



News and Views

Friends of Union County Library

Summer 2007

A Quarterly Publication

Susie Says...from our Librarian, Susie Brendle



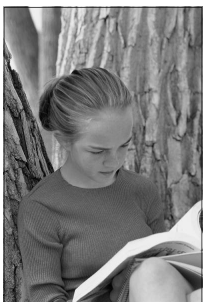
Editor's Note: We usually hear from Susie Brendle, our Librarian, on one of the inside pages of the newsletter. However, this time Susie has such exciting news that it rates the front page. See if you don't agree after reading her column.

A BUSY SUMMER

Summertime has been a very busy time for Union County Public Library. We've had record numbers of patrons and circulation. Here are a few of the high numbers that we've had for the month of June: three days of over 500 patrons visiting the library, 10 days of over 400 patrons and 5 days of over 300. We've issued around 100 new library cards; we've had over 150 out-of-town guests log on to our public access computers; and we've had over 70 people use our wireless access with their laptops.

We are very excited that the \$2 million for library materials has been added to the State budget. This will mean an additional \$18,000.00 will be in the Mountain Regional Library System book budget annually. Please thank your state legislators for helping pass this much-needed and appreciated part of the State budget.

VACATION READING PROGRAM



We've had an exciting Vacation Reading Program this summer. We kicked off the program at our Monday morning story time on June 4, 2007 with a special visit from Smokey the Bear and Union County Commissioner Lamar Paris who have both been strong supporters of the library and our children's programs.

Our Vacation Reading Program theme is "Reading Takes You Everywhere" and we've made the Appalachian Trail the focus this year. If you haven't been by the library since the first of June to see how the children's area has been turned into a forest with trees, tent and animals please come by and check it out. The United States Forest Service, especially the Chattahoochee and Oconee National Forest division, has been a HUGE contributor to our forest area for the children. They donated maps, posters and important information about the Appalachian trail and the local forest to help us prepare the area. They also loaned us a stuffed 18-month-old black bear for display. They use the bear to help educate children about black bears and their habitat. A special thanks to Mike Davis and Joy Kajan for all their hard work helping us create our forest.

LIBRARY EXPANSION!!

Donna Howell, Director of the Mountain Regional Library System, and I met with Commissioner Lamar Paris in June about the budget and expansion of the library. We were informed that we will be on the 2009 SPLOST and Commissioner Paris is ready to get started on renovations and expansion. We're meeting with architects and are going full speed ahead on library expansion. The SPLOST will help us expand and renovate areas that are starting to run down in the library and possibly go up with another floor; but there will still be much need for fundraising to help pay for furnishings and decorating.



The Friends of Union County Public Library will play a valuable role in helping raise these funds and promoting awareness of the project to the community and to our local and state officials. Donna and I will be turning to all of you a lot in the next couple years for your help and advocacy. I'm very excited about this expansion as I'm sure you are as well. I love our library as do my children and helping it grow and become a vital part of the community is my greatest goal. I will be eager to hear any suggestions you might have for the expansion and hope to start a journal of suggestions that I can have to present to

architects and planners. More information about the expansion will follow in future newsletters as I have the information myself. We are in the beginning stages right now so much of the plans are still not known to Donna or me; but we will inform as we know.

If you get a chance to speak with Commissioner Lamar Paris please give him a HUGE "Thank you!" for approving our FY2008 budget and the expansion of the library project.

Trash and Treasure Sale a HUGE Success!

As you can see in the pictures at the right, we had lots of "Trash and Treasure" as well as many FOLers and the general public at the May sale. I'm sure you are spotting some familiar faces in the photos.

Our income from the sale came to \$1394.25!! Quite a good return for that unused and unwanted "stuff" that's been taking up space in our homes and garages!

A BIG "THANK YOU!"

Barbara Hale, the hard-working, endlessly patient coordinator of the Trash and Treasure Sale sends her thanks to everyone who participated in the event—from beginning to end! Items not sold were picked up by Christian Love Ministries and will help fund that worthy ministry. Barbara even says that she's willing to do another sale year after next!

In turn we extend a big "Thank You!" and "Well Done!" to Barbara for all her organization hard work.

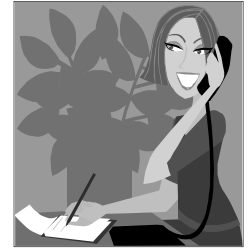
ANOTHER BIG "THANK YOU!" to our Social Chair, Arlene Gray, who organized a bake sale in conjunction with the Trash and Treasure Sale. The bake sale brought in another \$31.



The President's Message...

Hi, FOLers!

Can you believe it's August already! Our summer reading program has gone extremely well with several hundred students participating. They are really having a good time. It's great to know that young people still have a love for the library.



We have been needing more space in the library for a long time and it looks like that dream may begin to come to fruition within the next year. There will be an addition to the front of the building and the upstairs will be finished as well as an elevator installed. Several architects are being considered.

Major thanks go to Commissioner Lamar Paris for his support of this project. We are very excited about these much-needed changes.

Enjoy your summer! See you at the library!

Most sincerely,

Jeanie Bullock

President

And the winner is....our own Miki Rice!

In conjunction with our Trash and Treasure Sale, FOL held a basket raffle to benefit our Books for Babies program. The raffle raised \$55. The beautiful basket was chock full of baby goodies.



Nathan Lyle Decker

Our treasurer, Miki Rice, was the winner and what great timing for Miki! Her daughter was expecting any minute and not surprisingly, Miki gave the basket to her.



Soon after the presentation of the basket, our newest future library patron was born. Nathan Lyle Decker entered the world on May 15, 2007.

Congratulations to baby, mom and grandma!



Treasurer's Report.... by Miki Rice

Current Balances:

CD	\$5,961.41
Savings	461.67
Checking	<u>7,022.61</u>
Total Assets	\$13,445.69

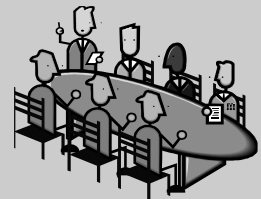
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Patricia Cook
Debbie Kendrick
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**Friends of Union County Library
Union County Library
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Next General Meetings: Wednesday, August 15, 2007
Wednesday, September 19, 2007 and Wednesday, October 17, 2007
Library website: www.mountainregionallibrary.org
FOUCL website: <http://andythebookworm.tripod.com/FriendsofUnionCountyLibrary.html/>