

# Libraries today...



Advertising Supplement



September 10, 2000



# County library began with \$10 pledges

SEVIERVILLE - In 1922, funeral home businessman Fred P. Rawlings was a man with a plan to start the county's first library.

He began by obtaining 200 books from the War Services Department of the American Library Service in New York. He also donated books from his personal collection and got locals to pledge up to \$10 toward funding a library.

He persuaded 54 people to give a total of \$233.50 to get the project going.

Members of the local Masonic Temple provided space in their building on Main Street for the library until it grew and moved to its present location on Court Avenue. In its early days, the library was only open two afternoons a week for two hours at a time.

Ladies who volunteered their time kept the library running. Among the volunteers was Annie McMahan, wife of Stanley McMahan. She volunteered at the library for more than 30 years.

Outside help got the books cataloged. The library Science Department at the University of Tennessee agreed to help in that effort.

So, Rawlings loaded up the library's books in his hearse and took them to Knoxville, where they were "catalogued in the most modern manner," according to one news report.

At their September meeting in 1930, the Manthano Club (then called Sevierville's Women's Club) agreed to sponsor the library. They threw tea parties to raise money. The first tea, in 1931, "netted a handsome sum" of \$22.53," according to records.

Throughout the 1930s, book showers, puppet shows and other fund-raising drives were held. Individual support also helped with books, magazines and money.

When more space was needed, the Masons gave the West end of their building to the library, and, in 1935, the library was given \$1,000.

During the 1940s, the library expanded more. The hours on Friday were 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. and volunteer Annie McMahan supplied geography books and maps for the public to see where local men were stationed during World War II.

In 1947, the Sevier County Library joined the Nolichucky

Regional Library system, which continues to provide aid in the form of books and services. The library was originally funded by Sevier County, Sevierville and Pigeon Forge.

Today, Pigeon Forge no longer contributes but does have plans for its own library.

The county contributes the bulk of the library's funding, about \$330,000 annually. Sevierville gives around \$12,000.

In the 1960s, the library got its first paid employees. Sisters Willie DeLozier and Elizabeth Denton were hired in 1961 and 1966, respectively, though the library was still opened only on a part-time basis.

The library had obstacles to overcome to be opened full time. Space was lacking. Also, a flood in town made it necessary to move the books to another location.

The board of trustees announced a plan to raise \$100,000 for a new library building. Federal funds kicked in another



Smokies baseball player Mike Peeples signs autographs after reading "Casey at the Bat" for story hour at the Sevier County Public Library.

\$83,000.

Ground was broken in 1967. The new library opened in November of 1968.

With the new library opened, Eleanor Penny was hired as a full-time librarian and the Sevier County Library became an official and complete full-service entity.

Sevier County's population has tripled since the library's current building opened, and the growth has reflected in the library. There is now a branch in Seymour, and it is

expanding and growing out of room, too.

The library has 12 employees and is open 50 hours a week. It has more than 77,000 items and offers Internet and genealogical research services.

Close to 120,000 visitors come into the library each year, according to statistics. Of those, 18,000 are "registered patrons," meaning they have library cards or are on file otherwise.

## Genealogy section pride of main branch

SEVIERVILLE - The search for the past -- a connection to family and an understand of one's roots -- has given new life to the Sevier County Library.

"I'd say what we offer in genealogy is one of our most popular programs," says Hugh Thomas, director of the Sevier County Library.

The library's genealogy annex, which opened in the Benson building next to the library three weeks ago, has attracted many researchers from around the world who are seeking their roots.

Their trails led them to Sevier County because early pioneer's routes often started here.

Some of the library's earliest records go back to the Tennessee census of the 1830s. For now, the records are all Sevier County information.

Eventually, the library wants to expand its resources to include census data from surrounding counties, says Sam Maner, a historian on staff at the library.

They have 7,000 books related to genealogy alone, he says.

"When you get into the more prominent families of the area, like the Ogles and the McCarters, then you have a lot of family records to pull from," Maner says.

Calls and e-mails from Germany, Scotland and Ireland have been coming into the library as Europeans seek their American roots. Traditionally, Scottish and Irish settlers are credited with settling the Sevier County region more than 200 years ago.

"We have a lady in here two and a half weeks ago from the Netherlands. Her family was the Floyds. We had another lady in here from Australia. She was a Whaley," Maner says.

