



# News Release

For immediate release

For information contact:

Erin Smith

Fergus Falls Public Library

218-739-9387

## **Public Electric Vehicle Charging Station at New Library**

*Fergus Falls, MN – January 2019* – Otter Tail Power Company has partnered with the Friends of the Fergus Falls Public Library to provide an electric vehicle (EV) charging station for city residents and visitors. Drivers can find the Level 2, 48-Amp charging station in the east parking lot of the newly expanded and remodeled Fergus Falls Public Library.

Charging is free for all users. The Friends of the Fergus Falls Public Library are providing the funding for the annual operating expenses for the EV station. “Electric vehicles are becoming more common in our service area, and we’re committed to working with communities to provide charging options,” said Otter Tail Power Company Market Planning Manager Jason Grenier. “Whenever we can find strong community support combined with local project partners, we believe it’s a good opportunity for EV chargers. Especially as new EV models offer longer ranges and residents and visitors to Fergus Falls continuously inquire about public charging stations.”

Stephanie Goerger Sandahl, President of the Friends of the Fergus Falls Public Library said, “the Friends is a 501c3 organization dedicated to helping our community library be available to all who wish to have access to the many services and resources provided at the newly remodeled and expanded space. As a way to help support the library mission of operating as sustainably as possible, we are happy to partner with Otter Tail Power Company to provide EV charging station.”

Tom Kingston is a member of the Downtown Riverfront Council and drives an electric vehicle. He notes that public charging stations are a convenient option for drivers, “An all electric automobile fully charges overnight, so you leave home with a ‘full tank’ every morning. But then what do you do if you run low before making it back home for the night? That is where a public charging station comes into play. A one hour vehicle charge while enjoying the library is just the extra charge you need for the assurance to make it home with a margin of battery reserve.”

With the help of a \$71,000 rebate from Otter Tail Power Company, the Fergus Falls Public Library completed several energy efficiency upgrades during its remodel through the utility’s Integrated Building Design Plus program. “It’s encouraging to see the library

take a leadership role in its community when it comes to efficiency and investing in renewable, geothermal technology to reduce operating costs,” said Otter Tail Power Company Senior Commercial and Industrial Representative Chris Waltz. “By installing these updates, the library will see a savings of approximately \$32,000 a year on energy costs and be 52 percent more efficient.”

The Fergus Falls Public Library is a department of the City of Fergus Falls and a member of the Viking Library System. The library is open Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.