

Delmar Library continues raising for Capital Campaign

By Rachel Farris

The Delmar Library, as Delmar residents know, currently sits in a building on Sussex Highway that is much too small to suit its needs. Many of the books are packed away in storage, unable to be accessed easily by patrons. Historical and display items are stored in offices, crowding the space utilized by the library's workers. The warehouse-like area designated for activities and programs can only be used on warm days because it cannot be adequately heated for recreational use.

This do-without setup could not be more different than the future site's design. The addition and renovation will give the library 15,000 square feet to work with. The building is intended to hold up to the projected population of Delmar, which is expected to nearly double from 6,500 to 12,000 by 2026. Additions will allow for more space for programs for youth, as well as community service events. Some of these include tax preparation provided by AARP volunteers for low-income and elderly residents, summer feeding programs for youth under 18 and their families, exercise and movement programs (youth and adult), nutrition education and meal preparation, and MakerSpace programs (including sewing, gardening, crafts, and technology topics). Also in the design is a new community meeting room. "We had one meeting room, and its capacity was 50 people," said Susan Upole, Library Director. "A summer reading program that we offer could fill that room to capacity, and there were times in that room where it was standing room only. People had to wait in the parking lot in order to get into the building for this one particular program. The new building is planned to have a 100 person room. It will have the audiovisual capabilities the old one didn't. We also plan to have tutoring rooms, a smaller meeting room, a dedicated children's area, and more area for staff to work."

This has all been in the works for 10 years now. In 2006, the lot adjacent was purchased by the library for future additions. The Delaware Division of Libraries put out a guideline stating that all libraries throughout the state should be at least 10,000 square feet to serve their

communities. In 2008, a space needs assessment was conducted by the state, and it was recommended that the library be at least 10,000 square feet. In 2013, when planning began, they added 5,000 more square feet to accommodate the projected population growth. "We don't want to have to come back and build again," Upole said. "We want to get it done right. We want to have the facility to take the community forward." She added that the planning on the building was for flexibility so that things can be changed; furniture and shelves could be moved in the future.

First, however, the library needs to finish raising \$1.5 million. Delmar Library has completed their first phase, which involved securing the State of Delaware Bond Bill Allocations for \$2.265 million. Phase two involved raising \$1 million through foundation grants, business and patron appeals, individual donations, pledges, and events. Now in phase three, they must secure the \$1.5 million difference between the \$2 million USDA permanent financing and an NCALL construction loan of \$3 million (phase four will be paying off permanent financing and raising sustainability funds).

"Hopefully we can get community support for the 1.5 million as well as other foundations," said Beverly Wilson, President of the Delmar Public Library Commission. There are several ways that the public can help the library in this endeavor. Available are forms to purchase personalized bricks to be placed used in the expansion. Coming up is a "Funds for Friends" night at the Greene Turtle in Salisbury. On May 19, from 11 a.m. to 2 a.m., 20% of sales will be donated by the Greene Turtle to the Delmar Public Library when presented with the flyer. Not all donations have to be upfront, either. The library is providing pledge forms, with options of making payments monthly, quarterly, semi-annually, and annually. These are perfect options for those who cannot spare donations immediately, but the pledges still count towards their credit for fundraising. There are also naming opportunities for rooms, furniture, equipment, etc, and recognition of gifts will be placed throughout the library.

"There's acknowledgement of virtually

every donor in some way," Upole added. "I think it should be really outstanding to do that for the community and show all the support we've had so far."

In conjunction with Delmar Library's 75th anniversary last year, they held a penny challenge with the Delmar Elementary School. Each child took home a small box to fill with change, and it was a competition between the classrooms. "The winning class had a pizza celebration. It was very competitive," added Jessica Webb, Youth Services and Acting Assistant Director. The kids, from pre-k to 4th grade, raised over \$2,000.

"It was a fun way to get information out to all the families through the elementary school and make a lot more people aware of the building campaign, and it gave an opportunity for kids to donate and take some ownership in the project. Maybe one day they'll say I 'I helped build that building!'" said Upole.

A Community Leadership Committee has been formed, made up local businesses, interested patrons, and several political figures. Rep. Tim Dukes is very involved in the campaign, as well as Sen. Bryant Richardson, Sussex County Councilman Rob Arlett, and former Sen. Robert Venables. Delmar Councilwoman Mary Lee Pase was there representing the town, and Roger Martinson represented the Chamber of Commerce. Approximately 20 people attend the first meeting in April, and about 40 people are on the list. "It was a nice group of... leaders from the community

coming together to talk about this phase and how the community can be involved in meeting these goals," said Upole.

In addition, committee members are planning to address the lack of funding from Maryland. Funding for the library comes from the State of Delaware (10 percent), Sussex County government (63 percent), from the Town of Delmar (3.5 percent), the Delmar Public Library Board of Commissioners (9 percent), and the remainder through donations, fines, printing, faxing, and copying fees (15 percent). Except for an allotment for operations from Delmar, Md., no county or state funding is provided by Maryland, even though 41 percent of services being provided are to Maryland residents.

"That is what some of the leadership in our committee would like to work on. Councilman Arlett has offered to reach out to Wicomico County council members, and the state representatives want to reach out to their counterparts in the local Mar. elected House and Senate to at least start the conversation to see what might be able to be done to provide a little bit of funding to help take care of the services provided to them," Upole added.

There is a Capital Campaign Committee that anyone in the community is welcome and encouraged to join as volunteers to help with fundraisers. The committee meets monthly. Any interested party can reach out to Susan Upole at susan.upole@lib.de.us or 302-846-9894.



ROTARY "FLAGS FOR HEROES"



The Nanticoke Rotary Club invites you to sponsor the 2016 placement of a 3' x 5' flag (on a ten foot pole) in honor or memory of an American hero who serves or has served in the U.S. military.

Flags will be displayed for three weeks, from May 25, 2016, (the week before Memorial Day) through June 14, 2016 (Flag Day). Names of the heroes will also be listed in the Morning Star newspapers on May 26. The flags will be flown:

- Laurel: in front of Johnny Janosik Furniture on Rt. 13
- Seaford: next to 915 Norman Eskridge Hwy (Valvoline Oil)

Each tax deductible sponsored flag is \$50.00. The funds raised will assist Nanticoke Rotary to better serve the Laurel and Seaford communities. After the event, flags are retained by the Rotary Club for future use.

Names of the heroes to be honored/remembered will be listed in the Laurel and Seaford editions of the Morning Star newspaper on Thursday, May 26, 2016, and on a list at the flag locations. Each flag will also be personally identified with a hero's name.

2016 Flags for Heroes

YES! I want to honor an American Hero by sponsoring a flag for \$50.00 in recognition of my hero's service to our country.

Please print clearly and fill out the form below (one entry form per honoree, please):

Honoree Name: _____ **Rank:** _____
 Branch: _____ Status: Currently Serving Veteran Killed/died in service
 Flag location: Laurel Seaford No preference

Checks/cash may be given to a member of the Nanticoke Rotary Club, or send checks to: Delaware Nanticoke Rotary Foundation, PO Box 1257, Seaford, DE 19973. To pay by credit card or Pay Pal, go to www.nanticokerotary.org. (Donations to this registered 501(c)(3) are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.) All sponsorships must be received no later than May 15, 2016.

Sponsor name & phone #: _____

To receive future invitations to sponsor a flag, please provide email or address: _____



Above is a design rendering of the Delmar Public Library once additions and renovations have been completed. Submitted photo