

Friends of the Milton Public Library Newsletter

Friends in Deed

President's Letter: Where Pigs Fly

Dear Friends,

For the last four years, I have talked with politicians, property owners, local clubs and groups, library supporters, friends, neighbors, etc about the need for a new library in Milton. EVERYONE agrees that we need a new library, but when I began to question how to go about getting a new building and location, I have heard nothing but reasons for why we cannot have one. First, there was Hurricane Ivan, then Hurricane Dennis, then the priority of the court house, then revenue shortfalls, then more revenue shortfalls due to Amendment 1 and now we are facing a pitiful economy. So what is the real answer to when we can build a new library – it translates to “When Pigs Fly.”

So, my friends, I say we accept that statement as a challenge, not as an indication of the impossibilities it implies. Our new theme will be “WHERE Pigs Fly.” If a community believes that something can be accomplished, then the impossible is possible. If we don't want to pay more tax dollars, then let us vote with our donations. Instead of seeing a poor community, I see progress on every corner – new business, new strip malls, new churches, new houses, people driving new cars, boats and motor homes – so why not a new library?

I am tired of apologizing to newcomers and visitors about the condition of the Milton Library. I know there is a great need for more interior space, more parking spaces, a healthier building and more materials and services that cannot be bought because space is so scarce. Whether you use the library or not, you should go by and observe children, students, young adults, and senior citizens all enjoying the benefits of a free library service. I believe the Milton Library is a mission field for people in all walks of life to enjoy a higher quality of life no matter their circumstances. Joan Baur wrote “My grandma always said that God made libraries so that people didn't have any excuse to be stupid” (Joan Baur, Rules of the Road, 1997).

Come on, people, help us provide a library that this community deserves. Let us raise the money ourselves instead of accepting government denials, a poor economy or other excuses to delay. This newsletter will outline plans we have to “make pigs fly” by sponsoring fundraising activities to raise a million dollar building fund for the start of a new library.

I, along with many others, have hopes for to purchase for the library the property on the corner of Magnolia and Dogwood – former home to the Helms Funeral Home. It is expensive property but highly desirable as a visible location for a library. The property is owned by BLAB-TV and has been on the market for several years. If anyone can make a substantial donation so that we put a binder on the property, or if anyone is interested in a joint purchase venture, I would love to hear from you.

As you can tell, this letter is my personal plea and the opinions are my own, but I believe that there are many like me in the community who want to improve this part of our community. If we all join together, we CAN make it happen. Please call or email me if you can contribute in any way to our efforts. My personal phone numbers are 626-0985 or 293-8079 (cell) and my email is ptoifel@bellsouth.net. Some ideas of how you can help follow in this newsletter. Thank you for your anticipated assistance.

Peggy Toifel, President, Friends of the Milton Library

Spring, 2008

Friends of the Milton
Library

5541 Alabama St
Milton, Fl. 32570
(850) 623-5565

<http://www.santarosa.fl.gov/libraries>

Email: ptoifel@bellsouth.net

OFFICERS:

President:

Peggy Toifel (626-0985)

Vice-President:

Joan McLendon (623-0761)

Secretary:

Mitzi DuBois (626-9853)

Treasurer:

Bonnie Kiger (623-2043)

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Book Sales

Harvey Kingry, Bert Brown

Finance:

Charles Bodamer

Historian

Ned France

Legislative

Gloria Cook

*Meeting Room &
Program*

Joan McLendon

Membership

Anna Greenleaf

Publicity

Peggy Toifel

Special Projects

Ed McCarthy

Sunshine

Maureen Nicholson

Upcoming Book Sale – May 2 -3

On May 2-3 (Friday & Saturday) at the Milton Library will be our Spring book sale. We are currently accepting any gently used books that you can donate before that date. The hours of the sale are 9-4 on Friday and Saturday. If you are willing to volunteer to help, please contact Harvey Kingry, Bert Brown or Peggy Toifel (listed above). Or you can show up any Tuesday morning at 9 am at the Friends book shed next to the library. This is one of our major fundraisers and includes major bargains on videos, cds, and books of all types

New Library Building Fund

The Friends of the Milton Library have set up a building fund in partnership with the Santa Rosa Library Foundation and has collected about \$7000 so far. We plan to increase that greatly as we have ambitions for a new building as soon as possible. If you wish to donate (and we encourage you to do so) cash to the fund, please use the enclosed envelope to include a check made out to Friends of the Milton Library. If you are willing to donate property, stocks, endowments, or a cash contribution, please read below about donating to the Foundation.

Memberships Needed

This newsletter is being sent to an expanded group of people with the intention of urging you all to support the Milton Library by joining as a member of the Friends, by donating funds to the building fund, by donating to and shopping at our book sale, by volunteering your time and by advocating with your friends and associates the need for a new building.

Submit the membership form to us so that you can stay informed about our developments. The dues are \$10 for individual, \$15 for family, \$50 for corporate and \$200 for life memberships.

Joint Friends of the Library

There is an informal meeting of all the Friends groups in Santa Rosa at different libraries every three or four months. The next meeting will be at the Navarre Library at 5:00 on Monday, April 14. The topic for discussion this time will be an introduction to the new library volunteer program that will be introduced in April in Santa Rosa County Libraries. More information is given below.

