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Breaking ground for the new library on Sunday, April 9, 2017 were Friends of the Library members Bob Morgan and Ruth Bergmeier, Library Board member Katy Lewandowski, Ravenna Mayor Peg Dethlefs, Library Director Karrie Huryta, Assistant Library Director Joy Kyhn, and Ravenna City Clerk Kellie Crowell. (RN photos by W. Keilig)

Ground breaking held for new Ravenna Library

The Ground breaking for the new Ravenna Public Library was held on Sunday, April 9, 2017 on the corner of Seneca Street and Milan Avenue.

As Ravenna Library Director Karrie Huryta noted in her welcome speech, it has been a long time coming. Over 25 years ago, in 1989, the then Library Director, Lois Johnsten wrote to the Peter Kiewit Foundation asking for information on applying for funds to make the 1918

library handicap accessible.

Karrie said, "Here we are in 2017, finally making the dreams of a fully accessible building a reality. This day kicks off National Library Week 2017. The theme this year is: Libraries Transform. This couldn't be a more fitting theme for today's ceremony. We are finally beginning our transformation. This renewal isn't just for us, the librarians, it's for you the community. Because transformation is essential to the communities we serve."

The Ravenna City Council has been setting funds aside for the last ten years to meet the requirements for the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). There is approximately \$63,000 in that fund. Another jump start to the project was when \$38,286.54 was raised during the Give Where You Live campaign. In addition, several grants have been received, including \$25,000 from Black Hills Energy for the Genealogy Room, an anonymous grant

of \$25,000, and a conditional grant from the Kreutz Bennett Donor Advised Fund for \$20,000. There are several ongoing projects to raise additional funding as well as submitting grant applications. So far the fund sits at over \$200,000.

On March 6, 2017 the Ravenna City Council accepted the bid from On Point Construction Management, Inc., in Ord of \$1,116,820 to build the new library. Estimated completion time is 26 weeks.