

The Citizen

The Newsletter of Citizens for Maryland Libraries
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Friend of the Washington County Free Library receives MLA Outstanding Volunteer of the Year Award.

The following article written by Mary Summerville explains why she is this year's winner of the award that was presented at the Maryland Library Association conference in Ocean City, MD.

What is the value of a friend? — Or rather a whole group of Friends?

Over the past six years, the Friends of the Washington County Free Library have proved to be a valuable asset to the library and the community. They have raised funds to support the Summer Reading Program, funded nearly half of last year's program budget, conducted book appraisal sessions, book and author lunches, sales of genealogy books edited by the library staff, sponsored foreign language/culture classes for elementary age children, staffed the weekly story hours for children, purchased books to distribute for community reads, assisted with Reading Day to support the Literacy Council, and held receptions for winners of the Books for Babies fundraiser.

Volunteers from Friends have also assisted the library with mailings for the annual fundraiser and applications for library cards, counted 9,000 applications for distribution to area students, sold t-shirts at events to kick off the Summer Reading Program and acted as judges for poster and essay contests.

Our Washington County Friends have attended county commissioners meetings to thank them when they have served the library well and to advocate for libraries during budget hearings. They have also called on delegates and senators to bring important library bills to their attention.

Concerns about boundaries between Friends and Library Trustees have been expressed nationally by libraries and are understandable. At the Washington County Free Library there are safeguards. A library staff member is appointed as liaison between the Board of Library Trustees, the library director and the Friends. This person attends Friends meetings and is available to interpret board policy for committee meetings. Written articles, letters, brochures, etc. must be approved by a staff member before distribution. The library director has included representatives of the Friends in budget presentations to the county commissioners and in meetings with legislators. The director keeps the Friends group informed of policy as a way to ensure conflict avoidance. This has helped make the Friends a valuable support group with a clear understanding that policy making belongs to the Board of Library Trustees.

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Citizens Awards

At the MLA conference, **Bob Kuntz** of Carroll County Public Library received the Davis McCarn Award for his outstanding work for maintenance and consistent upkeep of CML's Web site. Bob has consistently kept our web site up to date.

David Goldsmith and **Maurice Rindskopf** each received the Marion Satterwaite Award. These gentlemen, CML Board Members, work consistently with legislators, library partners and the library community to help promote library issues.

Thanks Bob, David and Maurice. Congratulations.

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News from Division of Library Development & Services: Open WorldCat

DLDS has issued an Library Services Technology Act grant to the Prince Georges Memorial Library for statewide inclusion of all Maryland public libraries in the Open WorldCat Program. This program will make records of library-owned materials in Online Computer Library Center's WorldCat database available to Web users on popular Internet search, bibliographic and bookselling sites. The result is that Maryland public libraries will be more visible on the Web and their catalogs will be more accessible from the sites where many people start their search for information.

Specifically, Internet users will be able to link from their search results (in Yahoo!, Google or other partner sites) to the Open WorldCat Program and then directly to item records in Maryland public library Online Public Access Catalogs (OPAC).

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DLDS received over \$3 million for statewide public library services and enhancements from the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the Library Services and Technology Act. Some statewide programs under the grant include: AskUsNow!; emergent literacy training assessment pilot that partners local public schools and the Judy Center in Carroll County to help measure the impact participation in public library story times has on helping to prepare students for kindergarten; Maryland Digital eLibrary Consortium, which provides instant access to digital books for public library patrons; MPOWER, statewide library card; statewide databases; and Summer Reading programs.

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Obituary — Excerpts from an obituary for Offie E. Clark Sr., library advocate, who died in March at age 74

“... Though Mr. Clark was active on many fronts, nowhere did his activism shine brighter than in his service to the county and state public library systems. Mr. Clark served as Chairman of the Maryland Library Advisory Council from 1984 to 1992 and represented the state of Maryland at the first White House Conference on Libraries. He received the Maryland Library Association Distinguished Service Citation for his ‘zealous and dedicated efforts on behalf of Maryland libraries.’ In 1988 he received the first Marion Satterwaite Award from the Citizens for Maryland Libraries.”

Mr. Clark's significant contributions to Maryland libraries will long be remembered and appreciated. At the request of Mr. Clark's family, memorial contributions may be made to MLA to support scholarships for the Maryland Library Leadership Institute.

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Save The Date!

Sunday September 17, 2006 at the Enoch Pratt Free Library, 400 Cathedral Street, Baltimore 4 p.m. – 6 p.m. Attend a celebration to honor Senator Paul S. Sarbanes for his dedication to the cause of libraries during his many years in the U.S. Congress. Event sponsored by Citizens for Maryland Libraries, Maryland Library Association and the Maryland Library Community. Invitation to follow.

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Tribute to the Citizen, from Lance Finney, March 30, 2006

Dear Editors,

Ah! *The Citizen* was especially rewarding. Not only filled with news of good deeds done and plans of future happenings, it brought pictures of four great ladies of Maryland library land — Mary Lou, Martha, Linda and Lynn. *I salute your continuing service (was Nettie out of town?)* Okay. Bill, Jerry and Margaret were also a great plus to the issue.

Ha!

- LF

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***The Citizen* is moving away from an old friend**

For many years the Baltimore County Public Library has been the faithful friend who printed and distributed *The Citizen* for CML at very little cost. Budget realities has made it impossible for them to continue at the low rate, so the fall issue of *The Citizen* will be printed by WMPL.

CML and the editor of *The Citizen* use this medium to say thank you to Jim Fish, Director of BCPL, for his generosity towards CML and to the BCPL Marketing, Graphics Production and Printing staff for the tremendous job they have done.

- Glennor

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Membership Application

Yes I want to join CITIZENS FOR MARYLAND LIBRARIES (CML) and continue to work for the best possible public library service for all the people of Maryland.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
Telephone _____ Fax _____ E-mail _____

(Through December 2006)

___ \$15 Individual
___ \$38 Friends of Library Groups
___ \$75 Corporations/Organizations
___ \$155 Benefactors

(Through December 2009)

___ \$38 Individual
___ \$98 Friends of Library Groups
___ \$188 Corporations/Organizations
___ \$375 Benefactors

___ \$750 Life Member

Additional contributions to CML \$ _____ work toward improved library service and libraries in Maryland.

Payment

Checks should be made payable to CML (fully tax-deductible).

Mail to

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