Another woman, from Hawaii, requested information on the Maples family. Her relatives from Sevier County moved to Hawaii during World War II and stayed. Now, she is looking for the generations before them.

Other services offered:

- Computer classes. Sevier County Library has six computers available for the public. They also provide computer classes to learn the basics.

"There are beginner classes on Monday nights. The advance class is offered once a month," says director Hugh Thomas.

"We gear it toward word processing and Internet access and things like that. Our computer access for the Internet is one of the most popular things that we offer. We have more people coming in for that than anything else, and that includes patrons and tourists."

Between 1,000 to 1,200 visitors a month use the library's computers, library officials estimate. A third to half of that number in the summer are tourists,

- Reading programming. The summer reading program and children's reading program is designed for preschoolers and kindergarten ages. Some home schoolers also participate.

- More than 5,000 video titles are in stock. There are no plans now to carry DVDs or games.

- The library attempted to offer music CDs for check out, but the few they had were stolen in a day so the library abandon the idea.



# Seymour branch sees rapid growth

SEYMOUR - Virginia Borrelli points to a yellowing newspaper clipping from 1979, containing a faded black-and-white photo of a library van, and says, "This is where we came from."

Twenty-one years later, the Seymour Library is mobile in a different way: Its growth includes more than 15,000 books, 300 videos, a growing collection of audio-books and three employees.

Yet, "some people still don't realize we're here," says Borrelli, library director for the Seymour branch of the Sevier County Library.

Those who do take advantage of what the library has to offer may be surprised. A recent storytime program drew around 100 children. More than 1,600 books were read in the summer reading program in July alone.

The library, like its counterparts in Gatlinburg and Sevierville, was started as a grassroots movement. Five years after the library mobile carried books around Seymour, the library moved to a more permanent and stationary location in a strip mall off Chapman Highway.

In 1998, the library moved again, renting a new building in a business park off Chapman and across from the Smoky Crossing apartment complex.

A few weeks ago, a Friends of the Library organization was founded and

now dedicates itself to seeing the library continues to grow. Membership is close to 70.

There's talk that the library may move again, this time to its own building if land can be donated and funds raised.

A move is needed because "we just keep growing," Borrelli says.

In August alone, 70 Seymour residents signed up for library cards, she says. The growth is a far cry from the days when the library mobile needed to plug into outlets at a local bank so it could have electricity.

The library shelves are filled through a variety of sources. "People are very generous," says Borrelli. A recent donation brought 75 used videos to the library.

Seymour Library, a branch of the Sevier County Library, is also serviced by the Nolichucky Regional Library in Morristown. The resource also allows the Seymour library to scout out and find books that may not be available on their shelves.

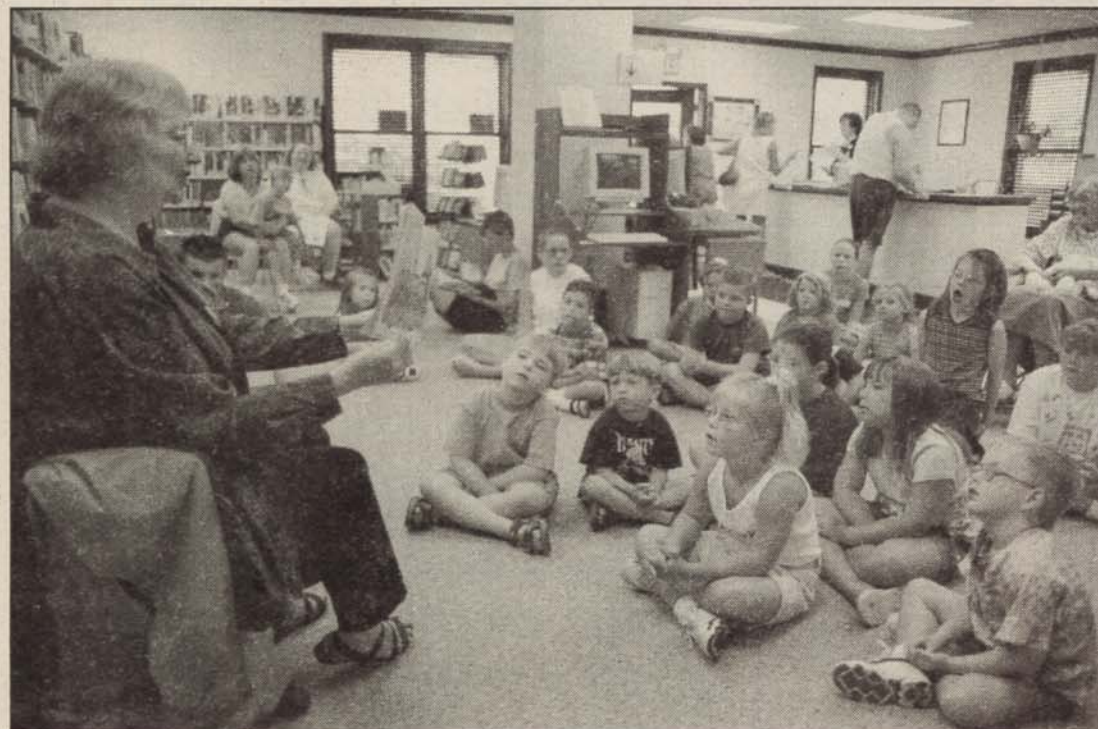
If a patron wants a book not at the Seymour Library, many times the library can locate it and have the book mailed to them, Borrelli says.

