



THE COUNTY OF CHESTER



COMMISSIONERS:
Carol Aichele
Terence Farrell
Kathi Cozzone

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS
Courthouse, 2 N. High St. Suite 512
P.O. Box 2748
West Chester, PA 19380-0991
610-344-6100

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EDITORS: The following is for immediate release. If you have any questions, please contact Evelyn Walker, Chester County Chief Management Officer, at (610) 344-6024.



John C. Venditta

Chester County Commissioners name John C. Venditta as Executive Director of the county's library system

Venditta is a native of Downingtown

WEST CHESTER _ The Chester County Commissioners have named John C. Venditta as the new Executive Director of the county's library system. He is expected to begin June 1, 2008.

"John brings a strong background of experience to the county," said Carol Aichele, chair of the commissioners. "As an added plus, he grew up in Downingtown and his mother still lives in Chester County and is a library volunteer."

Commissioners Terence Farrell and Kathi Cozzone joined Aichele in supporting the hiring of Venditta. "The Chester County Library system, with 18 libraries, is an important resource to county residents," Farrell said. "We are pleased to find a candidate of John's caliber." Cozzone added, "Providing the next level of technology-based services to county residents through our libraries is important. John Venditta's background gives him an excellent knowledge base and will be beneficial to county libraries."

Earl Baker, president of the Chester County Library Board of Directors, said, "We anticipate John's leadership taking us to the new level of quality service and innovation the Commissioners and the Library Board have established as a goal."

For almost eight years Venditta has been Associate Director of the Western Maryland Public Libraries, based in Hagerstown. Previously he served as Library Automation and Information Systems Manager for Washington County Free Library in Hagerstown.

Venditta holds a Master of Library Science from the University of Maryland and degrees in computer management and information systems from the University of Maryland and music education from Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

His professional and community affiliations include the American Library Association, Public Library Association, Maryland Library Association, Washington County Ethics Commission, Washington County Animal Control Authority, Washington County Public Network, Maryland Theater Task Force, Rotary and Chamber of Commerce.

In his application for the Chester County position Venditta wrote, "I clearly remember my first visit to the Downingtown Library. At age nine, I wandered into this small, stone building and was overwhelmed by the sensory experience – it smelled of stories – and all of those books! The woman behind the imposing desk gently asked me a series of questions and I was soon on my way with my first borrowed book (a science fiction title) and my new library card in my hip pocket."

He wrote library work is about change. "It is about exploring new technologies and adapting them to our mission. It is about anticipating demographic changes in our communities. It is about actively advocating for libraries among elected officials and funders and it about creating strategic partnerships."

The Chester County Library System is comprised of 18 libraries, with Chester County Libraries in Exton and Lionville operated by Chester County and the others independently operated in municipalities.