AFTER ALL THE ACCOLADES AND achievements, nothing is more meaningful than the support of our community.
The Fayetteville Public Library celebrated several major milestones in 2006, including its 90th birthday June 15. The library began in 1916 when a group of citizens, led by Miss Julia Vaulx, opened Fayetteville’s first library in two rooms in the basement of the Washington County Courthouse. The library’s earliest years were spent one step away from closing, but Fayetteville’s residents and institutions worked hard to keep the doors open. These early supporters established the Fayetteville Public Library as a place devoted to the free and public access to knowledge, where reading and self-improvement are promoted and encouraged.
In 2006, the Fayetteville Public Library turned another important corner. After ten years of non-stop improvements and record-breaking increases in use, the library began moving to the next level of service. The vision the library set in 1998 had been realized, and the library had received the Library of the Year Award – the most coveted national award – for doing so. In 2006, we wanted to know what Fayetteville residents and library stakeholders expected next. Participants in the library’s strategic planning process said they wanted: (1) more hours; (2) more collections; (3) more teen programming; (4) current technology; (5) more visibility; (6) sustainable funding; (7) more outreach and (8) more accessibility. After 15 months of dialogue, the Library Board of Trustees approved a strategic plan that directs the library to be powerfully relevant and completely accessible.

Library staff immediately set off accomplishing the goals of the plan.

> Increased open hours planned for 2007 pending a continued rise in use of the self-checkout stations.
> Hired a fulltime communications and marketing manager.
> Conducted a drive time study to assess the need for branch libraries.
> Accepted a gift from the Bank of Fayetteville to purchase three remote book returns at bank locations.
> Implemented Reading Roadshow, a story time outreach operated by volunteers to the four area Head Starts.
> Created a “most wanted” display table with extra copies of highly-sought book titles that could not be placed on hold, assuring in-demand titles would be available at the library.
> Implemented online credit card payment for fees and scheduled in-library credit card payment for 2007.
> Implemented online library card registration.
> Implemented library’s listserv to announce events.
> Implemented downloadable audiobooks and music, provided MP3 players for checkout and made a host of other e-books and e-resources available from the library’s website.

Sustainable funding continues to be a goal. A referendum was narrowly defeated in April that would have provided stable funding through property tax. The library staff is working on a comprehensive funding plan that clarifies the role of our two supporting organizations, Friends of the Fayetteville Public Library and the library’s Foundation, with the goal of developing an even stronger advocacy base.

Finally, we said goodbye to two long time members of the library’s board of trustees. Louis Gottspener was a member of the board for nine years and president for eight years, and Maury Roberts was a member of the board for nine years. Through their leadership, the library has seen a period of increased use in a new building that is a symbol of pride for the entire community.

The library is poised to do even greater things in the coming years, and we look forward to serving the community into the future.

Sincerely,

Louise Schaper
Executive Director

Daniel E. Ferritor
President, Library Board of Trustees
The Fayetteville Public Library is nothing without the support of its volunteers and patrons. We applaud their dedication and offer thanks to the many who have made the library what it is today. Here’s to moving forward. ➤

Dennis Collins:

After 20 years in federal law enforcement, Dennis Collins was ready for a change of pace when he retired to Northwest Arkansas. The Fort Smith native and his wife moved to Fayetteville in 2006, and soon after, he signed up as one of the Fayetteville Public Library’s volunteers.

“You want to give something back,” Collins said. “It’s a good change of pace for me. It’s nice to be comfortable and quiet. You go in the library just to feel good. All good things in life are here.” The library’s role in the community is one of the things that drew him back to the area. “I looked for all the resources we might want, and that’s how I came across the library. The library was important to me. It made a big difference. This is state of the art.”

Collins has been a lifelong library user and instilled the value of books on his two children with early visits to the local library. “When my kids were newborn, I remember walking them down the aisles and letting them look at books.”

Volunteering at the library gives Collins, a voracious reader, time to search for his next book, but he also relies on the library’s collection to guide him through home repair projects like building a deck and creating a pond in his yard.

