



FRIENDS

OF THE MATHEWS MEMORIAL LIBRARY

From the President's Corner...

Fellow Friends of the Mathews Library

It is midsummer and hotter than blazes. That means, though, that our used book store is open two days a week – every Friday and Saturday – with all the opportunity that brings for you and family and friends to stop by and browse for some of the best reading bargains in the area. Stop by and look over the offerings. Usually Jane and/or David Abbott, our book sale managers, are there to greet you and answer any questions.

There have been two noteworthy events since the last newsletter. First, we have two new Executive Committee/Board Members (remember, the old Friends organization is operating in parallel with the new corporation until the latter gets tax-exempt status). Our two additions are Maree Morgan and Michael Cannon, and they are welcome, indeed! It is always good to have fresh faces, fresh ideas, and fresh approaches join the Board.

The second piece of exciting news is that we have been successful in purchasing the building next to the Library, between it and Sibleys. It totals about 3000 square feet and, when added to the Library, will represent a 34% increase in the Library's space. The purchase was funded by a donor who wishes to remain anonymous. It will be a wing of the Library and will be named for Dr. H. Bland Hudgins, who practiced medicine for years here in Mathews County and was well-known and well-loved by many county residents.



The recently purchased building for an addition to the Library, which will be named in honor of Dr. H. Bland Hudgins

Now that the all-too-long procurement process is done, we have started on the next phase, which is the design and remodeling of the building for Library use. We have formed a small task group with people who have a wide range of interests, expertise, experience, and interactions with the community. The members are Steve Whiteway, County Administrator, Bette Dillehay, Library Director, Carolyn Taylor, a Library Trustee and volunteer who has experience at the University of Mary Washington with a number

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From the Library...

More Than You Expect

A few days ago, Phyllis Theroux, author and journalist, came to the Mathews Memorial Library. Accompanied by her husband, Ragan, Phyllis was prepared for a small rural library setting where she was scheduled to talk about her latest book, *The Journal Keeper*. After all, Phyllis has talked in many such libraries, and furthermore, she lives in the small town of Ashland, Virginia. What Phyllis and Ragan found was not what they expected. In fact, as they described it, it's the best library they've ever visited. For a small library, they believe we're in a class of our own.

As staff and Board of Trustees and Friends, we could sit back and enjoy the compliments that frequently come our way. We could rest on our laurels, which includes receiving the 2005 award as the best rural library in the U.S. But, the community deserves our best – not just in 2005 or even in 2010 but, rather, our continuing efforts to strive to be a world class library and to maintain a reputation for excellence, seeking always to be at the forefront in our use of technology and providing services that fit the needs of the community.

What does it mean to be a world class library? Although volumes have been written on the topic, how-to workshops too numerous to count held on the matter, and untold conferences featuring experts on the subject, the vision that emerges is relatively simple. It starts with a warm, welcoming, well-informed staff and includes an inviting environment featuring organized shelves and a well-stocked store of books in multiple formats, spacious children and teen sections with friendly spaces and last, but not least, access to world-wide information through public computers available to young and old.

The recent acquisition of the adjacent "Radio Shack" facility adds an exciting element to the challenge of becoming a world class library. If we are to achieve our vision of excellence for the 21st Century, then this new addition becomes a key factor for reaching out in new ways to provide better service to larger audiences. The staff is frequently asked how they think the space should be used. While it is assumed that we have a ready answer, such is not the case. Rather, we must think, not only of immediate needs, but work diligently to develop a vision of future opportunities for service.

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Upcoming Events

at a glance

Orrell Building Bookstore

open every Friday & Saturday
during July & August

Youth Program:

Follow the Circus - July

Soothin' Summer Sounds:

Jennifer Kirkland - July
Wayne A. Hill - August

Author's Forum:

Tony Williams - August 12

Adult Summer Reading:

Reservations Not Required
through August 15

Computer Classes:

Resume in the fall

Friends Membership Meeting

November 16 10:00 am
John Warren Cooke Room

Upcoming Events in more detail
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More Than You Expect *cont'd*

Delivering the vision must be done in concert with the community, recognizing changes that have and will take place and responding to those changes. Further we must work in partnership with users as we plan to ensure that our services and resources remain relevant to their needs. We look forward to this exciting opportunity and express gratitude to all those who have made it possible.

Bette Dillehay
Library Director

Upcoming Events

in more detail

Adult Summer Reading Program:

“Reservations Not Required” features books about traveling in the U.S and offers weekly prizes for participants. Related to the reading program are a series of weekly “Frequent Flyers” Monday morning workshops/programs, including “Cookbooks & Recipes From Across America,” “Family Vacations, Past and Present,” “Road Trip Essentials” and “B.Y.O. Book Discussion” - your favorite summer reads.

Soothin’ Summer Sounds Series:

Jennifer Kirkland - July 29, 7:00 pm
Wayne A. Hill “Classical Cornucopia” -
August 19, 7:00 pm

Visit the library’s website for up-to-date programs, classes, and special events at www.mathewslibrary.org

From the President’s Corner *cont'd*

number of remodeling projects, Doreen Folzenlogen, a Library Trustee and Friends member and former President, and me, Neil Webre, current President.

