

BookBytes

Volume VIII, Issue 1

Compliments of the Friends of the Library

January-March, 2007



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Library Purchases Twelve Computers With Gates Grant

Faster processing speed. Flat screen monitors. Optical mice. USB ports for flash drives. Windows XP. Microsoft Office 2003.

All of these are new things library computer users will notice thanks to a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation which funded the purchase of twelve new computers to replace old workstations.

The grant of \$14,793.00 paid for four new computers for the Ridge-way Branch and eight new computers for the Main Library in Winnsboro. This will provide two extra public Internet workstations in Winnsboro, where waiting lines are common after school is out.

System Administrator Mike Poole has worked hard ordering, configuring, and setting up the new workstations which should all be



Rodderick Sparks likes the way a game looks on the new monitors!

in operation by early January.

A Gates grant funded the purchase of ten computers in 1999, all of which were still in use until these replacements were installed. Getting seven year's worth of service from computers that are used heavily every day is nothing short of a miracle. The library is thrilled to be able to upgrade to newer technology thanks to this most recent Gates Grant.



Fairfield Middle School Library Media Specialist Harriett Pauling helps two young ladies choose McMaster Endowment books at the library's Summer Reading Kickoff.

Endowment is a Gift That Keeps on Giving

During the holidays each year the Fairfield County Library works with many local agencies to provide books for children through the library's Robert and Rebecca McMaster Book Endowment program. In 2006 the library provided 270 books to be distributed through Christmas programs sponsored by Red Cross, the Good Samaritan House, United Way, the Midlands Fatherhood Coalition, the Prisoner Angel Tree Ministry, Fairfield County DSS, and the Ward One Crime Prevention Committee.

Anyone interested in information about how to apply for endowment books to distribute should contact Sarah McMaster or Beth Myers at the library.

DIRECTOR'S DESK

SARAH MCMASTER

I have always been envious of people who can pinpoint the exact year in their lives that a certain event happened. I have a few watershed events that I can remember like the year I moved to Winnsboro, or the years I graduated from high school or college, or the year I got married. As I get older I can remember when I have lost loved ones.

But, for the most part, the years of my life seem to blend into one another. One that does stand out is 1977, because that was the year I came to work here at the Fairfield County Library. It's hard to believe that my tenure will soon reach thirty years!

New Year's always seems to be a time of reflection and "the year in review" type stories in the media, so I began to think back over the past thirty years.

Some things at the library are still very much the

same after thirty years: the same building (although it's much more crowded now), some of the same staff (Sandy, Bydester and me!), many of the same books, and even many of the same patrons.

But much is also very different: new media (books on cassette and compact disc, videos, DVD's), new faces of staff and patrons, new technology. The computer revolution has without a doubt been the biggest change in my thirty years. It's hard to believe that the library has had Internet workstations for almost ten years now!

Where will 2007 take us? It will be fun to find out and maybe it will become one of the watershed years I can remember!

As always, feel free to reach me at the library by phone (803 635-4971) or by email (sarah@fairfield.lib.sc.us)

Just for Kids

- Come to Family Nights on January 4th, February 1st, and March 1st 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 (left) was a great success with stories, ornaments, and refreshments!

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

Recent Friends activities include providing judges for the Halloween Costume Contest and readers for the Children's Book Week programs. Blair native Tommy Scott Young was a hit at the Fall Meeting (see picture at right with Friends' President Frankie O'Neal).

On March 21, 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.

Public libraries received some additional State Aid funding and a lottery appropriation as a result of grassroots advocacy last year. This year's request includes another increase in State Aid as well as state

funding for library construction projects. The expansion of Fairfield's main library is one of the projects that would benefit from construction funding, so it is important for us to speak up during the budget process. Contact Sarah McMaster if you are interested in attending Legislative Day or are willing to write to legislators.



Friends membership forms are available at the library or online at www.fairfield.lib.sc.us (click on Friends of the Library). Ask someone to join today!

WELCOME!

The new face at the circulation desk belongs to Fran Driscoll. Fran has joined the library staff as a part-time circulation assistant.

Fran and her husband, Dick, retired to Winnsboro several years ago. For someone who had run her own business for many years, retirement became boring and Fran decided to look for something to keep her occupied. We're glad she found the library!

Besides running a business, Fran had previously worked as an elementary school media specialist in Troy, Ohio. Fran is a graduate of the State University of New York at Geneseo and has done graduate work there and at USC.



Don't Miss SC Book Festival in February

The annual South Carolina Book Festival will be held February 23-25, 2007, at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center. Sponsored by the South Carolina Humanities Council, the event will feature more than 70 authors, scores of booksellers and vendors, and thousands of avid readers.

Authors scheduled so far include Kimberla Lawson Roby, Nathalie Dupree, Jack Bass, Nikki Giovanni, Karen Gillespie, T. Lynn Ocean and many others.

For a complete schedule of events, check out the following website:

www.scbookfestival.org



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

175 S. 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

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29180

Library Events ~~~ January-March, 2007

Main Library

January 4 at 7:00 p.m. Family Night
February 1 at 7:00 p.m. Family Night
February 6, 13, 20, 27 at 4:00 p.m.
Winter Story Hour Series
February 23-25 South Carolina Book Festival
(see article on page 2)
March 1 at 7:00 p.m. Family Night
March 21 Library Legislative Day, Columbia

Ridgeway Branch Library

January 4 at 4:00 p.m. Story Hour
February 1, 8, 15, and 22 at 4:00 p.m.
Winter Story Hour Series
March 1 at 4:00 p.m. Story Hour

*Don't forget the Community Calendar at
<http://calendar.fairfield.lib.sc.us>*

The Library Will Be Closed

Monday, January 1
for New Year's Day

Monday, January 15th
for Martin Luther King Day

