

Friends to Friends

Newsletter of the Friends
of the Woodland Public
Library

April-May, 2010
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From the President's Desk:

March was a very busy month with two big and exciting events: **Mystery Night** (our best - EVER!), and a "Women of the Wild West" luncheon, featuring author **Chris Enss**. For the first time ever, we were able to sell tickets to these events on our newly set up website located at www.woodlandfol.org. We also held a **one day book sale** and started on the campaign trail to save our library (again) - whew!

Unfortunately, the city's budget crisis has worsened in the past two months. In February, the City Council proposed a sales tax increase of 1/4 cent to keep certain city services available to the community - the library being one of them. This advisory measure initially promised to restore the library to 54 hours a week if it passed. However, on March 20th, the number one budget alternative recommended by the city manager to the City Council was to **close the library if the sales tax measure doesn't pass**. We need your help to help get **Measure V** (the actual tax measure) passed. We also want to make a strong showing of support for the library by voting "yes" on **Measure S**, which recommends that 30% of the sales tax revenue collected goes to the library. There is **no guarantee of restoring the library to 54 hours at this point, but the expectations are that the tax revenue will be enough to keep the library at its "current" levels.**

On the good news side of things, we are keeping busy and involved in various community events. **National Library Week** is April 11-17. (Ironically) This year the theme is "Communities thrive @ your library". Stop by the library and let the librarians know how much you appreciate them. In keeping with tradition, the Board is having a special event for the library staff during the week. On **April 24th**, the Friends will participate in several Earth Day activities. Downtown in Heritage Plaza (9 am to 1 pm), we will be hosting a "Plant a Seed" event table for people to plant a seed to take home to put in their garden. At the library (9 am until 12 pm) we are having a "Trash to Treasure" yard sale. This is our first time having a yard sale, and we need your help with donations to sell and volunteers to help run it. Please email or call us to volunteer or donate. Of course there is also the book sale in the Friends' Basement Book Room from 9 am to 4 pm. On **April 30** from 3-6pm the Friends' are having a craft table at the **Dia de los Niños** event in Fern Park. Please stop buy and say hi and make a mask! **Woodland Reads** events are on **May 6**. Author **Jacqueline Winspear's** book "Maisie Dobbs" is this year's selection.

The Friends' new website www.woodlandfol.org is continually being updated with the latest news of the library and the Friends. You can make a donation here to help us in our efforts to keep the library open and keep up with the latest developments. Please bookmark this site and check it frequently for updates regarding important events and meetings.

Please send us any questions/concerns you may have about keeping the library from closing - it is crucial that **Measure V** passes - remember **V** for **Victory** (and **S** for "SAVE our Woodland Public Library").

Thanks for your continued support..... Diana Dearmore, President



FOL UPCOMING EVENTS

The Friends' schedule of
events for the April - May
is as follows:

"Earth Day" Celebrations

Book Sales

Member only presale is:

Thursday April 22nd,
4-7pm

Open Sales are:

Saturday, April 24th 9am-4pm

"Trash to Treasure"

Sale

Saturday, April 24th

9 am - 12 pm

Join the Friends in our first
ever "yard sale" on the SE
corner of the library. Take
home some bargains and help

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

"Plant a Seed"

Saturday, April 24th

9 am - 1 pm

Join the Friends in Heritage
Plaza and plant a seed to take
home for your garden. Kids
and families encouraged.

May One Day Book Sale

Open to general public -
bring your friends and
neighbors and stock up on
some summer reading.

Thursday May 22nd,
4-7pm





How is YOUR money doing ?

Money News from the Friends' Treasurer

As you probably know, Mystery Night was held March 6. It's been our biggest fundraiser in past years, and this year's continued on that path. Our total income was \$6950 (tickets and silent auction bids). Our expenses were only \$1500 which means our profit was almost \$5400! Thanks to all of you who supported the Library by coming to this event. Assuming the library stays open, these funds will be spent on children's and teen's programs, furniture for the children's reading area, and all of those things that supplement the funds allocated from the City budget.

