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Closing in on library dream

At the coming election, the City of Gladstone will be on the brink of having a new library. This follows nearly three years of disagreement, and a previous library plan that was defeated by Gladstone voters.

The city of Gladstone assembled a library advisory task force of over 30 individuals from both the city of Gladstone and the unincorporated area of the county that the Gladstone library will be obligated to serve.

Some possible reasons for the previous ballot box failure of the library proposal were, size, cost, location and who would be responsible to pay. While not unanimous, the advisory task force agreed that the new library proposal will adequately serve the needs of the patrons they are to serve.

Gladstone has stated that they will not raise resident's taxes in order to pay for the new library. The funds to operate the new library will come from the Clackamas County Library District.

I am proud and happy that several "sides" came together to resolve their differences and to get together behind the current proposal. The plan before Gladstone voters is several million dollars less than the previous submittal to voters. If, as envisioned, the location is in the Portland Avenue area, the proposed library can help to kick start the revitalization of Gladstone's downtown core.

I believe that the proposal before Gladstone voters is a good one, and one that county voters envisioned when the Library District was formed after the 2008 vote. There is much to do. Let's get to yes and let it get started.

John Ludlow

Clackamas County board chairman