

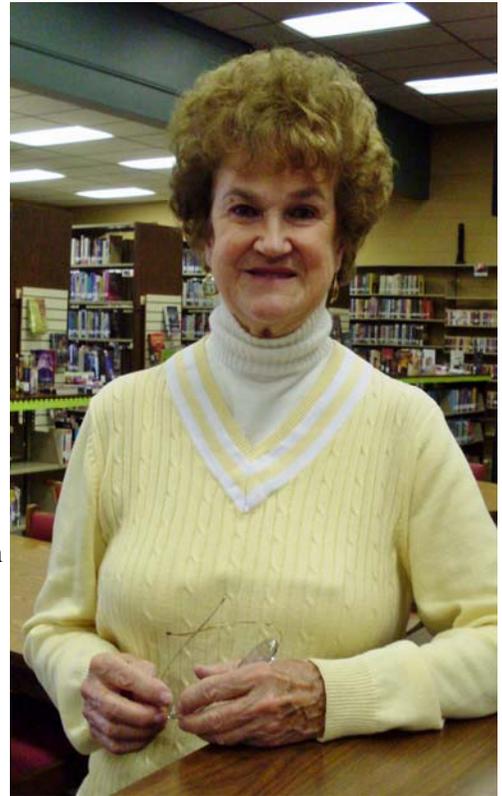
Chairman Hylton Addresses State Budget Concerns

“Please no more cuts!” This was the message delivered by Library Board Chairman, Mary R. Hylton, as she addressed The House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees of the Virginia General Assembly at the 2012 Public Hearing on the Governor’s Proposed 2012-2014 Biennial State Budget. “Our funding has eroded to early 1990 levels, and our libraries did not have today’s technology costs in the 1990s. Gone are the days when a person went to the local library to check out a book. Small-town libraries have become the providers of numerous services to the community, and their future will be one of expanding those services even more,” Hylton explained.

As the audience of well-wishers at Mountain Empire Community College cheered her on, Mrs. Hylton asked Finance Committee members to prioritize libraries. The Code of Virginia outlines the share of funding through which public libraries are to be granted, therefore, Mrs. Hylton urged lawmakers to “please, fully fund the state aid formula.” Without appropriate state funding, the library cannot order adequate numbers of books, movies, music recordings, magazines, newspapers, or the ever-increasingly popular digital e-books. “Lonesome Pine’s circulation is increasing as the economy weakens,” explains Hylton, “Our community members deserve access to information and recreational reading. You’re never completely alone if you have books/DVDs/music/Internet—or whatever medium allows you think with someone else—to connect you with humanity. Our small town libraries are most often the only place to go to get a photocopy made, send a fax, access the Internet, send an email, write and print correspondence.”

Furthermore, public libraries in Southwest Virginia are community centers where citizens meet to engage with each other in sustained, constructive way. Hopeful job seekers are using the library to find employment, build resumes, and learn valuable job skills. Libraries provide computers and print resources for distance education and test proctoring. “This service is huge in our area, says Hylton, “Some residents have actually obtained college degrees via distance education on library computers. What could be more rewarding to our citizens than providing services that change and enhance

their lives. Virginia’s economy grows as its citizens grow, and as our own Commonwealth grows so does our great nation ... and at the forefront of this forward movement is knowledge housed and preserved at the local library, an integral part of each community. I firmly believe public libraries are important because community is important.”



There are many heartwarming stories to tell of how our libraries impact lives, but when choosing only one to share with legislators, Mrs. Hylton selected the story of a very special mother/son relationship sustained by Lonesome Pine Regional Library. “One mother had a very important reason for using the Internet at the library. Her son was in the military, stationed in Iraq. She received newsletters and other communications from her son’s commanding officer on a regular basis. She made a digital photo of her son riding in back of a Humvee as his company made their way across the Iraqi desert. It has been said that a picture is worth a thousand words, and in this mother’s case, this is very true. This picture provided a mother some reassurance that her son was alive in the midst of a military conflict.”