Our first-ever Women's History Month luncheon was also a success. While we anticipated more attendees, the 36 that were able to make it enjoyed Chris Enss' presentation on Wild Women of the West. She really brought the various characters to life with her amazing wealth of knowledge about that time. The lunch buffet by Silvina's Basket was delicious and our guests also enjoyed the door prizes and raffle items.

In addition to our regular quarterly book sales, please note that we will be having a sale from 4 p.m. – 7 p.m on the last Thursday of every month. We've found that this helps tide people over between the quarterly sales dates. Don't forget that we sell hard backs, paper backs, VHS, children's books and magazines (current ones!) upstairs. These types of sales are really our bread and butter when it comes to the Friends' ability to support the library.

With us being in the black, I don't see why it's so hard to handle the city's budget?!? (just kidding).

Erin Murphy
Treasurer of the Friends



LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEE PERSPECTIVE



Just when we thought it couldn't get any worse...

A year ago we were bemoaning the potential of the library's hours being cut to 20. Now we're facing the very real possibility that the library could be closed--- unacceptable! I won't continue the litany of woes, but I will encourage (beg, plead, etc.) every one of you to get involved in garnering support for the sales tax increase measure. It's an uphill battle, but our only hope. Between now and June 8, it is absolutely essential that we all work publicly and privately to ensure passage of the sales tax initiative. Our beloved Woodland Public Library is literally on the "chopping block" and we must do everything in our power to save it.

On yet another unhappy note, Sandy Briggs' retirement date is rapidly approaching. While the Board understands her decision and wishes her nothing but the best, we are still very saddened by her departure. Sandy became our Library Services Director in 2008, prepared to oversee a significant library expansion. In just one year, everything changed and she was immersed in a struggle to keep the building's doors open. Her dedication to the library she loves fueled the incredible leadership, resolution and resourcefulness that she has demonstrated during these tumultuous months. I feel confident in speaking for the Board when I say, "Sandy, thank you for your incredible service. You were a true inspiration to us all and you will be sorely missed. Enjoy your retirement--- you've earned it!"

Kay Hodges, Library Board of Trustees
Friends of the Library Liaison

Happy
Spring
From the Friends!



Reflections from Library Services Director

As I prepare for my departure at the end of the month, reflection on the past two plus years is inevitable, and I find the opening lines of Charles Dickens' *Tale of Two Cities* to be on my mind more frequently:

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of light, it was the season of darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us, we were all going direct to Heaven, we were all going direct the other way...(p.1).

Like many public libraries, Woodland Public Library has experienced unprecedented demand during this economic crisis as more and more people rely on the free public library system to provide access to the information (books, newspapers, magazines, and Internet); tools for lifelong learning (children's programming, instructional materials, education/self-help/career advancement materials); recreation (books, audio books, videos, music) for commuting and home use; and public access computers/wireless connectivity (job search, homework, financial transactions, and correspondence with family and friends around the world). Woodland Public Library serves 800-1,000+ visitors daily. Yet, the **Woodland Public Library faces unprecedented threats to its very existence**. On March 30, 2010, the City Council received the first budget report from the City Manager regarding the ever worsening financial outlook for the upcoming year. Alternative #1, the only fully developed alternative, included **removing all of the City's General Fund support from the library, effectively closing the doors** to the oldest continuously operating Carnegie Library in California that still serves as a public library. Since its legal creation in 1891, Woodland Public Library has never once closed its doors. Even throughout the Great Depression, the doors of the Woodland Public Library welcomed library users at least 40.5 hours per week.

However, all is not lost. Both Mayor Skip Davies and Vice Mayor Art Pimentel have publicly stated that they will not support the closure of the library. Along with Friends' member BJ Ford, they are leading the current campaign coalition ("Yes on V") the temporary, 4-year, ¼ cent general sales tax measure that offer the promise of some relief. With the leadership of numerous individuals and groups, a coalition of support throughout the community are working tirelessly to save Woodland's quality of life. Although I will be joining the ranks of "civilian" on April 29, 2010 I expect to continue to work with many of you in all of the efforts that support and sustain the beloved treasure of our community—the Woodland Public Library.

