

Former Library Finds New Life as “The Archive”

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By Jenny Steele Pugh

Rick and Beth Leisure purchased the former Cambridge City library building at 33 West Main Street, with the intent to lease the building, but never really found the right fit for Cambridge City.



The Archive, owned by Rick and Beth Leisure, is located at 33 West Main, next to the National Road Antique Mall.

Sylvia Bowman of Roses and Rainbows suggested they turn it into an event center, but it was only just this summer that the Leisure's decided to act on the idea when the Wayne County Dollars for Scholars needed a location for their annual fundraising dinner on November 12.



Rick and Beth promptly began remodeling the building with less than 8 weeks to go before the scheduled dinner; Beth said the time crunch gave them an incentive to get the work done faster. Their first event went off without a hitch, with 125 guests attending the WCDFS dinner.

The Archive includes a catering kitchen (where the office used to be in the former library). The rest of the remodeling work is actually more of a refresher for the 78 year old building.

The Leisure's have kept everything as original as possible; refinishing the wooden floors and hiring an

Amish contractor to repair the old trim and make sure any new woodwork matched. Beth scrubbed the original chandeliers and spray painted them silver to give the old light fixtures a whole new elegance. The walls are painted in wonderful shades of gray, with a beautiful white patterned ceiling reminiscent of antique tin ceiling tiles in the largest room. With the rows and rows of tall bookshelves gone, the floor plan is open and expansive.



This picture hardly does justice to the openness of The Archive floor plan with its wide doorways.

The Archive can be rented for special events, gatherings, dinners, receptions, meetings and even weddings and family reunions. The Leisure's also plan to hold community events there, including art shows, concerts, wine and canvas nights, dances and whatever else people might be interested in. There are lots of

electric outlets for business meetings and Wi-Fi will soon be available.



The kitchen is bright white with all the amenities and a black and white checkered floor pattern

The Chamber of Commerce has already held a meeting there and several organizations held special activities inside The Archive during Cambridge City's Winter Wonderland. Track lighting in the main room is specially designed to highlight artwork, but can also be brightened or dimmed as necessary, to create just the right atmosphere.

Beth can easily picture a wedding in the gazebo at the Bicentennial Mini Park with the reception following at The Archive. The rooms are much like a blank canvas, she added, ready to be decorated for any occasion.

To schedule your next event at The Archive, call Beth Leisure at (765) 914-0633 or <mailto:cambridgecityarchive@gmail.com>.

Bookings must be made 30 days in advance. The website, www.cambridgecityarchive.com should be up and running soon.