



NEWS RELEASE

1221-A Brass Mill Road Belcamp, MD 21017 • www.HCPLonline.info
Phone: 410-273-5600, 410-575-6761 • Fax: 410-273-5606

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Contact: Janine Lis, 410-273-5601 ext. 2256
Marketing Manager
Harford County Public Library

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Library Receives Generous Donation from Friends Group for Expansion of Whiteford Branch

On April 18th the North Harford Friends of Harford County Public Library and the Harford County Public Library Foundation launched a \$50,000 campaign for the expansion of the Whiteford branch. A check for \$25,000 was presented to Audra Caplan, Director of the Library, by the North Harford Friends of the Library in support of the campaign. These funds will be used towards the renovation plans that include a new children's area and a designated teen area in the branch.

Co-chairs of the campaign, Sara Robinson, President of the North Harford Friends, and Lucie Snodgrass, President of the Library Foundation Board, are thrilled to be working on this effort. "The North Harford Friends are very excited about the expansion of the Whiteford Library. I can hardly wait for construction to begin," stated Sara Robinson.

Construction is planned to begin later this summer. The branch will increase to approximately 14,000 square feet. Children and teens will find new areas designed just for them. The new children's area will provide the opportunity for interactive experiences and pretend play. Age appropriate materials will be accessible to use in the library or to take home and the space will allow for puppet shows and dress up performances.

The teen area will be designed with the middle and high school student in mind with age appropriate furniture, designated computer stations and a flat screen television for group activities.

“We are very pleased to be able to give the Whiteford community the features they asked for. We hope the children’s area will encourage imaginary play and help develop emergent literacy skills. We continue to speak to our teen community by providing them with designated areas in our branches where they can be relaxed to learn and develop leadership skills,” stated Audra Caplan.

In addition to the generous Friends donation, other community members have shown their support including \$5,000 from Kleins Family Foundation, \$1,000 from Harkins Funeral Home, \$1,000 from Whiteford Pharmacy, \$500 from The Mill and \$500 from Dr. David Glenn. The Whiteford Branch Campaign will run through the end of June.

During construction a modular unit will be housed on the property and open during regular branch hours. The collection will be limited but will include new releases and customers can continue to request materials from any of the other 10 branches of Harford County Public Library for pick up at the modular unit.

The North Harford Friends was organized in 1989 with a mission to promote interest in the Library, support and contribute to the Library facilities at Whiteford and Norrisville, encourage the use of the Library facilities and services, serve as volunteers, lend legislative support and support the freedom to read. To find out more about becoming a member of any of the Friends groups of Harford County Public Library please visit your local branch.

The Harford County Public Library Foundation is a 501© 3 charitable organization dedicated to enhancing Harford County Public Library services. The Foundation raises funds to augment the financial resources of the Library and works to promote awareness of library services. The Foundation facilitates the Library’s development as a creative environment within the county that encourages the acquisition of knowledge and the love of reading. For more information call 410-273-5601 x2283.

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Photo caption: The North Harford Friends present a check for \$25,000 to Harford County Public Library Director, Audra Caplan. (from left to right top row) Lucie Snodgrass, President of the Harford County Public Library Foundation; Ruth Cheslock, Friends Treasurer; Sue Ann Dillport, Friends member; Ruth Tarbert, Friends member; Audra Caplan, Library Director; (left to right bottom row) Kathryn Wiley, Friends member; Heidi Richardson, Whiteford Branch Manager; Sara Robinson, Friends President; Margaret Harkins, Friends member. Funds will be used to support the expansion of the Whiteford Branch of the Harford County Public Library.