Santa Rosa County Library Volunteer Program

On April 15, a new volunteer program will begin in the Santa Rosa County Libraries at Gulf Breeze, Navarre, Pace and Milton. Each library will have information about the positions available and the applications for those willing to serve. RSVP will also have information about the positions, but to apply you must get the application from a library. You can get RSVP credit for volunteering in the library program. The jobs include library support, grounds keeping, library administration aide, youth services assistance, afternoon monitor, genealogy helper, clerical worker for the Foundation, etc. A general orientation will be held in mid May after which volunteers who agree to the plan will be asked to pay \$32.50 for a background check (just a criminal check, no fingerprinting or credit check). After serving 80 hours the fee is refundable if requested. If you have time and talents the library can use, please let us know by completing the application. The

volunteer coordinator at the Library Administration Center will be contacting individuals who have applied and informing them of job assignments and procedures.

Although the Friends groups at each library do not require a background check for just working in book sales, the Milton Friends volunteers may require a background check since there are often events in which we work with the public.

There is another volunteer program at each library for students over age 16. Contact the local library manager for information on this opportunity.

Santa Rosa County Library Foundation

The Library Foundation consists of community leaders who are lending their expertise to develop fundraising investments to raise money for capital library project in Santa Rosa County. The members consist of a investor, accountant, lawyer, librarians, small business owners, educators, corporation members, and other community members. President is Tim Wheat, Vice President Jorge Torrens, Secretary Jackie Neese. and Treasurer Sally Hall. Other members are Georgieanna Bryant, Lisa Turner, Laura Nye, John Porter. Ex-Officio members are Linda Hendrix, Peggy Toifel and Gloria Cook.

The Santa Rosa County Library Foundation is a 501c3 private not for Profit Corporation created in 2007 with the purpose to acquire and manage large contributions for capital projects to ensure a legacy of excellence for the future of public libraries for Santa Rosa County citizens. To this end, the Library Foundation encourages investments in the future of our library through a variety of giving opportunities, such as cash, property, vehicles, planned giving and other assets

Please consider making an investment in the Milton Library as your generosity will make it possible for the Library Foundation to enhance the library services for today's citizens and for future generations.

You can ensure a bright future for your public library by contributing to the Santa Rosa County Library Foundation today or by naming the Foundation in your estate plans. Your gifts can be designated for a specific library in the system or may be made to the general Foundation fund. We encourage you to consult your attorney or financial advisor to help you determine the gift that is right for you.

Giving Levels

<i>Legacy Circle:</i>	<i>Gifts of \$500,000</i>
<i>Benefactor Circle:</i>	<i>Gifts of \$100,000</i>
<i>Heritage Circle:</i>	<i>Gifts of \$50,000</i>
<i>Guardian Circle:</i>	<i>Gifts of \$20,000</i>
<i>Founder Circle:</i>	<i>Gifts of \$10,000</i>
<i>Associate Circle:</i>	<i>Gifts of \$1,000</i>
<i>Supporter Circle:</i>	<i>Gifts of \$500.00</i>

Donors in the Supporter and Associate Circles will be listed in publicity; Donors at the Founder Circle and above will be listed on Donor Plaques in appropriate facilities. The Foundation Board will be glad to discuss specific gifts and naming opportunities with donors. Contact; Santa Rosa County Library Foundation, 5658 Caroline St., Ste. 101, Milton, FL 32570,850-623-2043, srclibraryfoundation@santarosa.fl.gov

Library Book Bags Available Soon

As part of Library Appreciation Month in April, the Friends will be introducing book bags to purchase in the library. Made of heavy canvas and featuring a book worm logo, these bags will sell for \$10 which will go to support the new library building fund. They will be available at the library book sale as well.

Friends of the Library Website

Thanks go to Bill and Mitzi DuBois who have volunteered to develop our website. Until now we have had a small section of the SRC Library System web site, but the new location will allow us to provide more detailed and current information about our activities, including full text of our newsletters. Although still under development, please check <http://friendsofmiltonlibrary.org> as we are regularly adding updates to the site.

Other Ways You Can Help

Now that we have listed a few of our plans for fundraising, we offer some creative ideas that some of you may be able to help.

- Give yourself a birthday party (or any party) and ask for donations to the library in lieu of gifts.
- Sponsor a golf tournament, a walk, a run, or other event for the library
- List the Foundation as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy and designate the funds for the Milton Library
- Sponsor garage sales, car washes, etc. and donate proceeds to us
- Put your loose change in a piggy bank and donate to our "pigs fly" campaign.
- Ask your clubs or organizations to make donations
- Offer door prizes for some of our events
- Purchase a "book spine" for \$50 on our library quilt to have a name of someone you want to honor
- Check with your company to see if it is willing to match your contribution to the library
- Schedule one of our volunteers to present a program for your organization
- Come up with other creative ways to help this worthwhile cause.

Library News

Gwen Wilson and Staff continue to do a great job running the library but we were particularly excited to be able to donate some funding toward the new Playaways in the library. These gadgets are actually spoken books on an mp3 player that you can check out. You can purchase accessories such as ear plugs and lanyards, hang this thing on your neck and take off jogging, walking or whatever as you catch up on your "reading." Beats the heck out of having to have a cd or cassette player available to listen to books. Try them, you'll like them.

Friends of the Milton Library
5541 Alabama Street
Milton, Florida 32570



Important Dates:

Book Sale: May 2-3, 2008

Monthly meetings: Each month

2nd Thursday 1:30 – Milton Library