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Drive-Through Lanes En Route to Libraries

(The following article by Jennifer McMenamain appeared in the March 17, 2000 edition of The Baltimore Sun .)

You can order hamburgers without getting out of your car. You can deposit a paycheck at the drive-through lane of a bank.

In some communities, you can buy liquor, pick up prescription medicines and get married, all from your car's front seat.

A drive-up window for a library is the next logical step.

If Carroll County officials and their architect can find space for a drive-through lane around the brick library branch along the Liberty Road commercial strip in Eldersburg, patrons will be able to return and check out books from their cars.

"We know that those drive-through service

windows have proved successful at other library branches, so we are exploring the possibility," said Ann Wisner of the Carroll County library system.

Banks built drive-through windows about 50 years ago, enabling customers to withdraw and deposit money from the safety of their cars. Fast-food restaurants also adopted the innovation.

Motorists can now get flu shots or pay their respects at a funeral parlor without leaving their vehicles.

"I lived in Atlantic City, and there's drive-through everything there," said Daphne Wiese, an assistant circulation supervisor at Harford County Public Library, which maintains a drive-through

window at the Bel Air branch. "It's a really innovative idea, and for libraries the time had come."

The drive-through lane resembles those at fast-food restaurants around Bel Air. Library patrons can return books, pay late fees and check out items that they request in advance.

Circulation clerks staffed the window for two hours each morning and evening when it opened in July 1998. In the first month, 670 people used the service. The figure has risen to 4,300 users a month, and the window is open from 8 a.m. to 8:

Legislative Report

The major actions relating to libraries of the Maryland General Assembly in the 2000 session were:

The passage of Senate Bill 650/House Bill 1185 which altered the formula for funding the Regional Library Resource Centers beginning in FY 2002 by increasing the per capita amount from \$1.70 to \$3.50 in FY 2002 and \$.50 a year additional increase through FY 2004.

The passage of Senate Bill 522 which requires each county library board of trustees to adopt and implement policies and procedures to prevent minors from obtaining access through

MCDPL 50th Birthday Celebration

(The following article by Norman Finkler, former director of the Montgomery County Public Libraries and for-

Planning for the library system's 50th anniversary in 2001 has already begun. Part of the fun of looking ahead and planning to celebrate is looking back and remembering what happened in the past.

At a recent meeting of a committee working on plans for the celebration, Ms. Ann Evans, retired head of the White Oak Library, led the group in

reminiscing about notable events in our history. She recounted, as an example, the innovative and unusual exhibit of a Volkswagen automobile placed on the floor of the Rockville Library by Richard Murphy, now the head of the Prince William County, Virginia library system. The Volkswagen promoted an auto repair program. Only those who were there now remember how the car got inside the library.



CML'S New Executive Director

Effective July 1, 2000 CML's new executive director will be Mary S. Mallery of Hagerstown. Mary is newly retired from a long and distinguished career in public library service in both Maryland and Pennsylvania. She served for many years as associate director of the Washington County Free Library and as regional librarian, Western Maryland Public Libraries. She developed a sign system and manual for libraries in Western Maryland that received international recognition. The National Library Symbol was a part of this project. Mary has long been a most active and able advocate for libraries in the state and region and looks forward to the opportunity to offer

Friends of Charles County Public Library Receive 2000 Grant from CML

After reviewing many strong applications, the Grant Committee selected Charles County for this year's recipient of the \$1,000 grant. The Charles County Friends Group is preparing a 2001 Children's Literature Calendar which will feature birth dates of 1,000 children's book authors, drawings by a local artist of the county's branch libraries and information about trustees and staff.

In addition to serving as a fund raising vehicle, the calendar will serve to increase library usage and generate more interest in the Friends group. The calendar will provide information about the services the library offers. It is hoped that the information about children's literature will inspire young

Friends of Libraries Conference

(The following report was prepared by Emily Ferren, CML Board member and director of the Charles County Public Library)

The 2nd Maryland State Friends of Libraries Conference was held on Saturday, May 13, 2000 at the Sheraton Towson as a post conference of the Maryland Library Association. The sponsors of the event were VIGOR (Volunteer Interest Group of MLA), Friends of the Maryland State Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, and Citizens for Maryland Libraries (CML).

There was ample time for meeting and greeting as characters from the play "Murder at the Library" from the Friends of the Charles County Public Library encouraged audience participation for introductions.

Membership Application

Yes, I want to join CITIZENS FOR MARYLAND LIBRARIES (CML) along with the many citizens and organizations across the state of Maryland, who through their membership in CML continue to work

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Telephone _____ FAX _____ E-mail _____

- _____ \$10 Individual (through December 2000) or _____ \$25 Individual (for THREE years, through December 2002)
- _____ \$25 Friends of Library Groups _____ \$50 Corporations / Organizations
- _____ \$100 Benefactor _____ \$500 Life Member

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

Payment

Checks should be made payable to:
CML (fully tax-deductible)
or to **PUBLIUS**
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