But it’s not just the books that draw Collins to the library. The views of Fayetteville available from the library’s many windows are a frequent reminder to Collins that he’s home. “After so many years of not being home, you can look out and see, wow, you’re home now. You know it’s one place you can go, and it’s secure and quiet.”
“You go in the library just to feel good. All good things in life are here.”
“It’s one of those few places I can go and get some peace and quiet and get lost in the books.”
For Summer Carriker, the Fayetteville Public Library is more than just a favorite stop. “I call this my second home,” said Carriker, who comes to the library at least once a week. “Some weeks I miss coming and believe me, I feel it. I love the books, and I love the peace and quiet and the people.”

Carriker, a Kansas native who has lived in Elkins for about eight years, relaxes by immersing herself in the rows of books. “It’s one of those few places I can go and get some peace and quiet and get lost in the books. I always look forward to seeing the nice people. Mostly I read. I get on the computers every once and a while, but mostly I find a little cubby hole to read.”

Beyond the books, Carriker likes taking in the library’s many views, whether from the terrace or from the floor-to-ceiling windows with sweeping southern views. “I go all over the library, just looking out windows. It has great views.”

Carriker first came to the library when it opened in 2004. She watched the building grow from the ground up from her father’s work place across the street. “I was like, ‘oh, I have to see what it looks like on the inside.’ I got to see around the first day the library opened. It really impressed me. After that, (visiting the library) just became like a normal thing to do.”
“The children’s section is the best I’ve ever seen. I can’t imagine a better library.”
Susan Dewar:

When Susan Dewar and her husband adopted their two daughters from Central America, she had concerns about how to entertain and educate their young minds. Then, she discovered the Fayetteville Public Library’s Randal Tyson Children’s Library.

“I was worried about what I’d be doing with the children, but there’s so much to do at the library,” she said. “I needn’t have worried. This has been great. The library has become one of the focal points of our week.”

Dewar, Daniela and Sheyla visit the library at least three times a week. “The children’s section is the best I’ve ever seen,” Dewar said. “I can’t imagine a better library. It’s given them such a good start from a language point of view. They love coming to the library, and they will always love coming to the library.

Books are fun for them, and they are likely to be keen readers in the future. It’s all important exposure. Fayetteville children must be some of the best read in the country. It’s certainly a superb start.”

Dewar’s young daughters are regular fixtures at weekly Baby Bookworms, Preschool Storytime and Toddler Time classes. “They love the songs, and we sing them at home. Learning songs is a great way to learn language skills and social skills and develop confidence,” she said. “The pace is right, and it’s fun. From everything they attend, they’ve gained something. It’s all very valuable.”

Cuentos y Mas classes have reinforced some of the Spanish language Daniela spoke when she arrived in Fayetteville. “We’ve learned Spanish songs, which they can sing. It’s just keeping it going, and that’s the really important thing.”

Dewar said she the library is part of her routine for other reasons. “It’s a beautiful environment to be in. It’s very rejuvenating in a way. This has been a wonderful thing.”
McKenna Potter:

McKenna Potter can usually be found hanging out in the Young Adult area when she stops by the Fayetteville Public Library.

Potter, a 15-year-old junior at Fayetteville High School, discovered the library soon after she moved to Northwest Arkansas from California in 2005.

“The library in my town wasn’t anything interesting or big or anything. This library is the biggest one I’ve ever been to and the nicest. I’ve never seen anything like it. Ever. I was amazed when I saw it.”

Potter immediately plugged into the opportunities available to teens at the library. She signed up for creative writing classes and submitted artwork for The Wanderer, the library’s annual literary magazine. “I like all the opportunities it has for kids and teens and adults – everyone in Northwest Arkansas. They have so many free classes for kids and teens.”

Not only did some of her poetry appear on the pages of the 2006 edition of The Wanderer, her artwork graced its cover. “That was one of the best things that ever happened to me. It was really neat because I never thought being this young I’d have my art in something like that. I was really happy. It’s great that the library could give me that opportunity.”

