



Bookworm

BULLETIN

Friends of the Jackson
County Main Library

Spring 2011

Let the Celebration Begin!

By Betty Screven

The much anticipated grand opening of the Jackson County Public Library Complex is just around the corner. On Saturday, June 11, 2011, citizens and visitors, young and old, will gather on "courthouse hill" to witness the ceremony during which the new library complex will be dedicated to the people of Jackson County.

The renovation and building project will be completed, the new landscape installed, and spirits will be high. Visitors from around the state will be joining us to help celebrate this momentous occasion. Media representatives will be there to document this event.

The theme of the grand opening celebration is "Honoring the Past, Embracing the Future – YOUR Community Celebration!" The celebration will begin on Saturday, June 11, at 10 a.m. in front of the courthouse. The internationally known Smoky Mountain Brass Quintet will kick off the celebration playing a fanfare which was written specifically for them for this occasion. Individuals who have played key roles in making the library complex a reality and invited guests will make remarks following the fanfare. The official ribbon cutting will take place at the front doors to the atrium.

Saturday, June 11 will be a day filled with activities and performances which should appeal to guests of all ages. In the Children's Area, reading, storytelling and music activities are scheduled from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. The large terrace will be the scene of musical and dance performances beginning at 11 a.m. and continuing until 4 p.m. At 11 a.m. and again at 1 p.m. actors will read from Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet" from the second story balcony, commonly referred to as "the Juliet Balcony."

Closing out the activities on June 11 will be performances by many of those Jackson County musicians who shared their talents on the "Sounds of Jackson County" CD.

This musical performance will be held in the Community Room (formerly the courtroom) at 7 p.m.

Activities and performances are also scheduled for the week following that Saturday. On Sunday afternoon, June 12, there will be Shaped Note Singing on the courthouse portico 1 - 3 p.m. A contra dance will be held in the Community Room 3 - 7 p.m. At noon on Monday through Friday music and storytelling will be performed on the Terrace. At 7 p.m. Monday through Friday library guests will be treated to the Smoky Mountain High School Show Choir, the Triple Threat Dance team, the movie "The Fugitive," the Community Chamber Orchestra and a performance of Gary Carden's "Raindrop Waltz."

The Jackson County Historical Association, the Genealogical Society and the Arts Council, all of whom have offices in the historic courthouse, have invited all of the guests to visit their offices and museum during the June 11 celebration.

There is so much to see and appreciate in this beautiful new facility. Tour guides will be taking people through the library complex every half hour on June 11th between the hours of 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Tours will continue on a regularly scheduled basis after that day.

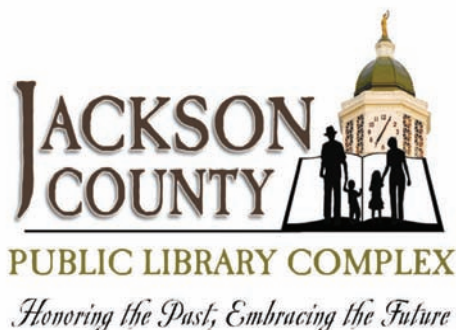
We invite all of the people of Jackson County and all of our visitors to join in the celebration. And, we encourage participation in all of the scheduled activities and performances throughout the week of June 11 – 17.

Please mark your calendars for this historical week for Jackson County!!

(Check out www.fojcmll.org for the latest details)

Please take some time to go through this special edition of your Bookworm Bulletin this quarter– important information about the grand opening throughout the newsletter!!

- Information on the Grand Opening June 11th at 10AM on front page
- The Economic Value of your new library
- Many of your questions about the new complex are answered on page 3
- Musing from your librarian about the move
- Latest update on the current library closing
- What the Friends of the Library Bookstore are doing to contribute
- Jeni Silver, new Jackson County Library Volunteer Coordinator
- A “Familiar Family” continues to watch the new Jackson County Library progress.