The county provides funding for the library.

For more information on the Seymour Library, phone 573-0728. The fax number is 584-3826.



Dannielle Wilbur passes through the crowd holding an owl from the American Eagle Foundation during story hour at the Seymour Library.



Canadian author Celia Barker Lottridge reads one of her books at the Seymour Library.

## Community benefits from many programs

SEYMOUR - The Seymour branch of the Sevier County Library provides a variety of programs to serve the community.

"For a small library, we do offer quite a few services," says library director Virginia Borrelli.

Those services include:

- Internet access. The library has a computer that can be used by the public at large. The library also provides information on how to navigate your way through the World Wide Web.
  - Large print books, "talking" books encouraging children to read and books on tape are available in its line of services.
  - A fax machine and color copier are also at the library if the public needs to use them.
  - Movie videos for families and children are also offered and can be checked out for three days.
  - Applications for the Tennessee Library for the Blind can be found at the Seymour Library. Voter registration forms are there, too.
  - Tennessee Driver's License books are on hand at the library.
- During tax season, Internal Revenue Service tax forms are at the library. The library issues cards free of charge after an application is completed with proof of current mailing address. A \$2 replacement fee is charged if the card is lost, stolen or damaged.

• Current issues of The Mountain Press, the Tri-County News and the Tennessee Star Journal are also available for visitors to read at the library.

Parents or guardians must sign for children under 17.



## Love of reading spawned library

GATLINBURG - When Anna Porter decided to gather local children in her home and share her love of reading with them, she ignited a passion in the community that is still growing some 68 years later.

Gatlinburg residents began donating books to Porter so she could share them with children. In two years, her modest library contained more than 150 different volumes.

With space running out at her home, she moved her makeshift library to a small building in town, owned by Allie Ownby.

A year later, her library moved again. This time, it could be found above the post office.

By 1940, the library had grown so much that it needed to be chartered and incorporated. The organization spurred an official summer reading program, which continues today, and cooperation between Gatlinburg schools and the library, a link that is still strong.

"One thing that makes Anna Porter Library unique ... is that this is a very individual place," says library director Kenton Temple. "We are very small when you look at the world of libraries, but we usually know our patrons."

Veteran librarian Betty Webb knows the library's regulars so well that she can remind them what books they have read and which ones they haven't.

She knows them well enough to make recommendations best suited for their tastes.

"She's a great resource," Temple says

Anna Porter Library moved into its current building, on Cherokee Orchard Road, in 1972, after spending a few years in the former Civic Building, known these days as Mills Auditorium.

The present facility is almost 4,000 square feet of which 405 are public restrooms. Temple says the library is in dire need of expansion.

Most of all, after almost 70 years in the community, "we think we are a very comfortable place where people can come and browse," Temple says. "Just the setting here is a real resource, with the trees, next to the creek, with the landscaping. It's the perfect place to read & relax."

Anna Porter Library holds 26,000 books, 800 videos, 700 books on tape and an extensive research section of Smoky Mountain history, featuring pictures, family histories and other materials. Gatlinburg's local history collection has become one of its most valued resources, Temple says.

"This library is nonprofit. We are not a department of the city," Temple says.

