Indian Trails Library Set To Re-Open In Spring

By LAUREN BARRY Journal & Topics Reporter | Posted: Friday, December 30, 2016 12:00 pm

Indian Trails Library District patrons can expect the library’s main branch to reopen by spring 2017.

According to library Director Brian Shepard, the $14.3 million renovation project at the Wheeling branch that began last spring is on track. An official opening date is expected to be announced in mid-January.

“Everyday I go out on site, I see change,” he said. “We are on time and on budget, we’re very happy at this point.”

So far, a 15,000 sq. ft., two-floor addition to the building has been constructed, according to Shepard. Windows, landscaping, lighting and a new HVAC system have also been installed.

Before the renovations began, the main branch on Schoenbeck Road was “100% electric” Shepard told the Journal & Topics. Now, the building will be “more green,” he said, with the installation of a geothermal HVAC system utilizing heat from the ground for energy through wells sunk into the earth, as well as energy-efficient LED lighting.

“When it’s done, it’s going to be very green,” said Shepard. He added there is “a great amount to do after construction” and that the upcoming phase of work requires “a lot of coordination that we need to do with our vendors.”

Next up on the to-do list is the installation of carpets and drop ceilings. Going forward, the final steps include installing new furniture and special features. When complete, the new addition will contain nine study rooms that can accommodate up to 10 people each. There will also be a dedicated storyroom space for early learners and a “learning launchpad” area that includes tactile tools, a 3D printer, sewing machine, and laser-engraver.

Shepard said that the library plans to create new programs centered around these tools once the building reopens to the public. Prior to the renovations, the library had no area for early learners and no meeting rooms.

The Indian Trails Public Library main branch is located at 355 Schoenbeck Rd., Wheeling. Currently, it is operating out of a temporary location at 70 W. Dundee Rd., Buffalo Grove. Indian Trails runs a second branch at Milwaukee Avenue and Palatine Road on the library district’s far east side. The Indian Trails district covers portions of Buffalo Grove, Wheeling and Prospect Heights.