The Economic Value of Your Library

By Mary Selzer

Shortly after taking office, Jackson County Board of Commissioners Chairman Jack Debnam asked for information to better understand the type of return libraries provide on the monies invested by Jackson County. A group representing the Friends of the Library, the Fontana Regional Library and the Jackson County Library made a presentation to the Board of Commissioners. Provided below is a summary of the information that was provided:

- Libraries provide vital services for everyone in our community. Especially critical today are resources for job seekers, new businesses and students.
- Libraries are an excellent economic development engine for their communities. Libraries have been shown to be one of the anchors for a town or community because of its ability to draw people on a regular and recurring basis.
- Libraries provide a good return on investment, yielding an average of \$4.23 for every dollar invested. (From "Worth Their Weight: An Assessment of the Evolving Field of Library Valuation" compiled by Americans for Libraries Council and funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation)
- When libraries have adequate facilities and sufficient operating funds, they are used. If local libraries are inadequate, people find other alternatives outside the community to meet their needs. This often means spending money outside their communities as well.
- The people of Jackson County have made a significant investment in a new main library complex - over \$8.6 million - of which \$1.8 million was raised throughout the community by volunteers.

Frequently Asked Questions About the New Library

As the opening draws closer, questions continue to come up. Below is a sample of many of those.

The complete list of questions and answers can be found at

www.fontanlib.org under "Frequently Asked Questions."

What will be the hours of operation for the new library complex?

The hours of operation will be determined based on the amount of funding available from Jackson County.

Why was the historic courthouse site chosen?

There was strong public sentiment to keep the library in downtown Sylva. The historic courthouse was an unused building in downtown. It was decided that the best alternative for saving the courthouse was to incorporate it into the new JCPL Complex. This allows us to honor one of the most recognized symbols of Jackson County by making it part of one of the most important institutions – the public library.

Who had the vision to save the historic courthouse?

Members of the community initially suggested the idea of incorporating a new library into the historic courthouse. In October, 2007, the Jackson County Commissioners voted to incorporate a new expanded library into the 1914 historic building and the surrounding grounds.

What will be in the historic courthouse?

The ground floor will house the Genealogical Society, the Historical Association's museum, a Conference Room, a vending area and built-in display cabinets. The second floor will feature the former courtroom as a multi-purpose Community Room with seating for over 150, the Arts Council's office and a catering area.

How long did it take to renovate the courthouse and to build the new addition?

Work began on the renovation and the construction in May 2009, almost two years ago.

Who owns the Jackson County Public Library Complex and who owns the contents within the building?

The building and grounds belong to Jackson County. The furniture, fixtures, equipment and media materials belong to the Fontana Regional Library.

What will happen to the building where the current library is housed?

The building belongs to Jackson County. The county officials will determine its future use.

What meeting, event and conference space is available within the library complex?

There are a number of spaces available for the community to reserve for use. The Conference Room will seat 12 – 14, the Community Room, a multi-purpose room, will seat between 100 – 150 people. The Atrium, and the outdoor terrace and courtyard can also be reserved for special events.

Smaller spaces, which will not require reservations, will be available. There are three group study rooms which will seat eight people, two tutor rooms which are designed to accommodate two people, as well as comfortable seating, tables and chairs throughout the new addition.

How do I reserve space within the library, what is the cost and can they be used after hours?

To reserve space at the complex call the library to make a reservation. To finalize your reservation you will need to come in and complete a "Meeting Space Contract". This document will outline the terms of the use agreement.

There is no cost to use space within the complex for library programs and community or non-profit groups. For-profit organizations and groups holding private functions, such as business meetings, luncheons, weddings and parties, will be required to pay a fee. If the meeting or event is scheduled after hours, a key will be issued to a registered library card holder.

Musing from your librarian...by Dottie Brunette

(This article was written right before the official library closing date was announced– see across)

How much do I hate moving, let me count the ways. How much do I look forward to being in our bright new library, let me count the ways. Does this sound conflicted? You are right. Currently, the only tangible thing about our move is that we have absolutely no idea when it will happen. Remember, the original moving date was around the end of December, 2010.

Now, don't get me wrong, the construction folks are doing a herculean, magnificent job, but the unknown always is the constant in construction, so we wait. When we get the "go" signal, the library will be closed for about a month to facilitate the move, train new and current staff on new library systems, and just get settled in.

