

Donkey Coffee to host library expansion benefit

By TROY GREGORINO
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The expansion project for the Athens Public Library will receive a boost Friday in the form of a benefit concert. The \$1.4 million dollar construction plans, scheduled for completion in 2004, will nearly double the size of the facility, adding space for conference and meeting rooms as well as additional books, computers and reading areas.

Funds for the expansion project will come from a combination of reserved budget savings, state grants, private donations and local fundraising. That's where Josh Antonuccio, booking manager and Thursday night open stage host for Donkey Cafe, said he plans to help with the effort.

Friday, from 9 p.m. to midnight, Donkey will host a night of music (with a suggested \$5 donation admission). Performers will include The Local Girls, John McGovern, Laura Nadeau and Steve Zarate.

"My family and I love the library," Antonuccio said. "We wanted to be able to give to the library. It seemed like a no-brainer to have a benefit show."

According to Antonuccio, providing entertainment as a means of raising funds serves a dual purpose.

"People not only give to the library, but it raises awareness as well," he said.

Antonuccio said he looks forward to the show's scheduled line-up, one he described as an "eclectic mix."

"It's a good cross-section of Athens talent," he said. "It's a good representation of the of the best music in Athens."

For information on how to contribute to the library expansion project, contact the Athens Public Library at 592-4272.