"This started as a community effort. It was a grassroots movement."

Anna Porter library is a non-profit organization with a contract to provide library service to Gatlinburg. This provides the largest chunk of funding to keep the library going. The city budgets close to \$111,000 annually for the library.

The library's estimated attendance annually: 36,000, Temple says.

The Friends of the Library has an active membership of more than 150. The Friends help sponsor adult programs, organize fundraising programs and structure volunteer services.

A board of trustees that oversees the library's activities, and the library gets strong support from the state through the regional library system and the Tennessee Resource Center. All public libraries in Tennessee are affiliated with a regional library for clerical assistance and advisory purposes.

Anna Porter is connected to the Nolichucky Regional Library in Morristown and gets between \$3,000 to \$4,000 worth of books and materials from state funding annually. They are permanently loaned to the library.



Actor/director Lew Boulton involves the listeners in the story during the summer reading program at the Anna Porter Library.



### Anna Porter Public Library Happenings

#### Calendar of Events Fall, 2000

- Story Hour for pre-school children, 1:00 pm, Wednesdays
- APPL Board of Trustees Meeting, 9/14/00 & 11/9/00, 6:30 pm, open to public
- Friends of APPL Book Group, 4th Tuesdays, 7-8 pm, all welcome
- **InfoForum on Air Quality, sponsored by APPL, Friends of GSMNP, GGF, Tuesday, 9/26/00, 6-8 pm**
- Friends of APPL meeting, Tuesday, 11/14/00
- Friends of APPL Book Sale, November, 2000
- Tennessee 2000, Statewide Woodcarving Exhibit, November & December, 2000



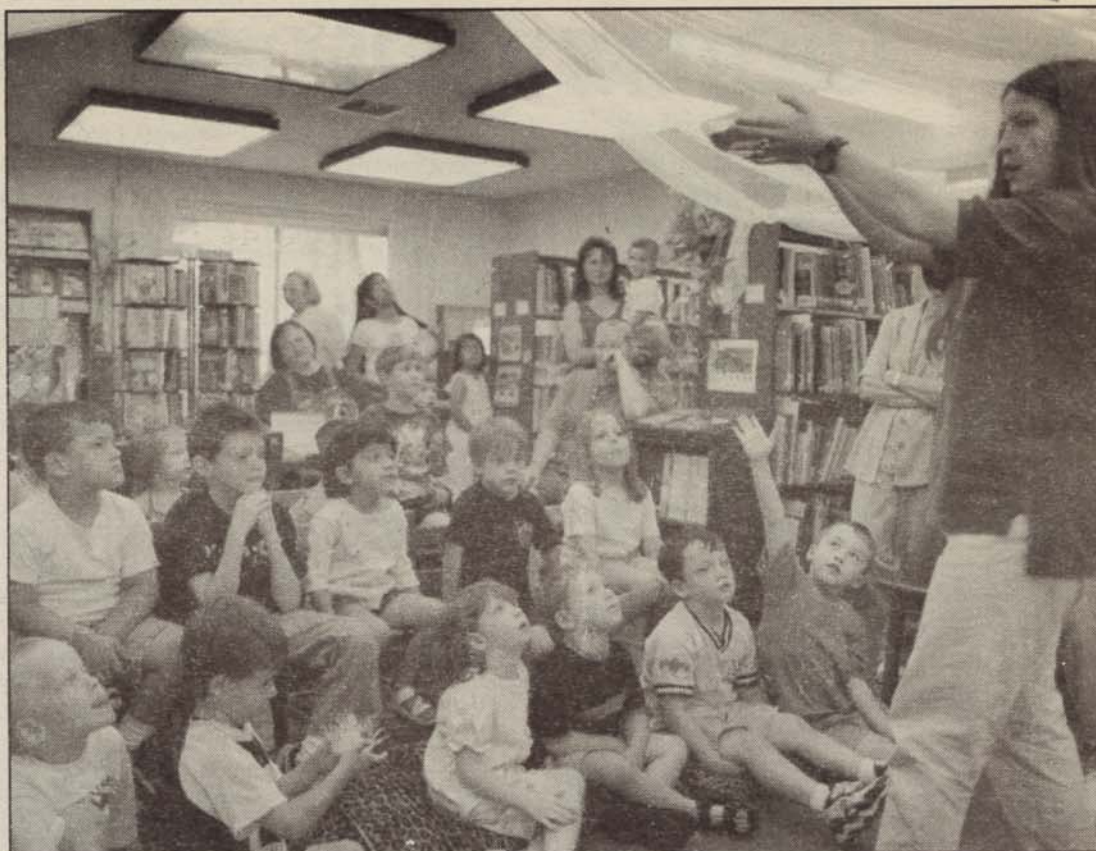
## Gatlinburg library jewel of the city

GATLINBURG - A citizens committee studying the quality of life here liked two things most about this Smoky Mountain city: the schools and the library.

