



Recent Events

The NFLP participated in the Halloween program put on by the Town of Fletcher Parks and Recreation Committee.



Several members were there to answer questions and give out information to adults and candy to the children. We were able to meet many people and let them know about our library project. We also collected several more signatures on the petition for the County Commissioners.

Our thanks to Nicole Sweat who has been very helpful in setting up space for NFLP at the various events sponsored by Fletcher Parks and Recreation.

501 (c) 3 Status

Grace Deal has been working many hours on our application for 501 (c) 3 non-profit status. We completed our Articles of Incorporation which is a preliminary step in the process. The application for the non-profit status was submitted on December 5, 2017. Our check was cashed and we are now waiting for approval. The next step after we get our letter confirming 501 (c) 3 status will be to apply to the state of North Carolina for affirmation of the status. It is our hope that this process will be completed in the next couple of months.

We do have our account with FAHA (Fletcher Arts and Heritage Association) which is accepting donations for us as well as the CFHC (Community Foundation of Henderson County) which also accepts donations for us. These both offer tax free donations.

Public Relations

One of our Board members has initiated a public relations effort to contact a large portion of people in the area. We are working with the Summit Marketing Group in Hendersonville. At the end of November postcards went out to all people living in the 28732 zip code area which is our primary group of patrons at the library. In addition to providing information about the library, recipients were directed to our web page and our Facebook site where more information is provided, including how to donate and how to help in other ways.

We are looking at a GOOGLE campaign which would reach many more people who might help in our efforts.

Community Impact of Libraries



Recently I got this photo of the Wallkill Public Library. This is where I was first introduced to the library and where I got my first library card. I spent many hours in this library and read many books.

Later, I patronized libraries in Rouses Point, NY and Champlain, NY. These were also small libraries but served their communities very well.

I became much more involved in the Champlain Library serving on the Library Board as a member and then as the President. I remember the first computers given to the library in the 1990s through a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. This was a big deal for us as we couldn't afford them at the time. We only had two, but it was a great step forward for our little library. Of course, now the Fletcher Library has four computers for public use which is not enough for the demand.

Our children became readers, in part, because of the availability of library resources. I firmly believe that the ability to read and a love of reading is essential to a literate society which is necessary in a free society.

The library we are proposing would be an asset to the community. Families would find books, movies, and programs to enrich the learning experience. Adults have books, DVDs, books on tape, and a number of programs to attend. Businesses and industries in the area would have a space for training and meetings.

In the past fiscal year 2016-2017, our library served 89,133 patrons, circulated 88,369 items, and had 301 programs attended by 5,717 area residents. This is an admirable record which can be increased with the new library. A good library contributes to the

quality of life in a community and, while it may not be a sole factor in attracting business and industry, it is certainly desired along with good schools.

Our library is used by several local schools. One of our volunteers provides a story hour for the pre-school next door. Students and teachers from Fletcher Elementary and Veritas use the library. The staff provides books to Fern Leaf School for a number of units. High School students have come to the library to volunteer in order to fulfill their community service segment of their curriculum.

Traditional materials – books, magazines – are still a part of the 21st century library. However, the library offers many digital publications through the NC Digital Library with access to thousands of books for reading apps and Kindles. The Cardinal system allows patrons to get material from all over the state. The new library would offer more quiet spaces for people to read, use their devices, and get tutoring. These are all ways that the library, current and proposed, affect the community.

Doug Agor, NFLP President

What is Next?

In our initial plan for the library we addressed several issues. We put out a four-pronged plan for raising the money necessary to build and equip the new library building. We are NOT creating a separate system. We are merely constructing a new building to house the current library collection. The staffing remains the same as will the County providing the services that it currently provides.

The plan uses Town and County funding as the primary source of money. Then there is the local business and industrial facilities which we expect to contribute. Third is grants from various sources, some of which have been identified and will be contacted as soon as we have the 501 (c) 3 status. The fourth funding source is individual donations. We have many individual and family donations for which we are thankful. But we will need much more.

Our plan now is to contact area businesses and industries with information packets to be followed up with personal visits. Many industries have benefited from tax breaks and other help and would be willing to contribute something back to the community.



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Thanks for your support!