As a reward for her cover art, the library purchased Vitamin P, a compilation book of modern art, and donated it in Potter’s honor.
“I like all the opportunities it has for kids and teens and adults – everyone in Northwest Arkansas.”
2006 Financials and Performance Measures

Operating and Materials Revenues

FISCAL YEAR 2006

City of Fayetteville

General Fund ........................................ $1,513,270
CIP New Library ..................................... $4,979
CIP Books ........................................... $298,000
City total ............................................ $1,816,249

Other

Library millage ..................................... $1,023,700
State Aid to Public Libraries .................. $105,389
Fines, Fees & Other ............................... $307,794
Contributions from FPLF ........................ $272,865
Contributions from Friends of FPL ............ $52,803

Grand total ........................................ $3,578,800

Library Expenditures

JANUARY 1, 2006 – DECEMBER 31, 2006

Personnel Services ................................ $1,791,933
Books, AV & E-resources ....................... $368,960
Materials and Supplies ........................ $528,568
Services & Charges ............................... $97,279
Maintenance ....................................... $116,935
Depreciation ..................................... $545,086

Subtotal .............................................. $3,356,432

Capital Outlay ...................................... $0

Total ................................................. $3,356,432

2006 Library Measures

POPULATION SERVED (2006 SPECIAL CENSUS)

Fayetteville ........................................ 67,158
Washington County ............................ 193,771

Library Cardholders ......................... 5,527

Overall Program Attendance ............ 49,245

Children’s Programs ......................... 37,093

Materials Owned ............................... 231,037

Periodicals ....................................... 341

Reference Questions Answered ........... 86,348

Use of Materials (Circulation) .......... 863,484

Children’s Materials ......................... 297,796

Visits ............................................ 551,696

Volunteer Hours ................................. 13,311

Staff (Full-Time Equivalent) ............... 41.5

Staff with M.L.S. degree .................... 10

Hours Open ....................................... 61

Square Feet of Library Facility ........... 88,000


2 For communities 50,000 – 99,999.

3 Cardholders may live outside Fayetteville city limits.

1 Counter does not count more than one person walking through entrance gates at same time.
City Library Benchmark Comparisons 2006

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CITY</th>
<th>POPULATION / SERVICE AREA</th>
<th>OPERATIONS EXPENDITURES (IN MILLIONS)</th>
<th>HOURS OPEN</th>
<th>FTEs*</th>
<th>M.L.S. LIBRARIANS</th>
<th>CHECK OUTS</th>
<th>EXISTING BUILDING (SQ. FEET)</th>
<th>PLANNED BUILDING (SQ. FEET)</th>
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</tbody>
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*Excludes maintenance staff

Fayetteville Public Library Foundation

The gifts below represent 2006 contributions. Those marked with an asterisk (*) represent payments made in 2006 on larger pledges to the capital campaign.

$100,000 to $500,000
Anonymous Bequest
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Hope Amason
Marlene Beiza
Jodi Beznoska
Rachel Blankenship
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Marc Crandall
Joan Duval
Darcy Kayle Estrada
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Pody Gay
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Billy D. Higgins
Jerry Hilliard
Lib Horn
Kim Kelly
Harrison Knowlton
Doug Krueger
Birch Lancaster
Leilani Law
Teresa Maurer
McGafferty Irish Dancers
Alice McKee
Michael Merritt
Martha Molina
Sarah K. Moore
Jim Morgan
Ray Moseley
Julie Nelson
Geoff Oelsner
Gaylene Isabel Perez
Ashley Piediscalzi
McKenna Potter
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Lakshimi Ramanarayanan
Jeff Ruggelius
Flannery Quinn
Molly Quinn
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Ethel Simpson
Murray & Carolyn Smart
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Joan & Dick Smith
Kenneth Smith
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Biopharm
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Consulate General of Japan
at New Orleans
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DOXA Total Design Strategy
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Fayetteville Adult and Community Education
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First Act, Inc.
Francis Marion Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution
Harp’s High Roller Cycler
Hume Society of the Ozarks
Kid’s Directory
KNWA
KUAF
Little Dog Publications
Lokomotion
Lux Beauty
Modern Literature Book Club
Morning Star Wildlife
Rehabilitation
Northwest Arkansas Community College
Northwest Arkansas Mall
Northwest Arkansas Times
PetSmart
Ozark Cooperative Warehouse
Renaissance Tulsa Hotel
Riddle’s Elephant Sanctuary
Shaky Bugs
Shiloh Museum of Ozark History
Steve Moore
Steve Singleton
Students in Free Enterprise, University of Arkansas chapter
Target Stores
TheaterSquared
Temple Shalom
Tulsa Aquarium
Tulsa’s Utica Square Olive Garden
Tulsa Zoo
University of Arkansas
University of Arkansas Department of Foreign Language
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