



FRIENDS

OF THE MATHEWS MEMORIAL LIBRARY

From the President's Corner...

Fellow Friends of the Mathews Library,

What's Inside

From the Library Director...
Bette Dillehay p.2

Deck the Halls
The Library Staff p.3

Electronic Newsletter & Email
Mary Margaret Hutchins p.3

From the Treasurer...
Jim Hutchins p.4

Orrell Building Book Store
Jane & David Abbott p.5

Brick Walkway & Patio
Roger Gamble p.5

I hope that you are enjoying the Fall weather. I know that I love the relief from the high humidity of summer, and the cool but not yet cold temperatures are great for any outdoor activity.

The Friends are taking some of the final steps to fold up the old organization and fully move our functions and assets to the new corporation. As members of the current organization, you will automatically be members of the corporation and have pretty much the same voting rights you had before. The one big difference: at the upcoming Fall General Membership meeting on Tuesday, November 16, you will vote for a slate of directors rather than officers as you did before. The directors serve three year terms, and yearly you will vote for a third of them, their terms being staggered. The directors then vote for the corporation officers at the January meeting.

The work on planning and designing the expansion into the new H. Bland Hudgins wing of the Library continues. We are in the process of finding an architect. We are eagerly looking forward to the first conceptual plans of this new wing.

There are other interesting reports in this issue on topics such as the new Fall and Winter schedule for Book Store, the possibility of electronic newsletters, an explanation of the status of the conversion from an association to a corporation, and Bette Dillehay's comments on the happenings at the Library, so I'll leave it to you to read those articles.

continued page 3

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

November 16, 2010 - 10:00 a.m.

John Warren Cooke Room

Mathews Memorial Library

*From the Library Director...***Knowing Our Strengths**

Ask a member of the staff who works at the library what they do and you may get a puzzling response such as: "It all depends." It is not so much that individual titles and responsibilities do not exist. More likely it is because the individual is concentrating on a particular project underway at the time in a shared, networked environment. For instance, Sara Hallberg, head of adult services, and Raquel Ott, technology services assistant, will be found each Thursday working together with clients to provide a variety of job-related services. At the same time, Becky Barnhardt, head of genealogy services, may be applying her technical and creative skills toward the production of promotional material for a Halloween party in the youth wing. Likewise, Greg Lewis, head of technology services, may be seeking input on web development from almost every member of the staff (excluding the director), while, at the same time, he is working with Missy Bauby, head of youth services, on the development of a program to improve access to electronic homework assistance applications.

Do the above scenarios create chaos and confusion, or even worse result in poor service? Not at all! Rather, it is representative of a work environment that respects and utilizes the strengths and inherent talents of each staff member. It does, however, require a willingness to share time and talent as well as a spirit of appreciation for the respective talents of each. What each person brings to the table is a critical key to our success.

Despite signs of success in traditional services, Mathews Memorial Library, like most public libraries, faces mounting pressure to add new services and streamline existing ones. Adding computers demands staff trained to assist patrons with technology needs. Creating dynamic teen areas to entice a new generation of library users means not only a need for additional space but also a different orientation of service.

Such dependence on individual skills to move forward cannot be left to chance. First, it is crucial that the needs of the library in terms of providing service to the community be identified. Second, there must be a nurturing environment that is absent elitism and built on respect at all levels; such that each individual has a strong sense of security in their role as a staff member. Third, there needs to be continuing opportunities for professional growth in terms of acquiring new skills and knowledge. Finally, there must be a willingness to change should that be necessary due to a gap between the use of the library and the services available.

It is the latter two points that will be the focus of the Mathews Memorial Library staff in the coming months. Although comfortable with our perception of patron needs, we plan to revisit earlier assessments to ensure their continued accuracy. We will also examine the library's service model. Are we organized in a way that matches how patrons use the library?

Upcoming Events*at a glance***Orrell Building Bookstore**

expanded fall/winter hours
see p. 5 for details

Adult Computer Classes:

contact library for schedule

Career Connect Center(C3)

Thursdays, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm
Chesapeake Room

Friends Membership Meeting

November 16 10:00 am
John Warren Cooke Room

"Deck the Halls"

November 28, 2:00 - 4:00 pm
see p. 3 for details

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

continued page 3

From the Library Director *cont'd*

Next, we plan to review existing skill sets in terms of performing key functions, including customer service, project/program planning, technology implementation and collection development. If we are to remain relevant to our patrons and the community, we must react to change and respond accordingly.

Bette Dillehay
Director

From the President's Corner *cont'd*

I should note that this will be my last message to you as President. I have a full-time position for which the work load has increased substantially since I became President three years ago. I increasingly find that I am unable to pay the attention that should be given by the President in these lively times for the Friends – incorporation, building purchase, remodeling, etc. So, I have asked the Board to remove me from consideration to serve as President next year.

We hope to see you at the General Membership meeting. There will be a vote for the slate of directors of the corporation and a presentation of the major issues facing the Friends in the months ahead.

Neil Webre
President

Electronic Newsletters & New Email Address

In an effort to be more fiscally and environmentally responsible, we are considering sending the quarterly newsletter electronically to those of our members who have provided email addresses. Receiving your newsletter via email would be a “no cost to you” donation to the Friends and would reduce considerably our cost of mailing a paper copy as well as reducing our carbon footprint. The newsletter will be sent to you in the email as a PDF (portable document format) file which is opened by Adobe Reader - a program you probably already have installed on your computer. If not, you can download Adobe Reader easily and for free. PDF files are very safe. Look for an email in January explaining this process in more detail.

