

BookBytes

Volume VII, Issue 1

Compliments of the Friends of the Library

January-March, 2006



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Happy New Year!

2005 in review...

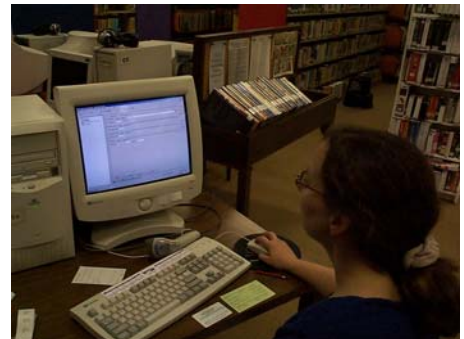


Ridgeway Branch Library reopened in June.



In April, around 400 students enjoyed the annual Read-In at the Old Armory.

The Friends enjoyed author programs and had a great book sale in 2005



In February the library migrated to Dynix Horizon software which upgrades catalog and circulation functions.

Resolve To Use Your Library In 2006!

Summer Reading was fun in June and July.



Library Commission Chairman Tom Fletcher received the Friend of Libraries Award from the South Carolina Library Association in October.

DIRECTOR'S DESK

SARAH MCMASTER

There has been much discussion around watercoolers, dinner tables, and in the newspaper lately concerning the recent Fairfield County tax notices. Since the Fairfield County Library is funded almost entirely by current local property taxes, I thought I would use my space this quarter to let you know how our finances are managed.

Early each year, usually in February or March, the Fairfield County administration sends out forms requesting budget proposals from all departments and agencies funded by County Council. As library director, I develop a proposed budget for the next fiscal year which runs from July to June. I present that budget to the Fairfield County Library Commission for their consideration. Once the Commission has given final approval, I submit the budget to the County Administrator. He reviews the budget and then gives his recommendation concerning funding for the library to County Council. During budget work sessions and over the course of three readings of the budget ordinance, the Council comes to an agreement on funding levels for all departments and agencies. The library is notified of their decision at the end of June.

Over the last two fiscal years, departments and agencies have been asked to take budget reductions of up to 2%. The library was un-

able to do this because state regulations stipulate that we will lose state funding (\$2.00 per capital this year) if our funding drops below a benchmark year. Although we did not reduce our budget, the library has received the same level of funding (\$367,656.00) from County Council for three consecutive fiscal years.

That funding is dispersed to us in four quarterly payments and, in addition to our State Aid, provides the majority of our operating budget. In previous years the library has received funding from the South Carolina Education Lottery, but that was discontinued this fiscal year. Our only other source of funds is from occasional federal or non-profit foundation grants.

We do all our bookkeeping in house and are audited as part of the county's audit process. We have always had clean audit reports. We strive very hard to be good stewards of the county dollars entrusted to us. We want to be deserving of your support for increased services and revenues in the future. Check your tax notice to see how much went to the library; I hope you will think you're getting a bargain!

(As always, feel free to reach me at the library by phone: 635-4971, or by email: sarah@fairfield.lib.sc.us.)

Just for Kids

- Come to Family Nights on January 5th, February 2nd, and March 2nd at 7:00 p.m.
- Remember the Winter Story Hour Series will be every Tuesday afternoon in February at 4:00 p.m.
- When the weather is bad and you can't come to the library, remember you can call Dial-a-



Story at 635-2020 to hear a story over the telephone.

- The Tree-Trimming Party in December was a great success with stories, ornaments, and refreshments. Everyone enjoyed our book tree (left).

Tax Forms Available at the Library

The Fairfield County Library will once again serve as a distribution point for state and federal tax forms. Located in the front lobby of the library, the forms are available free to the public.

Basic federal forms 1040, 1040A, and 1040 EZ and instructions will be available throughout tax season. Most of the schedules and many other supplementary forms will also be available. Unusual and less-used forms not stocked can be printed out from the Internet for \$.10 per page.