The move itself will be facilitated by a professional moving company who will move all our books, stuff, and a little furniture to the new library. They have these industrial strength gigantic rolling book trucks on which the books will be loaded (in call number order), shrink wrapped, transported to the new complex, off loaded and shelved in order. We will be packing at the old site and unpacking at the new site at the same time. Yes, volunteers with strong arms and backs will be gratefully accepted.

Hopefully, the new furniture and equipment will be installed prior to the book move. When we get in, the new "opening day collection" will be shipped and shelved. This will include fiction and nonfiction titles, old and new, movies on DVD, CD Books, and Playaways which are new for JCPL. These single titles, permanently recorded on mp3 players, can be checked out just like a regular book. In addition to more public access computers for adults and kids, the library will have laptop computers and net books available for checkout within the library building so you can sit in the place of your choice in the building and not just in the computer lab.

Best of all, besides the new building, new library materials, new furniture, and new computers, the Jackson County Public Library has two new faces as well. Liz Gregg will be the new Assistant Jackson County Librarian. Liz is a mountain woman from Radford, Virginia who fell in love with libraries. She got her MLS from UNC-Chapel Hill and has worked in several libraries, the most recent as Adult Services Librarian down in the Piedmont. Liz loves working with teens and promises to be an energetic addition to the library team. Will Kapakos is our new Information Technology Assistant. From Charlotte, Will got a degree in computer information technology from WCU and is delighted to move back to the area.

So, whether or not I hate the concept of moving, I cannot wait for the wonderful new library and all that comes with it.

Hot off the Press!!**Current Library Closing Information**

The current Jackson County Public Library will be closed for a period of five or six weeks, beginning Monday, May 2, 2011. This will allow for the library staff to prepare for the move to the new library and to get settled in their new home on Courthouse Hill. Approximately 40,000 media items will be moved and an additional 24,000 items will come from book distributors to the new facility.

The library staff will need time to receive training on the new equipment. One of the processes which Dottie Brunette, county librarian, anticipates will be popular with patrons is the radio frequency identification (RFID) sensor system. Through the RFID process, patrons can check out and return media items by scanning the items themselves. The library will also have a computer reservation system through which patrons can reserve the public access computers in the designated computer room by swiping their library card. The "print on demand" copiers will also be different and will require training. The opportunity for patrons to use netbooks and laptop computers is a new experience, as well.

During the time the library will be closed, the public will not have access to the library, its collections and its computers. Patrons who use the library computers may want to go to other Fontana Regional Library member libraries, Southwestern Community College's Holt Library, or use their laptops at the WiFi hot spots on Main Street. The staff at Southwestern's Holt Library has been gracious in offering to allow outsiders to use their computers, but they emphasize that the SCC students have first priority in their use. Parents whose children use the library after schools hours will need to make other arrangements. Dottie Brunette says, "We apologize to all our customers who will be inconvenienced during this time."

The library staff will need help in packing and unpacking boxes which will be moved. More information about this call for volunteers will be forthcoming.



GREENING UP THE MOUNTAINS

The Used Bookstore will have the third annual "Bag Sale" on Saturday, April 23.

For fifty cents (including tax), shoppers can fill a grocery size plastic bag with bargain books.

In addition, folks dropping by the store that day will have an opportunity to purchase overstocked hard-back books for \$1.00 per book.

As in the past, patrons may leave their purchases at the store and pick them up as they return to their cars.



LIBRARY GRAND OPENING

Everyone who attends an event during the week of our library's grand opening may receive a coupon that is redeemable any time during the week of June 11 – 18 at the Friends of the Library Used Book Store.

MEMBERS ONLY SALE

The Members' Only Sale can be summed up in one word this year.

SUCCESSFUL

Success was measured by:

- The number of renewals at the door - **FIVE**
- The deposit for the day - **\$246.00**
- The number of Friends attending the sale - **EIGHTEEN**
- The way the volunteers felt at the end of the day - **-GREAT!**

OUR STORY

It is incredible that from five large book sales and a few small book fairs held at the Hooper House during 1989 and 1990, the Friends of the Library Used Bookstore has grown not only to its current location at 536 West Main Street in Sylva but into an amazing financial asset for our library.

