

April 2009

Mountain Regional News and Notes

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/glq>

 Part of the [Library and Information Science Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

(2009) "Mountain Regional News and Notes," *Georgia Library Quarterly*: Vol. 46 : Iss. 2 , Article 20.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/glq/vol46/iss2/20>

This News is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@Kennesaw State University. It has been accepted for inclusion in Georgia Library Quarterly by an authorized editor of DigitalCommons@Kennesaw State University. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@kennesaw.edu.

The Gwinnett County Public Library has also been awarded the 2009 John Cotton Dana Public Relations Award. The announcement was made at the American Library Association (ALA) Mid-Winter Conference in Denver on Jan. 24. Since 1946, the John Cotton Dana Library Public Relations Award recognizes and honors outstanding achievement in library public relations. It is considered to be the most prestigious of all library awards in the field of public relations and marketing.

“We are very proud and honored to be a recipient of the John Cotton Dana Award. It is a tribute to the success of the Gwinnett Reading Festival and to the hard work of our new public relations director, Michelle Long. We look forward to another great festival this year. This accomplishment was possible because of the enormous support received from library staff and volunteers, partners and sponsors, and the community,” said Nancy Stanbery-Kellam, director.

Gwinnett County Public Library recently welcomed two new board members. Both Babs Wagoner and Phillip Saxton were appointed to the Gwinnett County Public Library board of trustees on Jan. 6. Phyllis Oxendine was reappointed and nominated by Charles Bannister, County Commission chair. In addition to Wagoner, Saxton and Oxendine, members of the board include K. Dale Todd and Margaret Tiller. »»

Mountain Regional news and notes

Because of the tremendous growth in use and maintenance and repair issues with the now 20-year-old Towns County Public Library building, Commissioner Bill Kendall requested that the Mountain Regional Library System apply for a state grant to provide funds to renovate the library and add about 3,000 sq. ft.

Donna Howell, regional library director, prepared the application to send to the state library for consideration. Kendall signed the state capital outlay grant application guaranteeing local funds of \$100,000 to match \$900,000 in state grants that will be required for the project. If the grant application is successful, the funding may be available for the project to begin in July of 2010. The state’s capital outlay grant program is a tremendous value for the community and for the state.

The Towns County Public Library is bursting at the seams! The library was completed in 1989; that year, 4,963 people came into the library and checked out 8,385 books. There were no computers; no children’s programs; no videos, DVDs or audio books or music on

CD; and very few books on the shelves. In fiscal year 2008, more than 25,000 people used the library; checked out more than 40,000 items; used the 12 library computers more than 8,000 times; and more than 1,300 Towns County children attended library sponsored programs. More than 40 percent of Towns County residents have a library card.

The executive committee of the Mountain Regional Library System board of trustees has approved Jack Bailey of Bailey Associates Architects of Gainesville as the architect for the renovation and addition project for the Union County Public Library. The countywide capital SPLOST passed in February 2008 provides for up to \$900,000 in funding for library improvements. In addition, the Mountain Regional Library System has applied for a state capital outlay grant of about \$1.7 million using the county SPLOST funds as the required local match.

The plan is for the library to remain at its current location but it will be almost doubled in size, and the existing structure will be completely renovated. The Friends of Union County Library have been raising funds, with support from local businesses and individuals, for their LEAF (Library Furnishings and Enrichment) Fund, which will be used to supplement the SPLOST and state grant. If the state grant is approved during the current legislative session, the project could break ground as early as July 1. »»



Front row: Lamar Paris, Union County commissioner; Dr. Jounida Bradley, Mountain Regional Library System board chair; Jack Bailey, architect. Back Row: Joe Forsee, building program consultant and director of the Northwest Georgia Regional Library System; Donna Howell, director of the Mountain Regional Library System; and Susie Brendle, Union County librarian.