

New Scenic Regional Library To Open in Warren County

By Ruth Flynn
Record Editor

Scenic Regional Library's new Warren County Library Center is scheduled to be completed in May.

The new 9,000-square foot library is located on South Highway 47, just inside the Warrenton city limits.

The library is a free public library serving all of Warren county.

According to Sallie Hancox, director of Scenic Regional Library, based in Union, plans for the project began in the fall of 1998.

By January, 1999, a tax campaign was under way to raise the funds. A building tax of 4 cents on each \$100 of assessed valuation was approved in April.

The architect for the project, LePique & Orne, St. Charles, also designed the latest new branch of St. Charles City-County library, the addition to St. Vincent School, Dutzow, and the addition to Holy Rosary Catholic Church, Warrenton.

Rain during the early stages of construction hampered progress by the contractor, Maestas Construction, St. Charles.

The building will have a

book capacity of 50,000 and seating for 60 people.

Eight computer terminals will provide Internet access.

A larger reference section will include a micro film reader/printer to view newspapers, ideal for genealogical research.

The reference and magazine section will be separated from the rest of the library to provide a quiet atmosphere.

Overall, the new library will be easier to use and the shelves will "welcome browsing," said Hancox. "The parking lot is a real luxury after having very limited parking in downtown Warrenton."

A meeting room with a separate entrance, access to restrooms, and a capacity for 50 people, will be available to community groups of the county.

The library will increase both hours and staff.

Currently it is funded by an operating tax of 7 cents with a ten-year building tax of 4 cents.

There are no plans to make any changes to the bookmobile service. Scenic Regional Library will continue to serve the schools.

Serving three counties, Franklin, Gasconade and Warren, Scenic Regional Library

has facilities located in Union, Hermann, New Haven, Owensville, Pacific, St. Clair, and Warrenton.

use their needs to play tournament games, if it decides to host the tournament.

"Anytime we have the opportunity to make money for improvements to the field, we take it," said Diane Bridges, who runs Marthasville's Little League program.

Washington Parks may let the league use some of its fields, but the league would

board members faced the failure of the recent bond issue.

It's not over, but the needs of the district "are not going to go away," stressed Wilson.

The district's proposed 59-cent levy increase failed earlier this month with 3,886 "no" votes and 1,761 "yes" votes.

An initial solution to financial shortages may be to transfer some funds from one levy

pay for operational costs is not the ideal situation, he added.

The board also will consider redistributing elementary students to equalize enrollment per space at all district grade schools.

"We have to redirect our priorities to fit the needs of resources, not to fit the needs of the community," Wilson ex-

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Scenic Regional Library is scheduled to complete this 9,000 square foot building in late spring. The new county library is located on South Highway 47, just inside the city limits of Warrenton.

Marthasville Record Photo.

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