Let the building begin!

Ceremony kicks off construction for new Geneva library

BY SUSAN SARKAUSKAS
sarkauskas@dailyherald.com

Construction of a new home for the Geneva Public Library began Friday with a groundbreaking ceremony at 227 S. Seventh St.

The new 57,000-square-foot building will replace the current, smaller 110-year-old building at 127 James St.

Library district voters approved the project in April 2017 by agreeing to borrow up to $21.8 million to pay for building, equipping and furnishing it. OHC Construction Cos. LLC of Elgin will build it for $17.98 million.

The new library will have a community art gallery, more spaces for community meetings, and laboratory spaces for collaborative work.

One thing the new library will have the old one doesn’t is a parking lot with 76 spaces.

A park district playground on the site, remaining from when Sixth Street School was on it, will be moved at the site once construction is finished.

Bob Shiffler, Geneva Public Library District board president, gets ready to dig in with a chrome-plated shovel Friday at the groundbreaking for the new Geneva Library.

Ready: ‘Generous materials’

Continued from Page 1

students, for a total budget of roughly $2.1 million yearly. Operational costs are expected to be $4.8 million at full enrollment.

Families must pay a $145 registration fee, which could be waived for students qualifying for the federal free and reduced-lunch program, and a $60 activity fee.

Roughly half the students enrolled are eligible for free and reduced lunch, Kelly said. Students will be served breakfast and lunch provided by Chicago-based food service provider Gourmet Gorilla Inc.

Lezlie Fuhr, 45, a 22-year veteran educator, was hired earlier this year as the school’s first principal. Since then, Fuhr has hired 10 teachers, eight teacher assistants, four administrators and a support staff member. School leaders also have hired a bilingual coordinator, a special education director, chief financial officer and instructional coach, Kelly said.

Teachers underwent five days of intensive Expeditionary Learning Education training earlier this month in Denver and Milwaukee. They started work Wednesday. All school employees will be trained starting Tuesday through Aug. 14 in the expeditionary learning model and curriculum development, Kelly said.

Costs of renovating the school site — the former Fox River Country Day School campus on Dundee Avenue, leased from the city of Elgin — have come in below the $200,000 budgeted for repairs of the Neill building, which houses 13 classrooms.

“We have had many generous donations of time and “Ou has proj W the don cha turi den T ers the bus 2,11 ope cos the pos.

Corrections and clarifications

The caption with Friday’s photograph misspelled Art.