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Foundation raising money to replace 100 chairs at Quincy's Crane Public Library

By Mary Whitfill

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QUINCY – Soon, the thousands of weekly visitors to the Thomas Crane Public Library will have a new place to sit and delve into the lives of their favorite characters.

In response to the library's need for new chairs, the Thomas Crane Public Library Foundation is attempting to raise \$30,000 needed to replace the chairs originally bought when the library was expanded 14 years ago.

"We're looking to replace chairs that were purchased in 2001 when the new part of the library was built out," foundation member Jennifer Chu said. "Unfortunately, those chairs didn't withstand the test of time. ...They literally need to be tightened every night by the maintenance staff at the library to be safe and not fall apart."

The foundation wants to purchase 100 chairs made by O&G Studio in Rhode Island.

"We didn't want a traditional Windsor chair because the whole design idea is to kind of reinterpret the historical significance of our buildings," Library Director Megan Allen said. "This is perfect because it is styled like a Windsor chair but has been reinterpreted for the 21st century. It looks nice and they're comfortable."

The chair fundraising project is the first for the newly reformed library foundation. The foundation was originally created to oversee fundraising for the 2001 expansion. Once the expansion project was completed, the group dissolved.

Now that it has been reactivated, the foundation is seeking project recommendations from Allen and others associated with the library.



PHOTO/ GARY HIGGINS/The Patriot Ledger

Quincy Library Director Megan Allen shows a chair of the kind that will be purchased to replace ones that were bought when the Crane Public Library was expanded in 2001. The photo was taken on Tuesday, April 28, 2015.

"We are very excited," Allen said. "The board of library trustees is certainly hoping that the foundation can do some major ongoing fundraising for the library and establish an endowment that can create some income."

The foundation has raised roughly 70 percent of the money needed for the chairs, according to Chu. On Friday, the foundation will host a fundraiser called "The Chair Affair" from 6 to 8 p.m. in the library's Richardson Room.

Granite Telecommunications of Quincy and Century 21 Annex are major sponsors of the event, having donated at least \$5,000.

Organizations, families and individuals can purchase a chair with a three-line dedication plaque for \$300. Tickets to the fundraiser start at \$100.

For tickets or to get more information, go to www.thomascranellibraryfoundation.org.

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