

MEDIA RELEASE

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**WOOD LIBRARY ANNOUNCES \$500,000 GIFT
FROM WILLIAM B. RAYBURN**

Lead gift to capital campaign will expand and renovate children's library

A landmark \$500,000 gift from William B. Rayburn will help fund the expansion and renovation of the children's library at Wood Library. This gift, the largest in Wood Library's history, is one of two lead gifts for the library's \$4 million capital campaign. Wood Library will name its children's library in honor of Bill Rayburn, a Canandaigua philanthropist and retired President and CEO of Snap-On Tools Corporation.

"Bill Rayburn has demonstrated time and again his generosity and vision in meeting critical needs of our community," said Library Director Carol Shama. "This most generous gift will allow us to dramatically expand and update the children's library, a place visited by thousands of local children and their caregivers every year."

"I appreciate how libraries can transform lives," said Rayburn in a prepared statement. "As a young boy, I could explore the world through Wood Library. It was a place where I could freely dream about my future—there seemed no limit to what I could do when I was at the library! Every child needs a place they can go to discover, learn and dream in a supportive environment. Wood Library was that place for me."

A public announcement of Rayburn's gift will be at Wood Library on Thursday, February 11, 2010, at 10 am, and will be attended by Rayburn family members, Wood Library trustees and supporters.

Wood Library is a full-service public library where people can satisfy their curiosity, stimulate their imaginations, and connect to the local community and the world. An important and highly-valued Canandaigua institution for over 150 years, Wood Library

is visited by almost 200,000 people a year. It offers programs for all ages and is open to everyone.

To better meet the current and future needs of the community, Wood Library is writing a new chapter by planning a significant renovation and expansion at 134 North Main Street, Canandaigua. The last such major capital initiative was in 1973 when the library moved to its current location. \$2.75 million in gifts and pledges have been raised in support of the planned \$4 million project. The Rayburn gift is the largest in the library's history and is one of two lead gifts to Wood Library's capital campaign. A second gift of \$500,000 was given by a local donor who wishes to remain anonymous.

The renovation and expansion will transform Wood Library. It will expand and update the children's library; establish a new larger dedicated space for teens to interact, study, create and learn; create a new 100 seat multi-function community meeting room; introduce a new entrance and lobby, elevator, and information services center; add more computer work stations and online resources; add comfortable well-lit seating areas and work spaces with free wireless internet capabilities; create additional spaces for quiet study and tutoring; and renovate its historic building.

The Bill Rayburn Children's Library will feature bright new play spaces for children and their caregivers to interact, new collections, and computer workstations. It will link directly to the new community meeting room, resulting in greater programming flexibility. There will be spaces for caregivers to sit and relax during story-times, more opportunities to showcase artwork by local children, and a restroom geared to the needs of small children.

Bill Rayburn was born and raised in Canandaigua, NY. He joined the U.S. Naval Air-Corps in 1943, and served in the Pacific during WWII. In 1953 he became a Franchised Dealer with Snap On Tools Corporation. Four years later he joined the company as a Field Manager and began working his way up through the marketing division, to lead the company as President and CEO. After retirement Bill returned to Canandaigua with his late wife, Peg.

Reflecting on his childhood, Rayburn said, “In my most formative years between 3rd and 8th grade, I would go to Wood Library after school. To this day, I credit my teachers, Miss Ely and Miss Helfer, for introducing me to the library. I remember listening to stories read by librarian Lois Gosper. She recommended many books to me and I was inspired by the stories of great men like Henry Ford. The library was a place where I could go and stay out of trouble. It was a place of discovery and where I met many new friends—including my future wife!”

“Every community needs a great library,” said Rayburn in a prepared statement. “I am so pleased to help Wood Library realize its dream to be a place where all children can go to learn, to grow, and to discover and connect to the world.”

For more information about Wood Library or the Rayburn gift, please contact Library Director Carol Shama at 585-394-1381.

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