Email us with questions or concerns at our new email account: friendsofmathewslibrary@gmail.com

Mary Margaret Hutchins
Newsletter Editor

Deck the Halls

The “Deck the Halls” theme this year is *The Gift of the Magi*. The library is inviting the community to festively wrap a gift, place a note on the bottom as to its primary target recipient, and bring it to the library. These gifts will become a part of the library decorations prior to their being available to members of the community who might need assistance in making the holiday a joyful event. Gifts will be received on the day we “deck the halls” - November 28th - and up until Christmas week when they will be distributed to needy families. It would be greatly appreciated if members of the Friends took part in this year's event by helping to make this a joyous holiday for our neighbors in need.



children decorating one of the five trees in the library during the 2009 “Deck the Hall” party

From the Treasurer ...

In this issue, I want to give you a brief report on the status of the conversion of the Friends from an unincorporated association to a corporation. As you may remember, both the Executive Committee and the members at the January 2010 membership meeting voted to make this change in order to provide greater protection and predictability in the legal aspects of operating the business of the Friends.

After applying to the State Corporation Commission, we received our corporate charter on February 24, 2010. Afterward, the corporation adopted bylaws, set up a bank account, purchased the building for the addition to the Library and obtained insurance. Most of the operations of the Friends, however, continued under the auspices of the association, as it was important for the corporation to receive recognition from the IRS as a publicly supported Section 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization before taking over. Additionally, exemptions from registration and taxation need to be obtained from the Commonwealth and from the County, so that our resources can go to the Library in the maximum amount.

In September, we obtained IRS recognition of our 501(c)(3) status. Thereafter, we applied to the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services for exemption from the paperwork and expense of registering as a charity which solicits contributions, based on our limited function as a local civic organization. Resolving this registration question is a necessary prerequisite to application to the Virginia Department of Taxation for state tax exemption. We have also applied to the Mathews Board of Supervisors for exemption from County taxes on the corporation's real and personal property. A public hearing will be required on this application. We are reasonably confident in

obtaining all these exemptions because the association has already achieved them. Unfortunately, we must apply for them again, as the corporation is a legal entity separate from the association.

As the appropriate exemptions are received, we will transfer various assets, functions and obligations of the association to the corporation. Already, we have transferred the building fund because the corporation is handling the development of the Library addition. We have also transferred our prime assets -- you. Now, all the members of the association are members of the corporation, with the same dues payment status as they held prior to the transfer. Because the dissolution of the association is likely to occur in the next several months, the November membership meeting will only be for the corporation. The association is now in winding-up mode.

We hope to complete this process by the end of this year. You probably won't notice much change in what we do and how we do it, besides seeing an "Inc." at the end of our name. Nevertheless, we hope that these structural changes to the organization will help us be even more effective in undertaking the business of supporting our beloved Library.

Jim Hutchins
Treasurer

Membership Update

Welcome new Life members **Eugaylia Hudgins** and **Debbie Zupanovich**. We appreciate the support you have shown us in our effort to provide funds for the library.

**USED BOOK SALES
ORRELL BUILDING**

FALL SCHEDULE 2010

Saturday, November 6, 9 am – 1pm
(we will be open after the Friends meeting
on November 16)

Thanksgiving Weekend, Saturday, November 27,
9 – 2 pm

Saturday, December 4, 9 am - 1 pm

Saturday, December 18, 9 am – 1 pm

WINTER SCHEDULE 2011

By popular demand we are going to be open
more frequently.

January - April

**Open the first and third Saturday of each
month, 9 am – 1 pm**

Watch for our sign on Main Street for
additional openings.

Come to the book store for your holiday
shopping. We have received generous donations
of very nice books, many are in “gift giving”
condition. Gift certificates are also available.

Donations of used books are always welcome. If
you bring your donations to the Orrell Building, a
receipt is available if requested.

Thanks to all the volunteers who keep the book
store operating.

For additional information or requests, call
725-0808 or 725-4264.

Jane and David Abbott

BRICK WALKWAY & PATIO

While the summer passed with only minor
additions to the Walkway & Patio, we witnessed
a spurt in brick donations this fall quarter. Six
bricks honoring and/or memorializing very
special individuals joined the other 420 bricks
already installed there.



I would remind everyone that a complete list of
brick donors and inscriptions is contained in a
folder in the Orrell Building, which houses our
excellent Book Store. You can check out the list
whenever the Book Store is open. Should you
not remember where a brick is located or do not
remember the exact inscription (which I assure
you has happened to some of the donors), I am
ready, willing and able to lead you to where it is.
Donors still pay only \$100 for a 4"x8" brick and
\$150 for an 8"x 8" one. Donations remain 100%
tax free to the donors.

Roger Gamble

In Memoriam

A brick in memory of Norma von Brock has been added to the Patio and Walkway. Norma was a devoted Friend of the Library, serving as President of the Friends from 1996-1997 and as Vice President until her death this past August. She will be greatly missed.

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
friendsofmathewslibrary@gmail.com*