Although the fiscal challenges have been extraordinary, I wish to express my deepest gratitude to the following who have contributed to "the best of times":

- Staff of the Woodland Public Library has exemplified the utmost of teamwork, commitment and professionalism, even as staffing levels have shrunk by 45% in the last year. With their amazing resilience, public service continues to be the highest priority.
- Woodland Public Library Board of Trustees has an unwavering commitment to the community and to quality library services. I appreciate their support and encouragement as well as the countless hours of deliberation and problem-solving to insure the continuation of services.
- Friends of the Woodland Public Library have worked tirelessly to raise money, advocate for the library, support the staff, and fill in the gaps in programming and outreach resulting from budget/staff cuts.
- Woodland Literacy Council has remained resolute in their support of literacy services for the hardest to serve.
- Woodland Library Rose Club's efforts beautify the grounds of the library for the pleasure of the entire community, as well as their advocacy and financial contributions for the support of the library.
- All of the numerous volunteers who donate their time and talents in innumerable ways. Volunteers mend books for continued use, insure that materials may be found in the proper location, raise money, advocate, and enhance services.
- Library supporters throughout the community who've stood up, spoken out, supported, and encouraged us all.

It is indeed the symphony of these individuals and groups who have made this the best of times, and I sincerely thank you.

Best,
Sandy Briggs, Library Director

Woodland Public Library Facts



- **Woodland Public Library** is the **oldest Carnegie Library** in California continuously operating as a public library.
- **Woodland Public Library** has operated continuously since **1891**.
- **Woodland Public Library** was open for a minimum of **40½ hours per week**, even throughout the Great Depression.
- **Woodland Public Library** faces the very real threat of **closure on June 30**.
- **Woodland Public Library's** collection of over **100,000 books, movies and recordings** valued at **\$5 million** will sit idle and unused.
- **Woodland Public Library** has **19 public access computers**, used over **31,000** times per year, which will **sit idle and become obsolete**.
- **Adult literacy funding** will be **cut by 42%** and will be **displaced** from current location.
- **Woodland Public Library** has **29,240 cardholders** who will not have access to these resources. This is **52% of Woodland's population**.
- **Woodland Public Library** handles almost **7,200 requests** for **homework assistance** and **research help** which will not be provided to the public.
- **Woodland Public Library** manages over **5,000 attendees** at **175 different programs** - none of whom will be served.
- **Woodland Public Library** has between **800-1,000 daily visitors**. That is over **200,000 visitors per year** who will find the doors locked.

Yes on Measures S & V
SAVE OUR
WOODLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY

Volunteer to campaign for **Measure V** - the actual sales tax measure. If **this** measure does **NOT** pass, the **library could close on June 30, 2010**.

To volunteer for lawn signs, precinct walks, special event volunteers contact

Leslie Marcus at (530) 666-6767 or e-mail to **lmarcus67@yahoo.com**

To donate money for this effort, see donor form on newsletter insert. This form must accompany any checks mailed to Leslie. **THANKS!!**

Sales Tax Initiative Proposal

The City Council received the report from the City Manager on the on February 9, 2010 (note: because the County Recorder hadn't recorded the initiatives, the measures have different letters A=S and D=V).

- **Measure S:** Shall any voter approved sales tax in the City of Woodland provide 30% of the sales tax received to the Woodland Public Library to restore educational and literacy programs and maintain library operating hours at 54 hours per week
- **Measure V:** Shall the Woodland City Council implement a one-quarter cent sales tax for general CITY SERVICES, PROGRAMS AND FACILITIES, with the following mandatory restrictions?
 - The sales tax will expire after four years, unless reauthorized by the voters.
 - A detailed spending plan and report will be presented to the public and published in newspapers.