Anna Porter Library's growth can be traced to its willingness to go beyond allowing the community to check out its books.

Here are a few of the other features of the library:

- Internet access. Four computers are available for the public to use. Around half of the Internet surfers are tourists checking e-mail or stocks. Foreign visitors find the Internet access is a great way to keep in touch with friends and family members back home.
- Children's programming. Dial-a-story, in which preschoolers can listen to a pre-recorded story being read to them, remains a draw. "We get about three calls a day on it," says library director Kenton Temple.
- The summer reading program. What helped get the library started 68 years ago is still thriving and encouraging children to use their minds and learn when school is not in session. The program attracts more than 100 children, who end up reading a total of 3,000 books.
- Art exhibits. Smoky Mountain artisans and craftspeople use the library's space as a forum to display their work. Exhibits have included wood carvings, weavings, figurines, hand-painted porcelains and the Daughters of American Revolutions put together an exhibit of historic photos and facts.
- A special collection housed at the library centers on Smoky Mountain culture and natural history. Included are oral histories recorded almost 40 years ago and videotapes recorded more recently.



Ripley's Aquarium Oceanist Kelly Carpenter uses props to teach a group at story hour at the Anna Porter Library.

## Anna Porter Public Library

207 Cherokee Orchard Road • Gatlinburg 37738 • 436-5588 • 436-5588(fax) • appl@usit.net

**Kenton Temple, Director**

**Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri**  
**10:00 AM - 5:00 PM**

**Tuesday**  
**10:00 AM - 8:00 PM**

**Saturday**  
**10:00 AM - 1:00 PM**

**For information about the Friends Group: Call Don Meyers, President**  
**436-7739**

## Anna Porter Public Library Board Members

**Mary Bolt, Chair**  
**Gerald R. Cole, Vice Chair**  
**Lisa Reagan, Treasurer**  
**William Blaker**  
**Chuck Bradley**  
**Jean C. Ogle**  
**Leslie O'Neill**

**Rick Robillard**  
**Kathy Stillwell**  
**Richard Wineberger**  
**Darrell Whitchurch**  
**Wilma Maples, Honorary**  
**Member**

### Friends of Anna Porter Public Library

Meets at APPL on the 2nd Tuesday of  
November, February, May, August

Officers:

Don Meyers, President  
Mary Bolt, Vice-President  
Mary Louise Hunt, Secretary  
Art Pullon, Treasurer



6  
**PIGEON FORGE • KODAK**

# Coming Soon...

Readers in Sevier County can rejoice in the coming months with new libraries on the way:

- Pigeon Forge Library is scheduled to be finished by October. The \$1.5 million project will be located near the city park and next to the new community center, off Community Center Drive.

"It will 10,000 square feet with full computer and Internet services," says Mel Hill, building official for the City of Pigeon Forge.

