

# Northern Neck

# News

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## HONORED



Linda Taylor

## 'Just ask Linda'

By Karen Reynolds  
Reporter

Thirty-five years ago, there were no computers at the Richmond County Public Library. Nothing digital. No virtual memory devices. No email.

But there was Linda Taylor, a native from Richmond County who was fresh out of high school.

She was hired by Sally King, a former librarian, to be an essential employee who did all the "behind the scenes" work.

"There was nothing automated back in those days," Taylor recalled with a smile. "Every book, every newspaper and magazine required personal hands-on attention from the moment it arrived. There's more to keeping things organized than most people realize," she added.

Taylor grew up on her parent's farm in Richmond County with two brothers and a sister. Her family had a huge summer garden and "fields and fields of tomatoes." Her family sold some of their produce in Warsaw, right in front of the Northern Neck News building. She remembers working at the stand and picking "thousands of tomatoes" during

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her growing up years.

"Working in the fields was what we did in the summer time. I was a farmer's daughter and now I am a farmer's wife." She and Robert, her husband of 36 years, have a daughter, Jessica and three granddaughters.

"I don't eat a lot of tomatoes anymore," Taylor said.

Taylor's title is now "Library Public Services Manager." Her staff has a saying of "Ask Linda" whenever there is an issue with the growing complexities of running an active library. The Richmond County Library is part of the Rappahannock Community College library. Students from the college frequent the library daily as well as the citizens of Richmond County.

Paulina Johnson, an employee of the library, recalled an "Ask Linda Day" that she and her co-workers organized for fun.

"It was a show of love and respect for Linda," Johnson said. "And it was a lot of fun piling up her desk with notes containing

all those silly questions."

"And I answered every one of those silly questions that I received on 'Ask Linda' day," she retorted with a laugh.

"We're a team here, but she's the one we come to when we have a problem," added Betsy Garland, a 27-year employee of the library.

"We are like a family here," Taylor said. "We have wonderful volunteers, too. The 'RCC Friends of the Library' are a group of volunteers that hold a weekly story hour on Tuesdays." Seeking to share her love of books with everyone, she was quick to add in a reminder about the book sale that the "Friends of the Library" hold every Friday and Saturday on Main Street in Warsaw, next to the Union Bank. "It's a wonderful way to add to your personal library with thousands of books being only a dollar each."

Taylor loves to give guided tours through the library. She is especially proud of the collection of microfilms of the "Northern Neck News"

that dates back to May 16, 1879. "That's well over a hundred years of history of this region," she said.

Taylor describes herself as a forever student of life-long learning. One of her passions is making sure to have "books of interest for those who shy away from reading by pairing them with videos of the same material. Reading is everything and not everyone learns the same way. Some children learn by reading, some by listening. We try to have everything needed to instill a love of learning here in the library."

"If I hadn't gotten the job as a library assistant when I graduated from high school, I don't know what I would have done to make a living. I was lucky and chose something that grew along with me. No two days are alike with all the amazing people that come here," Taylor said.

Linda Taylor and staff can be found at 52 Campus Drive in Warsaw. Monday - Thursday 8:30 a.m. - 8:30 p.m., Friday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., and Saturday 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.