2010-2011 Budget Proposal

The City Council received the first report from the City Manager on the on March 30, 2010.

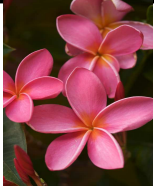
- **Alternative #1**, the only fully developed alternative, proposes **closure of the Woodland Public Library** if the June 8, 2010 temporary (4-year) ¼ cent general sales tax does not pass.

Yes on Tax Measures S & V

**SAVE OUR
WOODLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY**

What Can You Do to Help Keep the Library Open?

- Vote **YES** on **Measures S** and **V** to “**SAVE**” Our Woodland Public Library.
 - **Measure V**, a temporary 4-year general sales tax, which will collect ¼ cent to offset the devastating impact of the current fiscal crisis.
 - **Measure S**, an accompanying advisory measure, designates 30% of the collected revenues to insure keeping the library open, at least at the “current level”.
- **Attend** and provide public comment at the City Council Budget Meeting to be held on **Tuesday, May 25, 2010 at 6 pm at the Woodland Community and Senior Center** located at 2001 East Street in Woodland (call or email the Friends if you want a ride).
- **Communicate** the value and importance of your library to your family, friends, colleagues, and elected officials. Take advantage of every opportunity to advocate for Woodland Public Library and Measures **S** and **V**, both informally and formally.
- **Write a letter of support to the editor of the Woodland Daily Democrat** and mail to 711 Main St, Woodland, CA 95695-3406 or send a letter via email to letters@dailydemocrat.com.
- **Write your local elected officials** regarding the value of the library and your support. All City Council Members receive mail at City Hall, 300 First Street, Woodland, CA 95695. In addition, e-mail contact information is as follows:
 - Mayor Skip Davies skip.davies@cityofwoodland.org
 - Vice Mayor Art Pimentel art.pimentel@cityofwoodland.org
 - Council member Jeff Monroe jeff.monroe@cityofwoodland.org
 - Council member Bill Marble bill.marble@cityofwoodland.org
 - Council member Martie Dotie martie.dote@cityofwoodland.org
- **Join the Friends of the Woodland Public Library.** They engage in fundraising and other support for the library. In addition, contact the Friends to help get the word out for **Measure S**, the library's portion of the 1/4 cent sales tax is 30% or an estimated **\$450,000 for FY 2010-11**.



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If you want to look at the documents prepared by the City Manager and presented to the City Council, the links to the documents are as follows:

Sales Tax Initiative Proposal

The City Council received the report from the City Manager on the on February 9, 2010. The document with the sales tax proposal (Measures temporarily being called A, B, C, D). This document is located here:

<http://web.cityofwoodland.org/civica/filebank/blobdload.asp?BlobID=7668>

2010-2011 Budget Proposal

The City Council received the first budget recommendations report from the City Manager on the on March 30, 2010. This documented recommended closing the library as on Alternative 1 scenario (the only fully developed scenario presented). That document is located here (library is discussed starting on page 9:

<http://web.cityofwoodland.org/civica/filebank/blobdload.asp?BlobID=7839>

Woodland Public Library Board of Trustees

The Library Board of Trustees now meets on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month at 4:00 pm in the Leake Conference Room. The public is encouraged to attend.



Annual Member Meeting and Volunteer Recognition Dinner with Chef Tyler Stone* on June 16, 2010

We'll wind down the year with a **very** special event—just for Friends' members. This annual event will include a cooking demonstration and talk by one of America's rising stars in the next generation of chefs, Tyler Stone. Tyler has cooked for numerous celebrities and has assisted the former executive White House chef for the Clinton and Bush administrations.

His resume is pretty impressive—especially when you consider that Chef Tyler Stone is only 18 years old! His first cookbook, *The Kid's Cooking*, will be available at the event for sale and personal signing. You won't want to miss this important evening. **Mark your calendars now to save the date! Check our website for more information as we get closer to the event. This event will be reserved seating and available ONLY to Friends' members.**

*His website is www.cheftylerstone.com for a little more about the "kid".



