

The Citizen

The Newsletter of Citizens for Maryland Libraries
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News from the Division of Library and Development Services (DLDS)

Maryland's Statewide Library Card

In April 2005, Maryland Public Libraries will launch a special statewide public library card. The new card is part of a marketing initiative to build awareness of statewide public library services among Maryland residents and may be registered with any county public library system in the state. For example, a Howard County patron could go to Baltimore County and register with their statewide public library card. For the staff registering the patron, the process will be simplified with new software that will enable one county system to retrieve a patron's record from their home library system and import it into their own. While there are some agreed upon standards for initial registration, patrons must abide by their local library's policies and procedures.

A unique element of this statewide project is the design of the card itself. The card is lenticular, meaning it has two separate images that appear depending on the angle at which one holds it, one image will be of the local county public library card, the second a special statewide design. Each of the 24 public library systems will be able to retain local branding while promoting statewide services.

Look for a special campaign launching the card during National Library Week 2005. Marketing materials and templates for publicity will be provided to systems and staff will be trained so they are equipped to use the new software and deliver a consistent message to the public. This is an exciting undertaking as no other state has the participation of all its public libraries in such a cooperative effort. Look for more information on this special project soon.

Maryland AskUsNow!

Have you ever had a question or need for information in the middle of the night? If you have Internet access, you can touch base with a live reference librarian 24/7 through Maryland AskUsNow! service. The project is a collaborative effort among public, academic, special and other libraries around the country. Each partner provides staff time at the AskUsNow! virtual reference desk. Funding is provided with an IMLS LSTA Grant through the Division of Library Development, Maryland State Department of Education. In 2004, AskUsNow! answered over 40,000 questions. So, if you need help finding information, join thousands of other Marylanders who have logged onto <http://www.askusnow.info> to chat with an information specialist.

From The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE)

The Maryland State Department of Education Division of Library Development and Services received a \$157,000 grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to support public access to computer technology and online services in public libraries throughout the state of Maryland. This is the second and final round of the “Staying Connected” grant program.

In Maryland, the Gates grant will be used for the following purposes:

- Upgrade and/or replace personal computers and/or other public access computing equipment in Gates Labs in the Allegany County Library, Caroline County Library, Cecil County Library, Frederick County Library, Harford County Library, and Somerset County Library;
- Provide additional computers for the Carroll County Library, Dorchester County Library, Kent County Library, Ruth Enlow Library of Garrett County, Talbot County Library, Washington County Free Library, and Worcester County Library;
- Assist with online technical training to all public libraries in Maryland through an online portal that provides Web-based training modules, tutorials, and provides for the development of a “help desk” or “Web board” for exchanging technical support information; and
- Develop and sustain a learning environment for library staff engaged in providing technical support, training for the public and day-to-day library services.

People News

James Partridge Award

Karen Patterson, director of the CLIS Information Center, will receive the Partridge Award for 2005. This award was started by Dean Ann Prentice to recognize outstanding African American leaders in the information professions and was named for James Partridge, the first recipient. The award will take place during the Celebration of African Americans in the Information Professions on Thursday, February 24, 2005 from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room of the Nyumburu Cultural Center. Guest speaker will be Dr. Althea Jenkins, director of libraries, Florida and the executive director of the Association of College and Research Libraries at ALA Headquarters in Chicago.

Nettie Taylor now honorary member of ALA (*Reporter*, Joseph M. Eagan, ALA chapter councilor)

I am very happy to announce that the ALA Council has made Nettie B. Taylor, retired assistant state superintendent for libraries, an honorary member of the American Library Association. This is the highest award that ALA can bestow on an individual. Congratulations, Nettie! I want to thank those who assisted me in the preparation of Nettie's nomination for honorary membership in ALA, especially Lynn Wheeler and Margaret Carty.

Lynn Wheeler is now the director of the Carrol County Public Library.

Dr. Jennifer Preece is the new dean of the College of Library and Information Sciences (CLIS).

