Library to provide additional resources

New building will replace leased site

By Raymond Castile
Staff writer

Library users in Warren County can look forward to a larger, more spacious facility scheduled to be built in 2000.

WARRENTON

Voters on April 6 passed a 4-cent property tax increase to fund construction of the new county library.

The proposal passed with 3,148 or 57 percent of the total voting in favor, and 2,429 voting against the tax, which will be collected for 10 years.

"We're very, very pleased. For a long time people have been asking when we are going to get a new library," said Sallie Hancox, Scenic Regional Library director.

The 7,500-square-foot

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library will be built on a one-acre lot located on South Highway 47 in Warrenton.

LePique & Orne Architects of St. Charles have completed the exterior design.

Hancox said the next step will be to design the interior and select the specific materials needed.

Hancox said construction will probably begin in the spring of 2000. It is scheduled to be completed by the fall.

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The project is budgeted at $600,000. Hancox said an additional $117,000 will be needed to purchase furniture for the facility. Hancox said she thought the tax passed because voters wanted a larger, more accessible library.

There's no place to park. People give up after they try three or four times to use the library and can't find a parking space," Hancox said.

The library is currently located on South Market Street, in a building east of the Warren County Courthouse.

The district has rented the 1,800-square-foot space for the facility for 38 years, Hancox said.

"The population has tripled since then. In 1960, the library checked out 11,000 items. In 1998, it checked out 57,000 items," Hancox said.

The new library will be a single-story building with a 38-space parking lot.

It will include a 50-seat meeting room, and contain more shelving space than the current library, Hancox said.