The NOTIFLYER

Newsletter # 23 The FRIENDS of the MIMS / SCOTTSMOOR LIBRARY August 2007

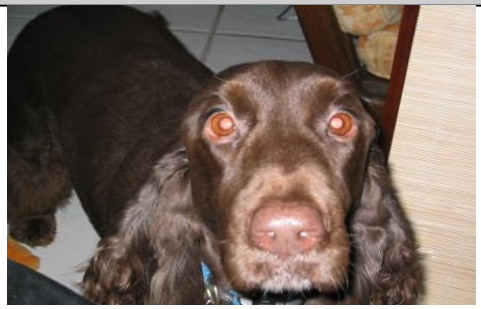
WELCOME TO OUR NEW DIRECTOR

Lisa Olzewski is the new Director of the Mims/Scottsmoor Library. She is enthusiastic and friendly, so stop in and say "hello" soon. Lisa is eager to update and to refresh our collection of books, research materials, videos, DVDs, etc., so the library will offer a well-rounded collection. Let Lisa know what subjects interest you.

Look for expanded multi-media selections. For example, the number of "Blockbuster" DVDs will be increased and clearly displayed. Videos and DVDs may be checked out for two days (fiction) or seven days (non-fiction). Also, take advantage of a greater choice in LARGE PRINT mystery and western books. The library is here to serve you.

Lisa will be welcoming a new Reference Librarian soon. Her name is Mary Beth Doud. Together, Lisa and Mary Beth will update the seriously outdated reference section, and will emphasize the use of computers to access current information. If you are not a computer user, don't worry. Mary Beth will answer your questions and assist you in finding the information you need.

Lisa, who is from New Jersey, holds a Masters of Science Degree in Information Studies from Florida State University. She recently worked as an archivist for the Brevard County Historical Commission, cataloging and running records. An animal lover, Lisa adores her two Field Spaniels (one, called Sunnie, is pictured above).



Lisa also enjoys surfing and gardening. This affection for nature is reflected in her membership in the Sea Turtle Preservation Society as well as her dedication to protecting the ocean from pollution. It appears our new director is not only a fine librarian, but also a fine citizen. Welcome!

RUMMAGE SALE A SUCCESS

Thanks to all of the Friends of the Mims/Scottsmoor Library who donated time, clothes, toys, tools, appliances, baked goods, etc., to our July Rummage and Bake Sale. Even without much publicity, this successful event earned almost $700.00 for our library. Thanks to all who contributed and special thanks to Suesan Ellison for organizing this fundraiser.

BOOK AND BAKE SALE

Our next Friends event is the Book and Bake Sale, **September 14-15**. People look forward to our events, because our events are well organized and our prices are bargains. Books are sorted into categories and the larger categories are sorted by author. Also, people enjoy the baked goods we offer because these goodies are home-made, fresh, and delicious. Please help and support our fundraisers however you can. The profits support our library.

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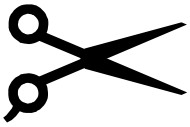
COUNTY BUDGET CUTS

Due to proposed cuts in the county's budget, it appears we won't be getting the new library building many readers were anticipating for the Mims/Scottsmoor area. However, some repairs of roof, flooring and other areas are in progress. Because of the uncertain budget, it is more important than ever that FRIENDS of the Mims/Scottsmoor Library contribute money for new materials and equipment.



BUILDING REPAIRS

The roof of the library has been repaired and there was little inconvenience to users of the library. However, the next major repair will be to the floor and there will be some impact. Books will have to be moved to provide access to the floor. At this time the specific impact and duration is not known. It is possible that this repair may affect our September Book and Bake Sale. If there is a change in the schedule, we will let you know as soon as we know.

TURF CARE

Sally Scalera, the Horticultural Agent for the University of Florida Extension Service in Brevard County, will offer a class entitled "Turf Care" at the Mims/Scottsmoor Public Library on **Thursday, October 4, 2007** from 10 am to noon. There will be a $5.00 charge per person for the class.

Anyone who owns a lawn wants it to look gorgeous. Come learn how to grow a great lawn without wasting water, money or time and still protect the environment. Topics to be covered include: (1) turf selection, (2) watering, (3) fertilizing, (4) mowing, (5) insect control, and (6) disease control.
For more information or to pre-register for this class, please call the library at 264-5080.

