information as we push forward on this exciting project!
JOIN US!

Please fill out this form and return it with payment to the Friends of the Baldwin City Library, Baldwin City, KS 66006.

Name
Address
City
State ZIP

Membership (circle one)
New Renewing

Membership Level (circle one)
Bookmark ($5 — $9)
Bookend ($15 — $24)
Bookshelf ($10 — $14)
Bookstore ($25 and up)

If you would like to volunteer for Friends of the Library activities, please check the areas you would like to help with:

___ Serve on the board
___ Spring plant sale
___ Fall mum sale
___ Night of 1000 Stars
___ Citywide Garage Sale
___ Book clubs & discussion groups
___ Adult reading program
___ Newsletter

THE LIBRARY IS OPEN:
Monday 9 A.M. to 9 P.M.
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Wednesday 9 A.M. to 9 P.M.
Thursday 1 P.M. to 5 P.M.
Friday 9 A.M. to 5 P.M.
Saturday 9 A.M. to Noon

You can visit the library online at http://baldwin-city.com/library/

Friends Of The Library
Baldwin City, Kansas 66006

Friends Of The Baldwin City Library

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Saturday 9 A.M. to Noon

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Friends Of The Library
Baldwin City, Kansas 66006

LOCAL PATRON

Friends of the Library

Membership Renewal Campaign
January 1 — 31

Book TALK
February 12th Where There’s A Will

Book TALK
March 11th Strong Poison

Book TALK
April 8th Lady in the Lake

Night of 1,000 Stars
April 22nd

National Library Week
April 18th — 24th

Spring Plant Sale
May 7th & 8th

City-Wide Garage Sale
June 5th

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