Book Sales - Update from "The Stacks"

Because our "one day sales" have proven to be popular and we've received a lot of positive feedback and requests to continue, we will continue to hold them monthly. In months where we are **not** holding our quarterly book sales, the Friends will be holding "one day" sales on the **last Thursday of the month**. The book sales will be open to the general public and the hours will be **4-7 p.m. (note the new extended hours)**. If you're unsure, please check our **bulletin board and our website (www.woodlandfol.org) for the latest updates**.

Book Sorting Hours - Volunteer* Update

If you want to volunteer to help the Friends sort the numerous books and magazines that are donated, Betty Bringham and Diana Dearmore have scheduled the following hours that the Friends' room will be open (please enter through the Friends' door on the SE corner down the stairs):

Monday (Betty) 2 - 4 pm

Tuesday (Diana) 4 - 6 pm

Wednesday (Betty) 2 - 4 pm

Thursday (Diana) 4 - 6 pm

We will also be having a **work day the second Saturday of the month from 10 am-1 pm**.

Please feel free to show up and help us tackle some of the big projects that still need to get done.

May 8th and June 12th will be the next two Saturday work days. Hope to see you!

As this is a secured area, please do NOT show up unless the hours are scheduled above or you have made previous arrangements with me. If you want to schedule additional hours, please contact Diana at 530-666-9067. Thanks!

*To volunteer in the book sorting area, you must be a member of the Friends

WANTED: The Friends' are having a "Trash to Treasure" yard sale to help celebrate the "reduce, reuse, recycle" principles of Earth Day. Now's the time to get your spring cleaning done, and donate all your unused items for us to sell. **NO CLOTHES or ELECTRONICS please.**

We are accepting the following items:

- Knick-knacks and glassware (not broken or chipped)
- Toys and games (in boxes with all the pieces)
- Household and kitchen items (clean please)
- Bedding, blankets, pillows, small rugs
- Small furniture (please call for larger items)
- Pictures, artwork and
- Garden supplies, tools



Please make sure items are clean and pre-priced if possible. Advance drop off times (in the book room) will be Tuesday, April 20th from 4-7pm and Wednesday, from 2-4pm. On Saturday, April 24th you may bring items at 8 am (by prior arrangement). Please call us at 666-0545 or e-mail us at woodlandfol@yahoo.com to make other arrangements. THANKS for your support.



FRIENDS'
VOLUNTEER
OPPORTUNITIES

- BOOKSALES CO-CHAIR
- BOOKSALES SORTING VOLUNTEERS
- INTERNET BOOK SALES
- NEWSLETTER EDITOR
- SPECIAL EVENT COORDINATORS
- MYSTERY NIGHT CHAIRMAN

Email us: woodlandfol@yahoo.com or
Call us: 530-666-0545 if you're interested

Please check out the bulletin board
upstairs for the latest Friends' news -
it is current and it looks GREAT!
Look here for updates.

We appreciate your support.

Friends' Board Members

- President: Diana Dearmore
- Vice President: Marsha Toy Engstrom
- Secretary: Karen Shepard
- Treasurer: Erin Murphy
- Committee Chairs:
- Membership: Billie Butler
- Book Sales—Sorting: Diana Dearmore (OPEN)
- Book Sales—Sales Day: Christy Barton
- Programs: Diane Adams
- Publicity: Kelly Azevedo
- Member(s) at Large: Ellen Burriss
- Newsletter: Diana Dearmore (OPEN)
- Bulletin Board: Debbie Peterson
- Website/IT: Doug Van Camp

*E-mail us at: woodlandfol@yahoo.com
Message Phone: (530) 666-0545*

Thank you for your generous donations!!!
Please note that we do NOT accept:



- Encyclopedias/Dictionarys*
- Computer books/manuals*
- Reader's Digest condensed books*
- Textbooks/teacher's manuals*
- Cassette tapes (music or books)*

Woodland Friends of the Library
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First Class Mail