

Press Release

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Warwick Library Receives \$157,333 Public Library Construction Grant

The New York State Education Department and New York State Library announced recently that the Albert Wisner Public Library has been awarded a grant of \$157,333 for the parking lot expansion and outdoor improvement project currently underway at the Library.

These funds come from an appropriation of \$19 million in capital funds for public library construction that is included in the 2016 State budget. Awards are made through state library systems. The Albert Wisner Public Library is part of the Ramapo Catskill Library System (RCLS) which allocated a total of \$802,142 to sixteen RCLS libraries in this funding cycle.

The parking lot and outdoor performance area project will add over 70 additional parking spaces and create an accessible outdoor performance area. Also included is a walking path extending from the new parking area along the back of the Library and connecting with the sidewalk on McFarland Drive.

This grant would not have come to fruition without the help of the Village of Warwick and State Senator John Bonacic. The planning required to apply for funding from the NYS Public Library Construction program is complex, necessitating cooperation from many agencies. The Mayor and Village Board were committed to seeing this project, with its emphasis on safety and accessibility, become a reality. Invaluable support from Senator Bonacic and his staff facilitated all the required paperwork at the State level. "I can't overstate how effective leadership on the local and State level benefits our community, especially when competing for limited public library construction funds," commented Library Director Rosemary Cooper.