



FRIENDS

OF THE MATHEWS MEMORIAL LIBRARY

April 2009

Volume 27, Number 2

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Well, Spring is here in theory, though sometimes it doesn't feel much like April. On the bright side, it's as if the daffodils and other blooming flowers are put in the fridge every night. They're lasting longer.

If you haven't done so, next time you're in the Library, take a look at the new flooring in the John Warren Cooke Conference Room. The old dingy rug is no more and has been replaced by some beautiful wood flooring, and a big oriental rug that was a gift. It all looks quite nice, and it should wear a lot longer and look far more elegant than the old carpet. Spills, for instance, are no longer a big deal. The replacement project was funded by the Friends.

Our last general meeting (January 20th), was a truncated one because it fell right on the day and time of the 2009 U. S. Presidential Inauguration. We need not worry about reoccurrences of that coincidence. I checked my calendar, and the next time it happens is in 2037! We can safely leave the problem to a future generation of Friends.

Because of the possibility that that January general meeting would not be too well attended, I decided that in order to get a quorum of votes for the 2009 slate of officers, I'd have Millie

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

TUESDAY, APRIL 21

10 A.M.

MATHEWS MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Montgomery send me an up to date list of members for whom we had email addresses. If I could email members and ask them to cast electronic ballots, we'd have a hedge against low attendance. It worked. Of those who got an email request, about two-thirds cast votes, and those votes were indeed necessary to make the quorum. And, for the first time, I felt like I was in touch with many members who, while members, are not very active.

The Friends started before the Web, Internet, and email had anywhere near the widespread use they have today (in fact, the Web didn't even exist). Through many of the years of our organization's existence, it just was not common for people to have email addresses. That has changed considerably, and it turns out to be a great way to keep in touch. We have about 308 Friends, but we have email addresses for only 58 of them. Of those 58, 40%, or about 23 are out of date, leaving us valid email addresses for only 35 of our 308 members. I think we badly need to update our records. That will probably involve a telephone campaign. It is yet to be decided, but be aware that you may get a call in the next few months from a volunteer asking for your current information.

Our general membership meeting is Tuesday, April 21 at 10 a.m. I hope to see you there.

Neil Webre, President

FROM THE LIBRARY

The day starts like most Mondays at Mathews Memorial Library. A note from the weekend staff conveys the message that computer #2 malfunctioned on Sunday. Before that can be assessed, a new resident to Mathews arrives asking to use the library's wireless service with her laptop. She becomes the first new patron of the day. Meanwhile, the staff is assembling their thoughts about what activities are scheduled and what needs to be done. It is soon determined that, not unlike almost every day at the library, this day will indeed be a busy one.

Missy Bauby, youth services coordinator, has an interview scheduled with the newly appointed Patron Resource Center coordinator, Lori Jackson, who will be working in the youth wing on a part-time basis. Lori's role as coordinator is part of a

partnership agreement that the library has with the Special Education Assistance Committee (SEAC) to provide service to parents of children served by the SEAC program in Mathews. Initiating this program brings new challenges to the youth wing, not the least of which is space to accommodate this very important partnership. Lori begins her work April 1st. Juggling the interview with other activities is particularly important today since Missy is also in the midst of making final arrangements for this year's Spring Break Fantasy Trip. An event that transforms the library for a short time into another place involves the entire staff and a number of volunteers. The trip will take place on April 8th when we "travel" to Egypt.

Leigh Lewis has little time for small talk about her weekend as she begins preparation for the grand opening of the Career Connect Center (C³) on Tuesday. The library has joined forces with the Bay Consortium Workforce Investment Board, Inc., to become an Access Point for job related resources. Through this partnership, the library will be able to offer resume, interview and other job-skills workshops. Open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., dedicated computers and a newly created special collection will make employment resources available.

Greg Lewis and Diane McKnight have their own tasks this morning. Working around the replacement of the book shelves in the John Warren Cooke Conference Center following the installment of the new flooring, they are busy setting up for the computer workshop that convenes at 1 p.m. Ten students are signed up to spend the next four afternoons learning how to make better use of the computer. Frank Lohr arrives to serve as instructor.

Meanwhile, members of a committee developing plans for a Main Street fundraiser are seeking space to meet and three visitors arrive to do research on their family history. Two additional

new patrons are added and a last-minute sign-up for the computer class expresses appreciation for the many services offered by the library. No time for lunch as it is discovered that a group of children from Lee Jackson are arriving for a special tour and story time. Not to worry, it's just another ordinary day at the library!

Bette Dillehay, Director

ORRELL BUILDING

USED BOOK SALES

Spring is here and Summer is not far behind. Winter is gone (we hope) and it's time to plan our sales of used books. Also it is time for Spring cleaning, so donate all those old books that have accumulated during seasons past. And, please help us advertise our sales by telling your friends and neighbors about our great collection of used books. (And our great prices)

The book store will be open:
Saturday May 2 9 – 1

And our Summer schedule begins:
Friday and Saturday May 29 & 30 9 – 1

And every Friday and Saturday
during June, July, and August

Many thanks to the volunteers who helped at the Orrell Building this winter: Cheryl Ligon, Joan Metzger, Pat Kinsley, Barbara Sampson, Karen Palmer, Sally Howland, Nan Hathaway, and Janice Phillips. Also thank you to the many people who donated books. Our shelves are full for the beginning of Spring and Summer sales.

Jane & David Abbott

**Friends of the Library book bags
are still available at the Library
and the Orrell Building.**

BRICK WALKWAY & PATIO

This first quarter of 2009 has seen a nice rise in the number of bricks donated for our Brick Walkway and Patio. However, there is still a lot of space available for recognizing or memorializing friends and/or family.

A Certificate of Donation is sent to each donor, which provides evidence that the donor has made a tax-free, charitable donation. And, should it be requested, I am happy to take and provide a photo of the brick after it has been installed, which can be sent to a person designated by the donor. The list of donors and brick inscriptions is kept up-to-date in a folder available in the Orrell Book Store. Check it out when you next browse the thousands of books available there.

Roger Gamble

MEMBERSHIP

Thanks go to Helena and Dean St. Dennis for upgrading to Life Memberships during the past three months.

LAST ISSUE

If your address label says "2008," this will be the last issue of the Friends newsletter that you will receive in the mail. It's time to either renew or sign up for a "Life" membership. An application is on the back of this newsletter.

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Date: _____

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

E-mail Address

Post Office

State

Zip

*Contributions to the Friends of the Mathews Memorial Library are tax deductible.
Make checks payable to: Friends of the Mathews Memorial Library
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