



**PRESS RELEASE**

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**Library Director Tom Hehman Announces Retirement**

**WHAT: Library Director Retiring**

**WHEN: August 1, 2011**

**WHO: Public**

**WHERE: Wicomico Public Library**

**SALISBURY, MD – February 11, 2011** – Wicomico Public Library Director Tom Hehman announced his retirement today, effective as of August 1st. He has served as Library Director since January, 2004.

Mr. Hehman stated, “My years at the Library have been very rewarding and it’s been an honor to serve this community. But, after 40 years as a professional librarian, I want to spend more time with my grandchildren, playing the trumpet and working on automobiles.”

Wicomico County Executive Richard M. Pollitt, Jr., said, “We are going to miss Mr. Hehman’s vision, enthusiasm, and commitment to community. He has been a great asset to Wicomico County as our Library Director.”

Library Board Chair Laura Thorpe commented, “Over the past 7 years, Tom Hehman has served our library and the people of Wicomico County with a balance of expertise and dedication. Mr. Hehman’s leadership has promoted initiatives enhancing community partnerships, while also

supporting a dedicated and knowledgeable staff. On behalf of the Wicomico Library Board of Trustees, we wish Tom well in his upcoming retirement.”

Ms. Thorpe added that the search process for the next Director will begin shortly.

The following items are highlights from Mr. Hehman’s tenure:

- Establishment and enlargement of the Pittsville Branch
- Relocation and enlargement of the Centre Branch at the Centre at Salisbury
- Purchase and utilization of new bookmobile
- Transfer of old bookmobile to Sheriff for mobile command center
- Completion of comprehensive planning for services and facilities
- Implementation of new service initiatives to 50+ population, teens and boys
- Reception of over \$1M in competitive grants awards
- Establishment of Friday Night Live community concert series
- Maintenance of core services despite severe budget cuts.

Last year the library circulated over 783,000 items; offered over 1,200 programs, classes and events attended by over 13,000 people; registered over 131,000 computer sign ups; answered over 49,000 information questions; recorded almost 1,600 community meeting room bookings; and provided almost 1,000 bookmobile visits to schools, daycare centers, senior facilities and neighborhoods.

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***Wicomico Public Library: Supporting Learning, Building Community, Enriching Lives!***



*Mr. Hehman*