State tax booklets include all the basic state forms and will be available throughout the tax season.

The library staff will try to assist patrons in locating forms, but cannot give advice about which forms are needed.

From the Friends

Keep up with new books and your favorite authors in the new year by reading **Book Page**. This monthly book review magazine is provided free to the public by the Friends of the Library. Copies are located near the circulation desks at the Main Library and the Ridgeway Branch and on the Bookmobile.

Interviews with authors, book reviews, and special features are included in each issue along with listings of new books. Children's books and audio books are also reviewed.

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On March 8, 2006, the Friends will sponsor a group to attend Library Legislative Day. Library trustees, Friends, and library staff from

all over South Carolina will gather in Columbia for a luncheon with members of the South Carolina House and Senate. The event provides an annual, structured opportunity for discussing public library issues with our state elected officials

### *Resolve to join the Friends of the Library in 2006!*

Membership forms are available at the library and online at [www.fairfield.lib.sc.us](http://www.fairfield.lib.sc.us) (click on Friends of the Library).

#### Membership categories:

|                      |                |
|----------------------|----------------|
| \$5.00 Individual    | \$10.00 Family |
| \$25.00 Contributing | \$100.00 Life  |

## BY THE NUMBERS

The number of tax mills levied for the Fairfield County Library for FY 05-06.

# 3.5

The library is a millage agency, which means that the tax dollars collected by the mills levied for the library cannot be used for any other purpose. In other words, we are a separately funded entity, not part of the

county's General Fund budget.

You will see the library millage broken out on your tax notice and translated into how many dollars of your property tax bill goes to support library services.

Compare what you are paying to the cost of one book, magazine, or month of Internet service and see what a bargain you're getting.

## Don't Miss SC Book Festival in February

The tenth annual South Carolina Book Festival will be held Saturday, February 25th and Sunday, February 26th at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center. Sponsored by the South Carolina Humanities Council, the event will feature dozens of authors, scores of booksellers and vendors, and thousands of avid readers. Authors scheduled so far include Sandra Brown, Sharyn McCrumb, Mary Alice Monroe, James Huston, ReShonda Tate Billingsley, Anne Rivers Siddons, Cathy Pickens, and Robert Jordan. For a complete schedule of events, check out the following website:

[www.scbookfestival.org](http://www.scbookfestival.org)



South Carolina Humanities Council

# FAIRFIELD COUNTY LIBRARY

## Main Library

300 Washington Street  
Winnsboro, South Carolina 29180  
Phone: 803 635-4971  
Fax: 803 635-7715  
Hours: M,Tu,W,F 9-6 Th 9-9 Sat 9-1

## Ridgeway Branch Library

P.O. Box 160 ~ 175 Palmer Street  
Ridgeway, South Carolina 29130  
Phone/Fax: 803 337-2068  
Hours: M-Th 2-6

## Bookmobile

Phone Main Library at 803 635-4971

Dial-A-Story 803 635-2020

[www.fairfield.lib.sc.us](http://www.fairfield.lib.sc.us)

NON-PROFIT  
US Postage  
PAID  
PERMIT #12  
Winnsboro, SC  
29180

## Library Events ~~~ January-March, 2006

### Main Library

January 5 at 7:00 p.m. Family Night  
February 2 at 7:00 p.m. Family Night  
February 7, 14, 21, 28 at 4:00 p.m.  
Winter Story Hour Series  
February 25-26 South Carolina Book Festival  
(see article on page 3)  
March 2 at 7:00 p.m. Family Night  
March 8 Library Legislative Day, Columbia

### Ridgeway Branch Library

January 5 at 4:00 p.m. Story Hour  
February 2, 9, 16, 23 at 4:00 p.m.  
Winter Story Hour Series  
March 2 at 4:00 p.m. Story Hour

### *The Library Will Be Closed*

Monday, January 2nd  
for New Year's Day

Monday, January 16th  
for Martin Luther King Day

Friday, April 14th and  
Saturday, April 15th for Easter

