

# Northern Neck News



5¢ • SERVING THE 'HEART OF HISTORYLAND' SINCE 1879 • WARSAW, VA. • JULY 9, 2014

## Support pays off Town, county plays roles in state fund boost for library

By *Nicholas Vandeloecht*  
Editor

Additional state monies will enable Richmond County Public Library to purchase over \$20,000 worth of books and videos for its patrons.

The acquisition of said state monies was made possible by increased funding efforts from both the Town of Warsaw and Richmond County, Library Director Dan Ream said Thursday.

"Our past funding fell short of the minimum local government funding required to be eligible for State Aid to Public Libraries, which the legislature funds and the Library of Virginia administers," Ream said in an email to the Northern Neck News. "Now, thanks to our local government funding increases, the Library of Virginia Board has waived the usual minimum requirement and has awarded the Richmond County Public Library approximately \$23,000 in funding for 2014/2015, which will be used almost entirely for the purchase of public library books and videos."

In a follow-up phone interview, Ream noted that about \$1,000 of the state funds would go towards supplies for functions such as children's programs.

Ream said the Library of Virginia had previously waived the minimum requirements over the past few years despite local funding not meeting its mark, but was unlikely to do so again this year.

"They have a per capita local government funding for whatever the territory is," Ream said. "They basically figure out how much local government support is provided to the library per capita, then they take the mean of that figure which is ... in Virginia, about \$20 per capita."

According to Ream, if the library doesn't obtain half that amount from local government, then it does not qualify for state aid.

"We needed \$10 or so per capita for Richmond

# Library

continued from page A1

County,” Ream said, adding that, in order for the library to reach that per capita target, Richmond County had to raise its funding by approximately \$15,000.

This year, the county did not reach that figure; instead, they bolstered the library’s funding by \$5,000.

The funding increase, however, was enough for the Library of Virginia Board to waive the minimum requirement once more, Ream indicated.

“It’s a success story for us, but we’re not quite finished,” Ream said. “We’re going to have to ask for more money in the future to get up to that level of about \$10 per capita to ensure future funding, but ... the Library of Virginia saw improvement there and they were looking for that.”

County Administrator Morgan Quicke said in an email that the board of supervisors did not commit to future funding increases to the Library, but discussed what their funding level was and where their funding level ideally needed to be in the eyes of the state.

Ream credited not only the Richmond County Board of Supervisors, but also Warsaw Town Council for their increased support. The town this year raised its allocation to the library from \$6,000 to \$7,100, a 19 percent increase, a measure that Ream understood to not be required of Warsaw’s government.

“The Town of Warsaw doesn’t have to give us a penny. We’re Richmond County’s public library,” Ream said. “I didn’t have any argument to offer that they needed to support us at all; basically, I tried to appeal to their sense of improving to the community and they seemed to be responsive to that.”

Richmond County Public Library recently began offering new resources from online databases, including Zinio, which hosts 56 full-text magazines that users can download for free, to the Library Value Calculator, a virtual tool started by the Massachusetts Library Association that puts a number to how much value each individual obtains from using the public library.

Ream saw the increased local funding to Richmond

County Public Library as “wonderful affirmation that the public library is valued by this community.”

“I know that both the county supervisors and the town council are not dealing with a lot of money,” Ream said. “It’s an affirmation we value highly—the library staff, the Board of Trustees ... all of us take this as a wonderful vote of confidence that they think Richmond County Public Library is doing good work, and they want to see more of it.”

For more information, visit the public library home page at <http://www.rcplva.org/>.