From June of 2006 until the present, the bookstore has contributed the following amounts of money to our library:

\$ 113,500	to our present library
125,000	to the new library fund
50,000	toward campaign expenses
\$ 288,500	TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS

The store shelves are always filled with books and media that have been generously donated.

Committed Friends' members who volunteer their time and talents staff the bookstore.

Reasonably priced books in good condition are offered to the public seven days a week.

Our story is an open book.

We are accomplishing what the founders of The Jackson County Friends of the Library intended—contributing to the growth and well being of our library.



New Volunteer Coordinator will Help New Library Run Smoothly

By Betty Screven

The Jackson County Public Library became enriched when Jeni Silver took the job of Library Volunteer Coordinator. Jeni understands the importance of having a staff of dedicated volunteers.

Jeni came to Jackson County fifteen months ago to make Whittier her home. She was born in Jacksonville, NC, (“Camp Lejuene”), and has been trying to make her way back to NC ever since via Connecticut and Florida. After fifteen years working in many capacities such as advocacy, education, and public speaking and helping abused children and their families, she now shares responsibilities with her husband in their Promotional Advertising Business. She was searching for a way to become connected to the community and found it by not only becoming the Library Volunteer Coordinator, but also training to be a Guardian Ad Litem. She enjoys reading, yoga, movies, kayaking, and good times spent with good friends. Her son attends college in Maryland and does not get home enough for her liking.

She is currently accepting applications for volunteer jobs within the new library complex. These job opportunities include tour guides, greeters, shelvers, book repairers, book coverers, children’s and adult programs, patrolling and facility monitoring. Training sessions will be scheduled in the near future to familiarize volunteers with their jobs.

Individuals who would like to become part of the Jackson County Public Library Volunteer Team may contact Jeni Silver at jeniasilver@aol.com



***Jeni Silver,
Jackson County
Library Volunteer
Coordinator***

Familiar Family Watches From Below...



The “family” which is located at the bottom of the courthouse steps has become an institution in downtown Sylva. During the three years the metalwork has been there, many thousands of people have viewed it from their vehicles as they drive by, or up

close and personal. The artwork represents a family of four people who are climbing their way up the steps to the new Jackson County Public Library Complex. This family group symbolizes the many families of Jackson County for whom this new facility was built. They are an integral part of the capital campaign and the library logo.

From their vantage point, the family has borne witness to the amazing progress of the library complex on “courthouse hill,” since the groundbreaking in May, 2009. If the family members could talk, they would tell of the large equipment moving dirt and construction supplies around and the loud noise as the workers repurposed the courthouse and built the large addition from the ground up. They would tell also of seeing the many architectural features of the courthouse being incorporated into the addition. The courthouse which has meant so much to Jackson County over the years has been given a new life as part of the library complex. This new library will be a shining example of architectural beauty and civic pride. The family members are wondering what the original architect, Richard Sharp Smith, one of the architects of the Biltmore House, would think of this extraordinary library project.

During the summer and fall 2010 they watched as the 40,000 pound cupola was removed, refurbished and resealed on top of the courthouse. They gazed at the historic courthouse as its façade was brought back to its original neoclassical grandeur.

Currently the family is standing watch as the finishing details are applied to the complex and the Jackson County Grounds Crew installs the new landscaping around the facility’s grounds.

Soon they will be enjoying the activities surrounding the grand opening of the Jackson County Public Library Complex. The complex will be dedicated to the people of Jackson County on Saturday, June 11, 2011, beginning at 10 a.m. They anticipate watching wide-eyed children and happy adults as they enter the library complex for the first time.

The family has decided to stay at the foot of the steps, close to the fountain, so they can observe patrons and visitors enjoying the many services and experiences available at the new Jackson County Public Library Complex.