While the above group will coordinate the effort and deal with day to day matters, the Friends Board of Directors will pass judgment and have the final say on all major recommendations of the task group. In this way, we hope to be able to move efficiently, while leaving the Friends Board with control of the important decisions.

We will keep you posted on the progress of the effort in our next newsletter. Till then, enjoy the summer and all your visiting family and friends.

We hope to see you at the membership meeting in November.

Neil Webre
President.

Membership

Welcome new Life members **Roslyn Tharp Curran, Ruth Nason** and **Patricia Healy**. We appreciate the support you have shown us in our effort to provide funds for the library.

Thanks to Membership Chair, **Millie Montgomery**, for keeping our membership list up to date.

From the Treasurer ...

The big financial news for the Friends comes from the purchase of the building next to the Library for Library expansion. A most generous and anonymous donor gave us sufficient funds for the purchase. As Neil Webre has outlined in his article, we now face the task of renovating the building in order to repair some minor problems, to bring the building up to code and to make it useful for the Library. Design and construction costs will be substantial.

Fortunately, the Friends have been saving for this type of project. When the transformation of the bank building into the Library was completed, approximately \$17,000 was left in the building fund. The Executive Committee of the Friends at that time had the foresight to maintain this money in a separate building fund for future needs of the Library. Over the past decade, most of the small budget surplus that existed at the end of each year was added to the building fund, which, together with earnings over that time, has grown to an amount that should bring us close to being able to handle the yet unknown renovation costs for this new project. Of course, any donations which members of the Friends wish to make in order to ensure that we can pay those costs would be most appreciatively received.

In addition to our big project, the Friends continue in providing ongoing financial support to the Library. Over the years we have provided funds for additions to the Library's collections; for purchase of computers, software, furniture and other equipment; for improvements to the Library's physical plant; for the continuing education of Library staff and for the costs of the many rich and innovative programs which

Bette Dillehay and her staff make available to the Mathews community. So far this year, the Library Director has only requested support for programs. In response, we have given \$8,870.25 for fees charged by authors who have given talks at the Library, for a software license renewal for the Library's job search program and for costs associated with the many summer and holiday programs that grace our county's calendar such as the varied musical presentations, the children's summer discovery program, the Highland Games and the ever popular Christmas favorites: the Tree Trimming and Nutcracker parties.

We have budgeted approximately \$20,000 more in ongoing support for the Library this year. We can do this because of the generosity of the members of the Friends and of some local foundations. Our library is an award winning treasure of this community, which enriches our lives immeasurably. This is so primarily because of the imagination and hard work of the Library Director and of her staff. But the platform for their efforts would not exist were it not for the recognition of its value and the support given by the Board of Supervisors and by the supplemental help that we can provide. In difficult economic times, the mistake is sometimes made to consider libraries to be luxuries which cannot be funded. Our community has not made this mistake. As we all move forward in our efforts to recover our equilibrium and to strengthen what is important, please consider being a generous Friend to the Library that is such a friend to us all.

Jim Hutchins
Treasurer

**USED BOOK SALES
ORRELL BUILDING
SCHEDULE**

**Open Fridays & Saturdays 9 – 1
through Sept. 4
Open Sept. 10 & 11, 9 – 4
Open Oct. 2, Nov. 6 & Dec. 4, 9 - 1**

Come to the book store. We have received generous donations of books: recent fiction, cookbooks, inspirational romance, science, books for children and young adults, etc. And the back room is overflowing where books are still \$1.00 a bag. Paperbacks and paper grocery bags are still in short supply. Do you have any extras?

We would not be able to earn money for the library without the support of the many wonderful volunteers and donors.

Jane and David Abbott.

BRICK WALKWAY & PATIO

It has been a quiet summer on the Walkway, but we have received one brick donation this month. While all of the previous brick donations this year have been "in memory of" loved ones, this brick honors the special birthday of a mother who will be surprised and undoubtedly pleased when her birthday "gift" is shown to her. Think about someone you might want to surprise or honor with an addition to the Library Brick Patio. A \$100 donation for a 4x8 brick or a \$150 donation for an 8x8 brick will bring smiles and memories to whomever you honor.

Roger Gamble



The lovely garden, in memory of Pam Machen and maintained by the Garden Club of Mathews County, is an inviting addition to a bookstore filled with great deals....

Friends of the Mathews Memorial Library
P.O. Box 127
Mathews, VA 23109-0127

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MATHEWS, VA
PERMIT NO. 20

Address Service Requested

I Want to Open/Renew My Membership.

Remittance is enclosed to:

- Open My Lifetime Membership @ \$50 person
- Open My Annual Membership @ \$5 person
- Renew My Annual Membership @ \$5 person

I Want to Support Library Special Projects.

Enclosed is my gift of \$ _____.

Mr/Mrs/Ms _____ Name Telephone

_____ Address Email Address

_____ City State Zip Code

*Contributions to the Friends of the Mathews Memorial Library
are tax deductible. Make checks payable to
Friends of the Mathews Memorial Library
and mail to P.O. Box 127, Mathews, Virginia 23109-0127.*

www.friendsofmathewslibrary.org