

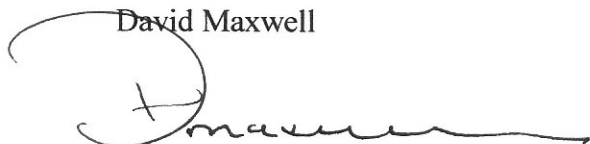
October 9, 2013

I've owned the property across from our new library for forty two years. During this time the property served as a restaurant and bar, which became increasingly gloomy and run-down over time. For the three years prior to the library renovations, the building was unoccupied and in such poor repair it seemed destined for demolition.

When I was first approached to donate for the ambitious remodel effort I was skeptical that a project of such magnitude could succeed, particularly as it would be relying on private donations. Based on my experience in the construction field I saw it as a Sisyphean effort on a marginal budget. Happily, I was proved wrong. As I watched from my vantage point across the street, a group of hard-working, committed, volunteers raised funds and devoted endless hours to creating something quite phenomenal, beyond what I would have ever thought possible.

The end result is a stunningly beautiful, warm and welcoming facility that serves all members of our community. The library alone is excellent; friendly, well-run and beautifully appointed. But it doesn't stop there. The facility now includes a conference room and a community area for musical and social events, with an outdoor lanai that is the scene of joyous fine-weather gatherings. There is a popular coffee house run by a group of young people, which serves as an Internet facility and informal meeting place for a town largely devoid of any such social venue. The spacious community kitchen is a marvel of spotless efficiency; not only does it serve the coffee shop, but it is available to anyone in the community who needs a commercial, licensed kitchen to create meals, preserve garden produce, etc. for sale or for their personal use. And everywhere, in every part of the building, from the art on the walls, both permanent and revolving exhibitions, to the whimsical tiles in the bathrooms, created by the town's schoolchildren, there is evidence of how the building provides a showcase for the expression of our small community's abundance of creativity and artistry. Our new library has given the town new life, new spirit, new pride, and far greater sense of place. What a special place it is, and how glad I am to be its neighbor.

David Maxwell

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Maxwell', with a large, stylized initial 'D'.

Covelo, California