The Rich History of the Jackson County Courthouse

By George Frizzell, Head, Special Collections, Hunter Library, Western Carolina University

The Jackson County Courthouse, situated on a hillside overlooking Sylva and framed by the buildings flanking the town's Main Street, has often been proclaimed one of the most photographed buildings in the region. The Neo-classical building, with its statue-topped 20-ton cupola, dominates the skyline. With over 100 steps ascending from Main Street to the Courthouse entrance, a feature that one architectural history described as a "cascade," the site offers panoramic views of distant mountains as well as the town.

However, this building has not been the county's sole courthouse. For four years after Jackson County was established in 1851, courts were held in temporary quarters until an official structure was completed at the original county seat of Webster. In fact, a new courthouse was completed in Webster in 1888. Even so, in the years after the railroad entered Jackson County in the mid-1880s, debate began on proposals to remove the county seat from Webster, which had been by-passed, to a point along the rail line, with the main contender becoming Sylva.

In May 1913, less than three months after the North Carolina General Assembly had approved a bill to allow residents to settle the matter in a referendum, county voters approved the "removal" measure by a wide margin. By the end of May a site in Sylva had been chosen and that summer a construction contract awarded to C.J. Harris, a prominent entrepreneur and strong proponent of the removal bill. Designed by the firm of Smith & Carrier, based in Asheville, the Jackson County Courthouse was based upon and bore a noticeable resemblance to the Madison County Courthouse of 1907. Work progressed rapidly and in less than a year the new building was completed and pronounced the official Courthouse of Jackson County in March 1914.

Over the years a number of monuments and memorials were added to the grounds. These included a Civil War monument, dedicated in 1915, and a fountain and other memorials in honor of the county's veterans and in memory of those who had died in service. The most noticeable alteration in the Courthouse's exterior appearance since its construction occurred in the late 1960s when the red brick of the building was painted. At the same time, the ornamental trees lining the steps, which had grown to obscure the building, were removed.

The Jackson County Courthouse remained the center of county government for 80 years until the completion of the Jackson County Justice Center in 1994. Immediately prior to that time, notably in the 1980s, the Courthouse experienced structural problems and various suggestions were put forth to preserve it. Finally, in 2007, a proposal to incorporate the building into a new county library was approved. The new library, scheduled to open summer 2011, blends architecturally and thematically with the nearly century old Courthouse.

From its appearance as an emblem on county history and heritage books to its inclusion in numerous publications, the Jackson County Courthouse has emerged, if even unofficially, as the symbol of Jackson County.



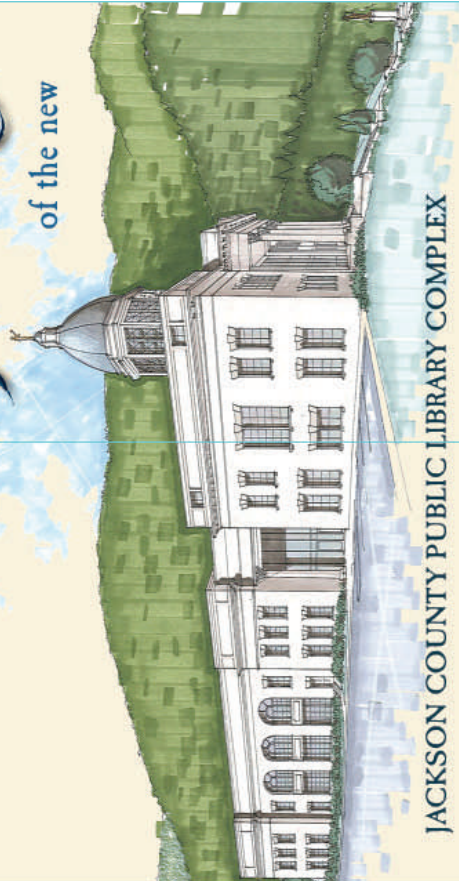
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Please join us for the

Grand Opening

of the new



JACKSON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY COMPLEX

SATURDAY, JUNE 11, 2011, 10 am

Come enjoy the activities - music, storytelling, dancing, theatre
and guided tours will be conducted all day.

*Honoring the Past, Embracing the Future
— Your Community Celebration*