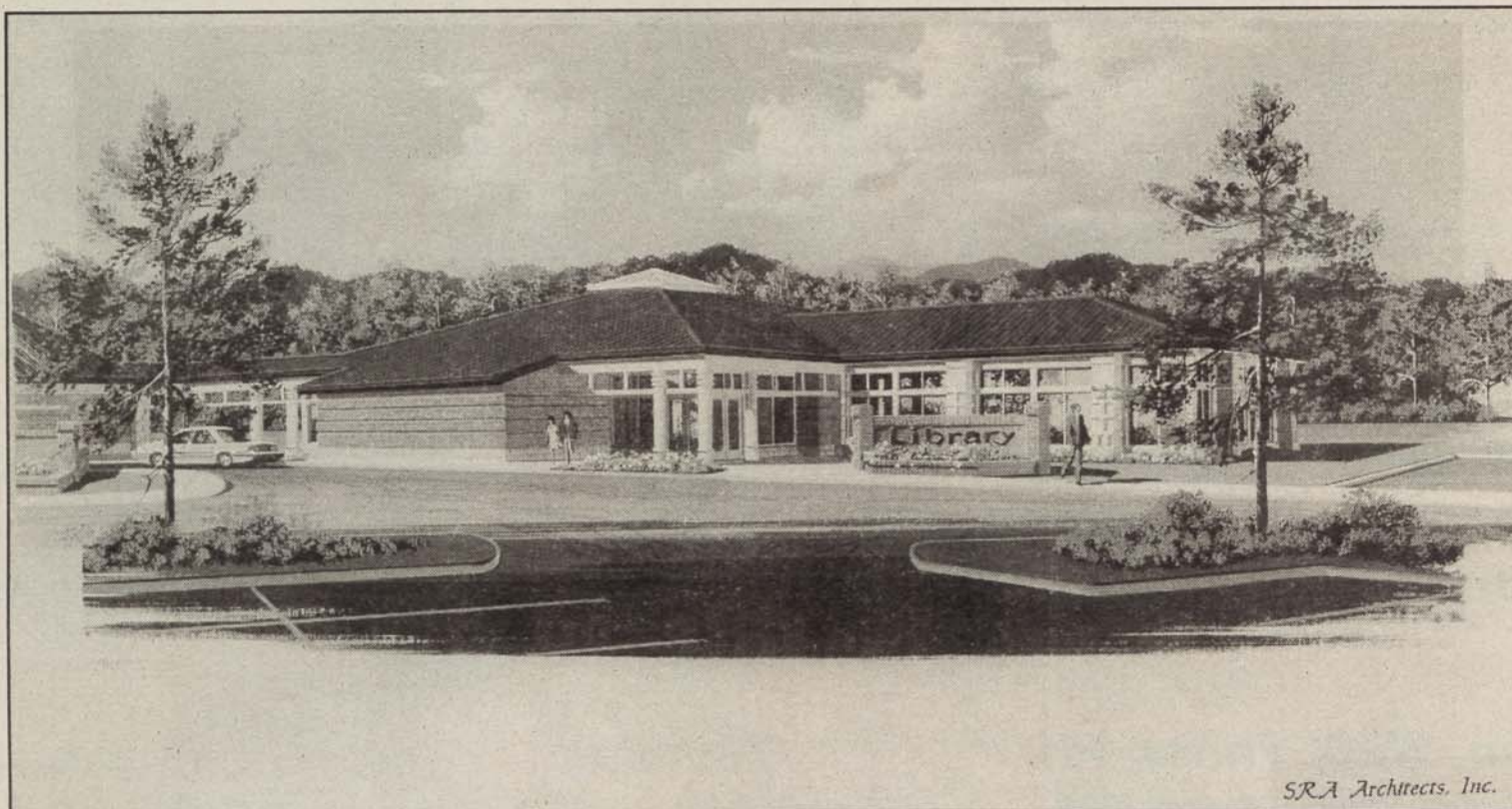
The library will be funded by Pigeon Forge.

- Kodak will have a library soon. The library is projected to open in the spring of 2001 and will be in the Kodak Optimist Park.

"The branch library will be in the range of 2,000 to 3,000 square feet," says Hugh Thomas, director of the Sevier County Library in Sevierville. "They will have the basics: Books, videos and primarily other things of interest for people in the community

"What it boils down to is that the main library (in Sevierville) is your main shopping center. The branch libraries are your fast foods," he says.

- Talk now centers on a library in Pittman Center. "We are encouraging people in that area now to get behind the idea," says Thomas. "We are hoping they will organize like the people in Kodak have."



Above is the artist's rendering of the Pigeon Forge Library.