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

Preschool Story Times: Tuesday-Friday at 10:30 a.m.

After School Story Times (3rd through 6th grades) will begin **Thursday September 20th** from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m., and will be held every 3rd Thursday.

Halloween Craft Night will be **Thursday, October 25, 2007**, at 6:30 p.m.

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FRIENDS NEWS

HELP NEEDED – The library needs volunteers to sort books donated to the library. These volunteers would sort the books into general categories (mysteries, animals, children's books, or other). This important but easy responsibility won't take much time, but does need to be done weekly. Donated books are an important source of library materials, and boxes of books are donated often. Sunny Creel has been shouldering this responsibility by herself for too long. Call Sunny or the library for details. Thanks much.

The FRIENDS of the Mims/Scottsmoor Public Library meet at 6:30pm on the 2nd Thursday of each month. All meetings of FRIENDS are free and open to the public. Our next meeting will be **September 13** at 6:30pm. See you there!

We need more members of FRIENDS. Please join today—cost is only $5.00 per person per year, plus a few hours every few months if you have time. Please invite your friends and neighbors to visit our library, too. The more, the merrier!

A CLASS ON THE INTERNET

Our reference librarian teaches a series of four computer classes most months of the year. (One class per week.)

They are as follows: 1) Internet Basics, 2) Searching the Internet, 3) Using E-mail, and 4) Searching Databases.
Please call the library at 264-5080 for information regarding exact times and dates and/or to sign up.

CLASS FOR HOME SCHOOLERS

The Mims/Scottsmoor Public Library is now offering a "Basic Library Skills" class for children who are home schooled. The classes will include: (1) using the computer catalog to search for subjects and titles (2) finding items by call numbers, and (3) using basic reference sources to find information. Parents are encouraged to attend with their children. Instruction will be tailored to children's ages and learning levels.
To schedule a session or for more information, please call the library at 264-5080.

HISTORY MYSTERY

Do you know how America's libraries came into existence? Benjamin Franklin started the first lending library in 1731. In his time, books were expensive and only the wealthy had them. His lending library made books available to many more people.

Andrew Carnegie can be considered the patron saint of American public libraries. Between 1886 and 1918, Mr. Carnegie gave more than $56 million to build 1,697 public libraries in 1,412 American communities. In Florida his gift to communities totaled $208,000 to build ten libraries, in addition to $10,000 for one academic library at today's Florida A&M University. Of the eleven Florida Carnegies, seven remain standing.

HISTORY MYSTERY (con't.)

Two Carnegies – the Mirror Lake Branch in St. Petersburg and the West Tampa Carnegie – continue to operate as public libraries, while the rest serve a variety of other functions.

Andrew Carnegie insisted that the libraries he helped to create be kept "free". He was concerned that later cuts in municipal budgets could lead to admission charges for library use. The Trustees of such libraries had to accept a form of agreement which specifically stated "The Library shall be free to the people forever....." In many of these libraries he insisted that the word "Free" be engraved in stone on the building to ensure that the library would always be free to the public. Thank you, Mr. Carnegie!

Public libraries are essential to having an educated and literate population. To quote Christopher J. Hurn:

> "An educated citizenry is an informed citizenry, less likely to be manipulated by demagogues, and more likely to make responsible and informed political decisions and be actively involved in the political process. Education reduces intolerance and prejudice, and increases support for civil liberties; it is, in other words, an essential bulwark of a democratic society dedicated to freedom and justice."

LIBRARIES:

FREE AND ESSENTIAL

(Editorial)

While computer use has exploded across the country, there remains a troubling gap between those who have access to technology and those who do not; a gap known as the "Digital Divide." Access to information is an age-old problem that has taken on a new urgency with the emergence of the Internet as a fundamental tool for learning. It is critically important that technology is available to everyone. Libraries, with their heritage of providing free information, are playing an important role in bridging the "Digital Divide."

Indeed, libraries are valuable in many ways. We do not value libraries for their financial contributions to the economy. Libraries are and should be treasured for their own sake, as institutions of information, research, and enlightenment. Libraries are important public institutions that must continue to advance their prime purpose – supporting a democratic society. We must, in turn, support our free libraries.

Readers are Leaders

Does your child have a library card?