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## **Jeffersonville Carnegie Library Foundation working to resolve building problems**

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The Jeffersonville Carnegie Library Foundation is working diligently to resolve lingering issues in the library building to keep The Remnant Trust as tenants in the building.

The Remnant Trust, which owns a collection of rare books and manuscripts, announced recently that it was considering leaving the Jeffersonville Carnegie Library building in Jeffersonville. At issue is the lack of humidity in the building. Remnant Trust representatives believe the building is too dry for the safety and care of the books housed inside the building. The Remnant Trust board is expected to vote on February 12 at a board meeting in Florida as to whether or not to leave the building and move the collection to another location.

In the two years that the Trust has leased the building, the Foundation has spent about \$30,000 to attempt to fix the humidity issue in the building, according to the Foundation's chair, Tom Lindley.

"We have had the original architect, the contractor who installed the system in the building and a consultant studying the problem, making changes and working in every conceivable way to fix the problem," Lindley said. "We know that the staff, board and founders of the Trust are disappointed and frustrated, and we want to do everything we can to preserve this relationship and keep them as tenants in the building. Their use of the building is a perfect fit for it, and we're heavily invested in having them stay."

Lindley said representatives from the Jeffersonville Carnegie Library Foundation board will attend the Trust's board meeting in February in Florida to present a plan of action to the Remnant Trust board. The Foundation is not releasing specifics of the plan until after the meeting.

"We want to assure the public and our donors that we care deeply about keeping the collection in the library," Lindley said. "The amount of support that has been shown for the Trust's collection and for the restoration of the library is incredible. As a board, we are blessed and buoyed by the support of the community. We hope to have positive

results to report to you within the next month, and if not, rest assured we will work forward as diligently as possible.”

**About the Jeffersonville Carnegie Library Foundation**

Under the guidance of the Jeffersonville Carnegie Library Foundation in Indiana and the Community Foundation of Southern Indiana, the library, located adjacent to Warder Park, was extensively renovated. The \$4 million project restored the building’s signature copper dome both inside and out to its original opulence. The library’s interior has been enhanced with hand-milled woodwork in cherry, mahogany, and maple. The original brickwork in the basement has been preserved and the floor lowered to the original foundation to provide classroom and storage space.

The 1904 Beaux-Arts building was originally designed by Jeffersonville native Arthur Loomis and operated as a library. It was acquired by the Jeffersonville Carnegie Library Foundation in 2003. The Community Foundation of Southern Indiana has provided ongoing support for this project since its inception.

Carnegie libraries are named for their benefactor, wealthy steel and railroad magnate Andrew Carnegie, who funded 1,679 libraries across the country.

**About The Remnant Trust**

The Remnant Trust is a separate non-profit organization that owns a collection of 1,000 extremely rare books and manuscripts. The collection contains documents and books that are the very bedrock of democracy, all relating to individual liberty and human dignity. Among the most significant documents in the collection are one of the most well-preserved copies of the Declaration of Independence in existence, an original U.S. Constitution and one of just a handful of copies of the *Magna Carta* in the U.S. A first edition of Frederick Douglass’ *My Bondage and My Freedom* is housed in the collection also. The books are often leased to universities and colleges for educational purposes.

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