Work begins on St. Albert Public Library storefront location

ST. ALBERT — St. Albert Public Library is pleased to confirm the location of the new storefront library in Jensen Lakes, a rapidly growing neighbourhood in north St. Albert.

Library CEO Peter Bailey and Library Board Chair Janice Marschner signed the lease with Melcor Developments in April, and work on the foundation began this week. The Library will have 4,000 square feet in the building at Jensen Lakes Crossing, and expects to take possession in early October of 2019, with a public opening in January of 2020.

“We’re very pleased with the location – we know the Library needs to have a presence in the north end of the city, and this location has easy access, ample parking, and great neighbouring amenities,” says Marschner. “We’ve heard consistently that citizens in north St. Albert are underserved by the Library, and this small space will make a big difference to those residents who have difficulty accessing the downtown Library.”

The Library’s booth at the April Lifestyle Expo featured a “dotmocracy” where citizens were invited to place dots on photographs of the amenities they most want to see in the storefront Library space. The Library received 446 votes on a variety of options, with the top choices being: materials for all ages; multipurpose seating areas; and open spaces for flexible programming. CEO Peter Bailey is pleased at the engagement, and notes the public can expect more consultation as the project moves forward.

“It’s a small space, so we’ll be focusing on community priorities, including the most in-demand children’s programs, public computers, and high-demand collection favourites,” Bailey says. “One of the crucial elements of the storefront library will be its seamless connection to the downtown Library, transporting items back and forth to north residents. This is a great interim solution to the community’s ongoing need for expanded Library space.”

The Request for Proposals for an architect went out on May 13 and closes on May 29.

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