Our Story

Silver Lake Library began as an idea by a group of United Methodist women who were discussing the lack of a library in Silver Lake. A committee was formed to investigate the possibilities. They soon raised enough interest, money and donations of books and furniture to rent a small building and officially opened on April 6, 1974.

The Library moved to 203 Railroad Street in March of 1981. By June of 1995 the Library also occupied the 201 Railroad building. The Library leased the building from the IOOF until 2010 when the IOOF sold the building to the Library Board.

The first facility improvement was a new roof. Further improvements include painting the west interior, new carpet in the children’s section and accommodation for changing technology needs.

By 2012 the Library had adopted a plan to renovate and expand in order to provide the community with an updated facility, downtown improvement and community space.

The Friends of the Silver Lake Library and the Silver Lake Public Library Foundation, Inc. were instrumental in helping raise more than $125,000 in grants and donations that have made the recent renovations possible. Community support through special events such as raffles for quilts and holiday baskets, saving Best Choice Labels, attending Freddy’s Give Back Nights and pancake feed fundraisers has been invaluable.
The Foundation
The Silver Lake Public Library Foundation, Inc. was organized to further educational purposes through improvement and support of library services.

At this time, the Foundation’s funding priority is the Expansion and Renovation Project.

The Internal Revenue Service determined that the Foundation is exempt from Federal income tax under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions to the Foundation are deductible under section 170 of the Code.

Foundation Vision Statement:

The Silver Lake Public Library Foundation provides advocacy, private financial support and innovative leadership to transform Silver Lake’s public library into a vibrant life-long learning center that builds the community and enriches lives.

www.silverlakelibraryfoundation.org

Expansion and Renovation Project
Phase One of a three part project was completed in September of 2013. A modified version of Phase Two was completed in 2018. This included new windows, ramp, main entrance and masonry restoration on the north façade.

FAQs
Q: Did you add on to the Library?
A: No, however, there is more functional space in the interior making it look as if we did.

Q: Why are the east and west areas different?
A: Because the folks planning the renovation thought it would be best to preserve the individuality of the two original buildings.

Q: Why didn’t you paint the east side of the building?
A: Because we cannot paint the east side until the masonry is repaired. Therefore...

Continued financial support is needed in order to renovate the east façade and sidewalks as well as to expand the facility to include a meeting room and ADA compliant restrooms. Your donation will be acknowledged with a plaque on the appropriate Donor Recognition Book in the Library.

Foundation Recognition:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Visionary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donor</td>
<td>Less than $100</td>
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</table>

The Library

Our Vision is to be a destination, The Place which creates community and elevates the quality and spirit of life for the people we serve.

Our Mission is to provide excellent library services to the people of the community through a professional staff, a quality facility and first-class materials and programs.

Our Aspiration is to Expand and Renovate the facility in order to provide the community with

◊ Community Space
◊ Downtown improvement
◊ Additional programs & library services for your family

The Silver Lake Public Library is an Accredited Library of the Northeast Kansas Library System

www.silverlakelibrary.org