## City of Pigeon Forge

**Pigeon Forge Public Library**  
2429 Library Drive - Pigeon Forge 37863

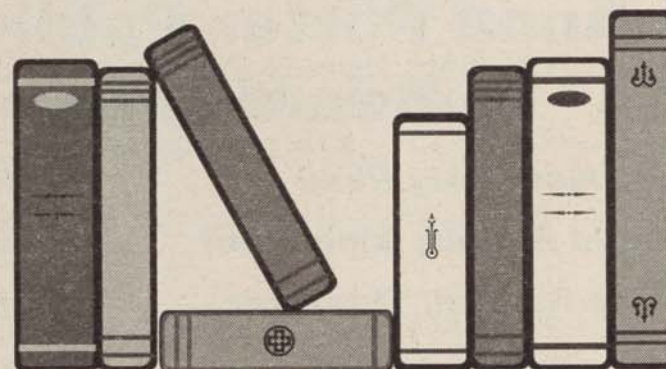
Under construction - Scheduled to open Fall 2000

For information: Call John Jagger at 429-7333

## Kodak Branch Library

**Dumplin Valley Road at Northview**  
**Optimist Park - Kodak 37764**

Currently fundraising for construction  
For information about the Friends Group:  
Call Marye Rose at 933-5312







# The Public Library - An American Freedom

By Donald B. Reynolds

**H**ave you heard these questions? "Why should our community pay for a public library?" "We didn't have a library when I was a kid - what do we need one for now?" "With all these computers and the Internet, we don't need books anymore!"

Beginning with the early settlers arriving in America during the 1600's, communities began establishing public libraries as a government service for the people. Benjamin Franklin founded the first lending library in Philadelphia in 1731. In 1809 Thomas Jefferson, (whose personal book collection was the foundation for today's Library of Congress) wrote, "I have often thought that nothing would do more extensive good at small expense than the establishment of a small circulating library in every county, to consist of a few well-chosen books, to be lent to the people of the county, under such regulations as would secure their safe return in due time."

The United States is the first country on the history of the world where citizens established and maintained a system of free public libraries, open to all, a basic freedom as a result of the First Amendment to the Constitution - to explore the world of ideas and information. Public libraries are an American value, born of the idea that a free people should have free access to all kinds of information. In practice that means that libraries gave citizens access to a full spectrum of ideas that allows us to learn what we want, explore many points of view, and make informed decisions. This even includes some types of materials and ideas we might not necessarily agree with or choose for our children or ourselves.

In 1953, President Eisenhower wrote, "The libraries of America are and must ever remain the home of free, inquiring minds. To them, our citizens must be able to turn with clear confidence that there they can freely seek the whole truth."

As we race headlong into a technologi-

cal age that is sure to surprise us in ways we can't even imagine, it's important to remember Eisenhower's words. Public libraries will remain the solid foundation from which information will flow. But only if we, the citizens who use and benefit from libraries, support them as the keepers of our freedom to read, learn and connect.

Today's libraries are more vital than ever. Most of us could never afford to buy the books, magazines, videos, CDs, software and computers the library offers our families. And contrary to popular belief,

delight or to increase their personal skills, such as adults finding help to learn to read.

5. This library is, with its computers, an access point to the Internet and its wide range of resources. Someone has written that the Internet is the best library in the world, but all its books are strewn all over the floor. A real problem with the Internet is that information found there may be incomplete, out-of-date, factually wrong, biased, or just plain pranks. Since no one evaluates or edits the material on the Internet, anybody can publish anything.

**A**nd your responsibility? Support this gift to ourselves and our community, And, when in doubt, go to the library.

the vast majority of Americans do not have online connections at home. For those without Internet access at home, work, or school, research shows that libraries are the number one place for access.

#### So, what is a public library?

1. The library is more than a building; it is a staff ready to help customers of all ages search for knowledge, information, and entertainment. In addition, the staff will provide assistance in the use of the materials and equipment in the library.
2. The library has lots of resources to help parents teach their preschoolers to learn to read. By using the library early and often for both learning and pleasure, children will develop the critical thinking skills they need to succeed in school and throughout their lives.
3. The library has lots of resources to help elementary, secondary and college students do their homework and school projects, especially at times when the school libraries are closed or don't have what's needed.
4. The library is a place for self-education and lifelong learning, exploration, and examination. Customers can investigate any topic of particular interest to them, for

What the Internet needs is a good librarian, and one can be found at the public library.

6. The library supports local economic development, finding information needed by local businesses and government officials, including entrepreneurs wanted to start new businesses.

7. The library offers an abundance of recreational reading, viewing, and listening materials just for fun and pleasure. It is interesting to note in this age of computers that more books are being published and sold today than at any time in our country's history.

8. The library is evidence of the quality of a community's life and what government officials think of their residents: it provides some of the tools needed to help us live. A community without a healthy, growing public library is not a healthy, growing place.