West County Area Library, the largest of the Anne Arundel County Public Library's 15 branches, had its grand opening in December. The 40,000 square foot library is on two levels and houses a collection of more than 160,000 items. It also has 40 public computers, each equipped with automated sign-up and word processing capabilities.

From the *Compass, News and Events of the Enoch Pratt Free Library*. In the month of October, 150 members of the Enoch Pratt Society welcomed Alice Walker, the first African-American woman to win the Pulitzer Prize for fiction, to the central branch. Ms. Walker was the guest of honor at the Society's Lifetime Literary Achievement Award Ceremony. The award recognizes an American writer whose body of work has contributed significantly to American literature and has enriched the lives of readers. Alice Walker is the eighth American author to be honored with this award, joining a distinguished list of recipients that include; John Updike, Joyce Carol Oates, Saul Bellow, Toni Morrison, Tom Wolfe and Norman Mailer.

The Pratt Society consists of individuals, foundations and corporations who have demonstrated their commitment to Baltimore's free public library by contributing \$1,000 or more annually to the Enoch Pratt Free Library. The Pratt Society dinner, held each fall at the central branch, recognizes the generosity of these donors.

From the Harford County Public Library, *Headlines & Happenings*. ... In November, the Harford County Public Library Foundation presented a \$30,000 check to the Abingdon Branch for the purchase of books and other materials. The Foundation raised the funds through various campaigns including the Buy-A-Book Campaign and the September 2003 Abingdon Family Fun Day. Incoming HCPL foundation President, Gloria Barnhart said the Foundation was very pleased that the money presented would go towards buying more books and audiovisual materials for the library.

From the College of Library and Information Sciences (CLIS): The Management of Information Management (MIM) marks its first birthday. MIM's academic strength is the opportunity for students to apply what they are learning in the classroom to real information management problems faced by government agencies, non-profits, business ventures and academic institutions.

This year, CLIS celebrates its 40th anniversary. Among the events to celebrate the anniversary will be a breakfast co-sponsored with the Maryland Library Leadership Institute. Events will take place at the Maryland Library Association's Annual Conference in Ocean City, Maryland, May 5 – 9, 2005.

Friends of the Beltsville Library's monthly book discussion with featured title, *Girl in Hyacinth Blue* by Susan Vreeland. Wednesday, February, 9 at 7:30 p.m.

American Library Association's Annual Conference to take place in Chicago, Illinois from June 24 – 29, 2005.

Maryland Library Association's Annual Conference to take place at the Clarion Hotel in Ocean City, Maryland from May 5 – 9, 2005.

Maryland Library Leadership Institute

Citizens for Maryland Libraries was incorporated in 1982 as the statewide Friends of Libraries organization for Maryland. It was established as a result of the recommendations of the Maryland Governor's Conference (1978) and the White House Conference (1979) on Library and Information Services. It is made up of interested citizens and non-profit organizations, libraries, library trustees and professionals from throughout the state.

CML was formed for these purposes:

- Create greater public awareness of the need for and services of libraries of all kinds.
- Promote laws to provide improved support to libraries.
- Foster, promote and help local library friends and support groups.

Wanted: Contributions for the CML newsletter, *The Citizen*. Tell us about the news, stories and successes in your libraries. We especially want articles that highlight the work of the FRIENDS of the Library from across the state. You may send information via email or through mail.

CML Board Members for 2005

Nancy Aldous, Don Wm. Bradley, Margaret Carty, Denise Davis, Mary Lou Dewey, Sylvia Betts Dodd, Patricia H. Fisher, David Goldsmith, Mary Mallery, Michael Osborne, Irene Padilla (ex-officio), Maurice H. Rindskopf, Treasurer Glennor Shirley, Vice President Ruth Showalter, Mary Summerville, Nettie Taylor (ex-officio), J. Maurice Travillian (ex-officio), President Lynn Wheeler, Secretary William G. Wilson

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 _____

Membership through December 2005:

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

Membership through December 2007:

\$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 (tax-deductible)

Mail to

Citizens for Maryland Libraries

P.O. Box

Funkstown, MD 21734-0267

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Lynn Wheeler, President / Glennor Shirley, Editor