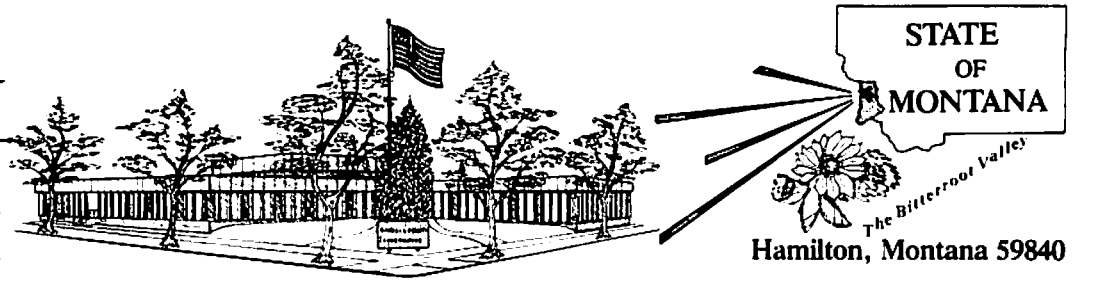
COUNTY
OF
RAVALLI



Hamilton, Montana 59840

Ravalli County Commissioners
215 South 4th Street, Suite A
Hamilton, MT 59840
406-375-6500

January 2, 2009

Veryl Kosteczko
c/o Darby Library
101 S Marshall Street
Darby, MT 59829

Dear Mrs. Kosteczko:

The Ravalli County Commission strongly supports the Darby Library's partnership with the Northwest Area Foundation and the Ravalli County Extension Agency, and your joint efforts to build a strong, sustainable community for the citizens of Darby.
We also support your efforts to obtain grant funding through the Gates Foundation. Last year, the Ravalli County Commission allocated $2,257 to the Darby Library. This is consistent with annual allocations for the past five years. Increased funding through the Gates Foundation will allow the Darby Library to meet its goal of hiring a coordinator, working under the direction of the librarian, who will implement the goals identified by the community in a series of workshops held in late 2008. The goals include:

- Establishing a food bank;
- Bringing together businessmen and women to attract and retain jobs in a community with a 24% poverty rate;
- Bringing medical services to an isolated community that recently lost its only medical clinic;
- Establishing a parks and recreation department, and;
- Launching a community newspaper.

We applaud your efforts to foster strength and sustainability in a geographically isolated community that suffered a severe economic downturn in the past decade with the loss of the once-dominant timber industry.

Sincerely,

Ravalli County Board of Commissioners

Carlotta Grandstaff, Chairman

James E. Rokosch, Vice-Chairman

J.R. Iman, Member

Greg Chilcott, Member

Kathleen Driscoll, Member