Although libraries don't look like they've changed, they are changing and dynamic places that exist and adjust to meet the needs and interest of their community residents.

The library is a window to the world, helping to enrich our minds, defend our

right to know, safeguard our freedoms, and keep democracy healthy.

All you have to do to take advantage of these free services (prepaid with our tax dollars) is to walk in the door. The library staff will be glad to show you and your family around, help you find what you need - whether it's a picture book, a class on how to use the Internet, searching for your family roots, finishing a school assignment, finding a good recipe for tonight's dinner, looking for tips on how to write a resume, start a business, or whatever you need.

I look forward to the day when every resident of Sevier County has a library card and uses it to exercise their freedom to read, learn and connect to the whole world of ideas and information the library offers.

Said Barbara Bush, former First Lady of the United States, "Libraries really are one of the greatest gifts the American people have given themselves. They're a gift for all of us - no restrictions of age or gender or class or interest. But they're a gift that needs our constant care and attention - like everything else that's precious and valuable to us."

And your responsibility? Support this gift to ourselves and our community, And, when in doubt, go to the library.

Donald B. Reynolds, Jr. is Director of the Nolichucky Regional Library, which was organized in 1941 when the library boards of Grainger, Hamblen, Hawkins, and Jefferson counties were established at the urging of the TVA. Sevier County established its board and joined in 1942 (although there had been a library in Sevierville since 1920 founded by Fred Rawlings, and in Gatlinburg since the 1030s founded by Anna Porter). Cocke County established its board in 1944 and Hancock County joined in 1987 (having been founded in 1978). Since its creation, the only purpose of the regional library has been to provide aid and support to the local governments and their library boards and staffs for the growth and development of local library services.

## Sevier County Public Library System

<http://www.sevierlibrary.org>

### Sevierville Main Library

321 Court Avenue • Sevierville 37862 • 453-3632 • 908-6108 (fax)  
hthomas@usit.net • Hugh Thomas, Director

Mon & Thurs 10:30 Am - 8:00 PM;

Tues, Wed & Fri 10:30 Am - 6:00 PM; Sat 10:30 AM - 4:00 PM

For information about the Friends Group:

Call Becky Thomas at 774-4012

### Sevier County Library Board Members

Charlie Cox, Chair  
Janet King, Vice Chair  
Mary Brown, Secretary

Dotty Mize, Treasurer  
Bill Carroll, Sr.  
Judy Godfrey

Marye Rose  
Lanning Wynn  
Axel Ringe, ex-officio

Board meetings are 1st Tuesday of February, April, June, August, October, December at 6:30 PM.

### Seymour Branch Library

11560 Chapman Highway, Suite 1 • Seymour 37865 • 573-0728  
584-3826 (fax) • seymour1@onemain.com

Virginia Borelli, Branch Head

Mon & Thurs 10:30 Am - 8:00 PM;

Tues, Wed & Fri 10:30 Am - 6:00 PM; Sat 10:30 AM - 4:00 PM

For information about the Friends Group: Call Cynthia Green at 577-6569

### Nolichucky Regional Board Members

James A. Embry  
Dotty Mize



# Don't Judge A Library By Its Cover



Services for people with special needs - e.g., large print books, magnifiers, Braille books, talking books, wheelchair access, closed-captioned videos

Microcomputer centers, electric typewriters, copiers, microfilm and microfiche readers

Gateways to databases and the electronic information highway, including the Internet

Resource centers for caregivers

Books on cassette, audio tapes and CD

Foreign-language materials

Literacy materials for tutors and clients

Teen and youth activities

Book and craft sales

Find a job in Australia

Learn to train your dog

Borrow a video

Find out how to compute interest rates

Compare purchase vs. rental of a home

Learn how to fix a faucet

Find out how to build your own furniture

Find a substitute for coffee

Compare whole and term life insurance policies

Learn how to can good things from your garden

Learn how to make your own baby food

Prepare a floor plan for your new home

Get free IRS help with your income tax return

Copy something on the photocopier

Register to vote

Learn how to inspect an old home

Get tips on reading a warranty

Compare the cost of colleges

Attend a free program on upholstery

Discover ways to shop for an auto loan

Learn when it's a good time to borrow money

Improve your job hunting skills

Teach your child how to handle an allowance

Check your stocks and bonds

Analyze your handwriting

Learn how to find a good mechanic

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