The NOTIFLYER

Newsletter # 36 The FRIENDS of the MIMS / SCOTTSMOOR LIBRARY Sept. 2, 2009

EDITORAL

This year the recession has reduced the county's revenue by 8.5%. A majority of the County Commissioners tend to be against even a small increase in the millage rate to offset this reduction. As a result there will be a dramatic decrease in county-provided services – Library Services was clobbered with a 20% cut. That bad news, on top of budget freezes and reductions in the previous two years, means the availability of services from your libraries will be severely curtailed. Unfortunately, this bad news is not limited to the coming budget year.

Last year the citizens of Brevard County shackled the County Commission with a 3% revenue increase cap. If growth stagnates for the next four years and if the County Commissioners increase the mileage rate by 3% for each of those four years, Library Services still might not be restored to this year's level in four years. This is not good!

The expectation is that this recession will end, and our average growth of 4% will return, probably within three to four years. By that time, however, our County budget will be about 6% behind where it is today and how will it ever recover? "So what?" you ask. County employee salaries will be 6% less than is available elsewhere and each year the gap will get larger. Eventually, the County may only be able to hire people with little experience, even for senior positions; and, the County may never be able to hire as many people as it employs today. Thus, the quality and quantity of county services will dramatically decrease!

NEW LIBRARY HOURS

Beginning October 5, 2009 the Mims/Scottsmoor Library will be closed on Tuesday and Saturday as well as Sunday. Operating hours will be changed to Mon – 10-6; Wed – 9-5; Thurs – 12-8; Fri – 9-5. This is in response to a 20% cut in the Library Services budget.

"THE NATIONAL PARKS: AMERICA'S BEST IDEA"

In September, THE television programs to be sure to watch will be six evening programs titled "The National Parks: America's Best Idea" by highly-praised filmmaker, Ken Burns. Filmed with magnificent photography and fascinating commentary, the series (six different programs, one on each night, for six nights in a row) explores spectacular locales from Acadia to Yosemite, from Yellowstone to the Grand Canyon, from the Everglades to Alaska! Be sure to watch--and invite your children to enjoy watching with you—"The National Parks: America's Best Idea" on PBS (WMFE-TV) Sunday, September 27 through Friday, October 2, at 8 p.m. (all six evenings). American's unique natural spaces: treasures we all share.

AFTER SCHOOL CRAFT FOR KIDS

Sept 23 – 2:30 craft time for kids

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

Preschool Story Times: **Friday** at **10:30am**

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TAI CHI

Ti Chi classes resume in September. A beginning Tai Chi class will be held on **Mondays 9am-10am** with instructor Kate Perez. Fee is $5 per class, please call to register.

COMPUTER 101

Our friendly Reference Librarian teaches a series of four computer classes most months. Classes are free, but class size is limited to five. Call Beth (264-5080) to learn class dates and to register for each class. Classes offered are: Introduction to a Computer (starting with how to turn it on); Internet Basics; Using E-mail; and Word Processing.

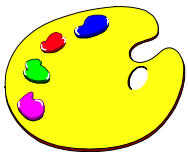
FRIENDS GENERAL MEETING AND BOOK & BAKE SALE

Everyone is invited to attend the next General Meeting of the Friends of the Mims/Scottsmoor Library **Sep. 10, at 5:30pm**. Immediately following the meeting, Friends members will be able to purchase books at the Fall Book and Bake Sale. It pays to belong to FRIENDS!

The sale will be open to the public on:
Friday, Sep.11, 9am – 5pm
Saturday, Sep. 12, 9am – 1pm.
Please mark your calendar to help us set up for the Book Sale on Tuesday, **Sep. 8** through Wednesday, **Sep 9**.

COLOR TO YOUR LIFE

Acrylic painting with Pat Urbano. Cost: $10 for materials. Call 264-5080 to register.
Sept 5 – 9am-noon



DUES DUE IN SEPTEMBER FOR FRIENDS

Dues for the 2009/2010 year (for all members except Life Members) are due in September. A form is attached. You may pay your dues anytime between now and October 1 – pay by mail, at the library, at the September meeting, or at the Book & Bake Sale. Dues are only $5.00 a year.

A TRIUMPHAL AMERICAL STORY

Theodore Roosevelt's enthusiasm for the outdoors is legendary. He advocated saving the environment before the environment became a national cause. As President, he did more than talk about protecting America's wilderness heritage: he saved more than 240 million acres of stunningly beautiful American wilderness so that generations yet to come could enjoy America's National Parks. How he accomplished this magnificent accomplishment is a fascinating story told in detail in the new book, "The Wilderness Warrior: Theodore Roosevelt and the Crusade for America," by noted historian Douglas Brinkley. Everyone can take pride in knowing that such significant parts of our beautiful country have been preserved for future generations. "Wilderness Warrior" is available now, in bookstores and in libraries.

If you think you know all about America's National Parks…you don't. "We've created this extraordinary system of wildlife refuges, parks, and forests" says Brinkley, "and we've pioneered in saving endangered species and rehabilitating lakes and rivers. We've done a lot of things right. In many ways, the conservation story is a triumphal American story …" (Aug.'09 BOOKPAGE)