The Board and Staff of Lonesome Pine Regional Library stand in awe of the opportunity to help this mother and many others just like her who need the public library. Chairman Hylton’s plea is a simple one, “Support your library as we at Lonesome Pine strive to support you!”

Start Here—Go Anywhere!



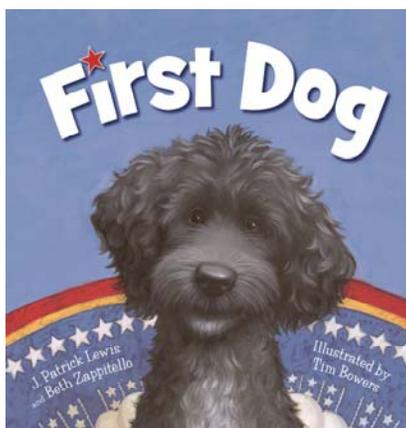
Introducing Text Messaging!

Lonesome Pine Regional Library is pleased to announce the availability of text messaging to our patrons. Library cardholders can now choose to receive messages that include: friendly reminders **before** materials are due, arrived request notices and overdue notices. "Signing up is convenient and easy," says Director, Amy Bond, "we will just need your cell phone number and the name of your cell phone carrier." While this service is provided free from your library, patrons should take note, that unless they have unlimited and/or free texting, standard text messaging rates apply through your carrier. (See list of available carriers to the right of this column.)

Traditional notification options are still available for those who do not wish to receive text messages from the library. Overdue notices and arrived hold notices can still be sent to you via mail or email, and of course, if you'll let us know, we'll be happy to call you when request books arrive for you. We are pleased to offer you a variety of communication methods and look forward to future advancements that make your life easier!

Carriers Include: AT&T, Verizon, Alaska Communications Systems, Alltel, Boost Mobile, Cellular One, Cellular South, Centennial Wireless, Cingular, Cricket, General Communications Inc., MetroPCS, Nextel, Pioneer Cellular, Pocket Wireless, Qwest Wireless, South Central Communications, Sprint, Straight Talk, Syringa Wireless, T-Mobile, TracFone, US Cellular, Unicef, Viaero, Virgin Mobile

Winter Reading, 2012 – Snuggle With A Book



The cover of *First Dog* by J. Patrick Lewis, Beth Zappitello and illustrated by Tim Bowers—image is used with permission from Sleeping Bear Press TM, a Gale, Cengage Learning Company

Lonesome Pine Regional Library is participating in **Snuggle With A Book**, a winter reading program sponsored by the Library of Virginia. The winter reading program focuses on children 18 months to four years old. It is designed to instill a love of reading in young children by having the child's parent or other special adult, read to them.

From the Library of Virginia, our participating libraries have received reading logs, activity sheets, posters, and activities to help children develop reading skills. "This year's winter reading theme is one of my favorites," says Children's Coordinator, Julie Short, "The cover art of *First Dog* just beckons preschoolers to pick up a great picture book. What greater joy could we share with our children?"

The **Snuggle With a Book** winter reading program builds on the special relationship public librarians have with children and the adults who bring them to the library. The desired outcome of the program is the creation of communities where children are ready to learn when they attend kindergarten. Contact your participating local branch library for more information on dates and times ... come visit us to "snuggle" with your child and a great book!

Lonesome Pine Regional Library & Books-by-Mail
124 Library Road, SW
Wise, Virginia
276-328-8325

Serving Wise County & City of Norton:
Wise County Public Library, Wise
C. Bascom Slemper Memorial Library, Big Stone Gap
Coeburn Community Library, Coeburn
J. Fred Matthews Memorial Library, St. Paul

Serving Dickenson County:
Jonnie B. Deel Memorial Library, Clintwood
Haysi Community Library, Haysi

Serving Lee County:
Lee County Public Library, Pennington Gap
Rose Hill Community Library, Rose Hill

Serving Scott County
Scott County Public Library, Gate City

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