NEWS

From the Illinois State Senate

State Senator John Sullivan, 47th Legislative District

For Immediate Release: October 25, 2012

MACOMB, IL – State Senator John Sullivan (D-Rushville) hosted Secretary of State Jesse White today as he congratulated two western Illinois communities on their commitment to invest in public libraries. Macomb and Rushville are among the top tier of Illinois towns eligible to receive matching grants through the new Public Library Construction Grant Program.

“I’m proud of the Rushville and Macomb communities for laying the groundwork for great libraries that will serve residents for years to come,” Sullivan said. “These two libraries have launched successful campaigns to raise money locally, which allows them to partner with the state of Illinois through this grant program and realize their dreams.”

The 2009 state capital construction package, which Sullivan co-sponsored, contained $50 million for improvements to public libraries. Macomb will receive $2.38 million in state funds, supplementing the $1 million it will raise through a capital campaign it kicked off October 5. Rushville will receive $1.2 million and has already raised most of its match.

"Public libraries are cornerstones of our communities, meeting residents' information needs in reliable and innovative ways," said Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White, who came to formally announce the grants and congratulate Macomb and Rushville on their progress toward securing the matching funds. "I commend Macomb and Rushville on becoming eligible to receive grants awarded through this new library construction program."

The Macomb Public Library District plans to add an additional 10,000 square feet to its historic Carnegie Library, built in 1904. The expansion will add an area for young children’s programming, additional space for computers and expanded reading areas. Changes will also be made to the building to improve safety and accessibility.

Rushville’s library plans major renovations projected to cost $1.6

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million. It is contributing $400,000 in local funds to the project in addition to the $1.2 million in grant money.

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