



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Michael H. Ranzenhofer

Ranzenhofer Announces State Aid for Library Construction Awards for Pavilion, Byron-Bergen Public Libraries

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State Senator Michael H. Ranzenhofer announced today that Pavilion Public Library has been awarded \$283,877, while Byron-Bergen Public Library has been awarded \$65,355, in public library construction funds.

The funds are from \$14 million in capital funds for public library construction provided in the 2014 State Budget. Pavilion Public Library's grant is for a new 1,790 square foot children's addition to the library's existing building. Byron-Bergen Public Library's grant is for fixing drainage issues in the parking lot, replacing an emergency exit door, and installing energy efficient windows.

“Whether for internet access or to promote reading among children, our local public libraries provide invaluable resources to so many residents in our community,” said Ranzenhofer. “These two grants for Pavilion and Byron-Bergen Public Libraries will ensure that many of their important services are secured for future generations.”

New York’s public libraries are in urgent need of renovation and upgrading. A recent survey showed a documented need for public library construction and renovation projects totaling more than \$2.2 billion. More than 48% of the over 1,000 public library buildings in communities across New York are over 60 years old. Another 30% are more than three decades old.

Many of New York’s local public libraries are unable to accommodate users with disabilities, are energy inefficient, cannot provide Internet, computer and other electronic technologies to users because of outdated and inadequate electrical wiring, and do not have sufficient space to house the library’s expanding collection, address the need for adequate meeting room, or provide for public access computers.

Project activities and expenditures eligible for grants from the \$14 million State Aid for Library Construction Program include financing construction of new library buildings, construction of additions to existing buildings, and the renovation and/or rehabilitation of existing space, including roof replacement, purchase and installation of alternative energy resources and new HVAC systems, windows, doors, and lighting systems, electrical upgrades, and construction of new or replacement of old walkways and parking lots, among other things. Renovations designed to provide accessibility for patrons with disabilities is a high priority.

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