

Who makes the decisions?

The elected officials who make the decisions for how Plymouth County funds library service are the County Supervisors. Contact information can be found on the county website.

www.co.plymouth.ia.us/departments/board.aspx

Dist 1
John Meis

Dist 2
Mark Loutsch

Dist 3
Don Kass

Dist 4
Craig Anderson

Dist 5
Jim Henrich

Le Mars Public Library Trustees are appointed by the Mayor and approved by the City Council.
www.lemars.lib.ia.us/about/library-board/boardmembers

Le Mars Public Library Board Members:

Allan Gates
Robin Hermson
Kathleen Kipp
Jan Musson
Erin Ohrlund
Bill Peshek
Dr. Mark Stelzer

LE MARS PUBLIC LIBRARY HOURS

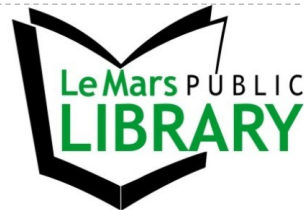
MONDAY—THURSDAY
9:00– 8:00

FRIDAY
9:00-6:00

SATURDAY
9:00-1:00

SUNDAY—CLOSED

VISIT US ONLINE AT:
LEMARS.LIB.IA.US



Le Mars Public Library
46 1st Street SW
Le Mars, IA 51031
712-546-5004

library@lemars.lib.ia.us



CHANGES IN LIBRARY SERVICE

Updated November 2015



Change in Library Service

For many years the Le Mars Public Library received funding from Plymouth County. In 2014 an agreement could not be reached between the library board, city and county officials on an equitable funding level. The Plymouth County Supervisors did offer the library some financial support, but the offer was not equitable to the costs of providing library service.

Plymouth County residents account for 14.6% of the library's usage; therefore, the bill presented to the county was 14.6% of the cost that the City of Le Mars pays. In 2014 the bill was \$59,532.33 and in 2015 the bill was \$58,218.93— The last amount received from Plymouth County in 2013 was \$24,204.

Free Library Service??

The Le Mars Public Library is committed to providing library service to the community. Typically, this library service is provided with no additional charge to the public. Children attend story time programs with no registration fee. Library visitors can use the internet and download eBooks without paying the high cost of access. People of all ages borrow a wide assortment of books, audio books and DVD's without reaching for a credit card.

These services seem “free” to our library visitors. But in fact, these services cost thousands of dollars to provide. The Le Mars Public Library receives 96% of its funding from the City of Le Mars. Since 2014 the library has not received any funding from Plymouth County for serving rural residents. As a result, on January 1, 2016 patrons living in the rural areas (not in the incorporated city limits of a town) will need to pay \$40.00 to access library services.

Plymouth County provides \$9.57 per capita in library support to other county libraries. The state average is \$17.67 per capita and the regional rate is between \$13.96—\$29.86 per capita. The support to Le Mars Public Library is zero.

Plymouth County continues to provide funding to the following libraries:

- ⇒ Akron Public Library receives \$78,019 from their city and \$24,536 from the county.
- ⇒ Kingsley Public Library receives \$57,050 from their city and \$19,771 from the county.
- ⇒ Merrill Public Library receives \$11,064 from their city and \$10,408 from the county.
- ⇒ Remsen Public Library receives \$54,743 from their city and \$25,284 from the county.
- ⇒ Le Mars Public Library receives \$363,180 from their city and requested \$58,218 from the county but has received \$0 for the past two years.