



FRIENDS

OF THE MATHEWS MEMORIAL LIBRARY

July 2009

Volume 27, Number 3

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

**TUESDAY, JULY 21
7 P.M. (PLEASE NOTE TIME)**

MATHEWS MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Fellow Friends of the Mathews Library,

High summer is here, the corn is tall, the wheat is in, and the vegetable gardens are looking wonderful. It has been relatively cool to this point, with good rains. It's a nice time to be living in Mathews and enjoying all of it.

The Friends have been active in a quiet way in the last three months. An email arrived on June 19 from our resourceful Treasurer, Janice Phillips, announcing that the Treakle Foundation has once again honored our grant request with a check for \$17,000! This foundation has treated us very well in

the past and continues to do so. They deserve our lasting thanks. As we have reported to you, the previous grants were put to very good use in allowing our library to retain its excellence.

Millie Montgomery, who cares for our membership records, has been hard at work with an important project – bringing our membership records up to date, especially in regard to members' email addresses. As I wrote in a previous column, the Friends were formed in the days before the World Wide Web. Even in recent years, many members did not use email. However, its use is becoming ever more widespread and

www.friendsofmathewslibrary.org

provides a much more immediate and inexpensive way of communicating with the members. Millie reports that she was able to obtain 112 email addresses for the 251 Friends families (or group of people at the same address). If you are one of these, you might expect an email from time to time from the Friends. We don't want to annoy people with too frequent emails but, hopefully, you might not mind hearing from us from occasionally. A good example is when the Library Director has an opportunity for a volunteer. Many people would be happy to volunteer if they could be made aware of the opportunities to do so.

The Friends Book Sale is in high gear for the summer. The sale is open each weekend during Friday and Saturday. We continue to depend on and get copious donations of used books, and they sell as fast as we get them in. If you have friends visiting you, you might bring them over to the Orrell Building some Friday or Saturday. We get lots of out-of-county people and they love the sale.

Hope you are having a happy, relaxed summer.

Neil Webre, President

FROM THE LIBRARY

THINK!

What does it take to change the way the world works? The answer may well be THINK.

When Thomas J. Watson joined the forerunner of today's IBM in 1914, he

www.friendsofmathewslibrary.org

brought with him the "Think" motto that the company still employs. "Thought," he said, "has been the father of every advance since time began." This is somewhat the approach we are taking in our summer programs at the library.

Throughout the month of July, thanks to the generous support of the Friends of the Mathews Memorial Library, children and young teens will explore "How Things Work." Scientists, including a physicist and an astronomer, will be their guides through exciting adventures of discovery, introducing them to famous people who used science to unravel some of the greatest mysteries in our universe. Armed with information obtained at the weekly "Lemonade Lectures," they will be able to make their own discoveries through various activities and travel on "Discovery Days."

Adults also are being encouraged to THINK in the Adult Summer Reading Program, which began June 8 and runs through July. "Things I Didn't Know" urges readers to "join in a quest for newly discovered facts, either new to them or even perhaps to the world. Weekly submissions of such newly found facts deposited in the "Eureka" entry box make them eligible for weekly prizes plus a chance at the final grand prize.

I would like to encourage members of the Friends of Mathews Memorial Library to THINK about how you might become more involved with the library. Today, the library has 7,827 patrons whose visits to the library average over 200 per day. Whether choosing a book, taking a computer class, using the resources of the Career Connect Center (C3) or just stopping in to read the newspaper, it is important that we be ready to serve. There are numerous volunteer

opportunities to help us continue to have the “best rural library in America. THINK about it!

Bette Dillehay, Library Director

BRICK WALKWAY AND PATIO

There is both good news and bad news concerning the Brick Walkway and Patio. First the bad news - no new brick donations this quarter!!! That is really unusual but I

will attribute it to the hot weather we have been having. Makes sense as I can think of no other reason why no new brick orders came in. But the good news is twofold - 1st. There is still plenty of space for your new bricks to be added to commemorate or honor friends and family. And, 2nd. The donation for the 8" x 8" brick has been lowered from \$225 to \$150. Now there is a bargain which I hope you cannot resist.

Roger Gamble

USED BOOK STORE, ORRELL BUILDING

Summer Schedule 2009

Every Friday and Saturday 9 – 1

Until Market Days, Sept. 11 & 12, Open from 9 – 4

Thank you to our many friends. Sales have been brisk this summer so far, and some of our shelves have spaces for more books. Let your friends, church, and service groups know that we need books, especially paperbacks.

“Orrell Building, the place where books find good homes.”

SUMMER READING – KIDS’ BOOKS

There is something about reading aloud to your kids or grandkids that keeps them enthralled. I suppose the same is true of adults given the ever increasing popularity of audio books. But there is something special to reading aloud to your family. When my children were growing up, we did this frequently on summer trips, which tended to be camping trips.

It has been shown that kids who read or are read to during the summer slip less in their academics than those who don’t. Nicholas Kristof has written a wonderful column on the subject in the New

York Times on July 4, “The Best Kids Books Ever.” It is a wonderful list for reading for kids, and it provoked a response from his readers that he says was larger than for any column he has ever written.

Rather than repeat what he and his respondents have covered so well, I’ll just send you on to a web address that links to the original article and the readers’ responses. I think you will enjoy it. Go to www.nytimes.com/ontheground and look at his July 7 and July 4 entries on the subject, and follow the links to the article and the responses.

Neil Webre

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

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

and mail to P.O. Box 127, Mathews, Virginia 23109-012

