

Mount Dora Community Building Capital Campaign adjusts its goal

At the December 4, 2007, City Council meeting, a revised fundraising plan was approved after Capital Campaign Steering Committee Chair Catherine Hanson reported on the Campaign's progress.

The City Council directed the Steering Committee to continue seeking local donations to reach a goal of \$1 million from the community. After a substantial amount of local donations have been received, grants and large donations from private and corporate foundations can be sought to make up the balance. The Mount Dora Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) already has budgeted the first \$1.4 million, which includes design costs.

"Our previous goal of \$2.6 million may have been a little too ambitious," says Hanson. "We think the reduced goal may be more practical given the current economic environment," Hanson adds. With a revised and reduced goal to raise \$1 million locally, the Steering Committee expects to rouse a renewed enthusi-

asm and can-do attitude from the community.

"We have been working hard to gain local, individual financial commitments. With possible additional funds coming from the Mount Dora CRA over time, coupled with aggressive pursuing of grants and gifts from foundations, it may be more realistic to realize the total \$4 million for this important project," said Hanson.

Built in 1929, the Mount Dora Community Building, located downtown next to City Hall, serves as a central gathering place for special events, musical performances, social functions, group meetings, health and fitness classes, and a variety of other uses.

Led by a 20+ member Steering Committee with Hanson as General Chair, the Mount Dora Community Building Capital Campaign is actively seeking support from the community for the historic building's renovation.

Once the expansion and renovation is complete, the building will become a more usable, well-equipped space where future events will be held in a more comfortable setting for patrons. Construction is anticipated to begin in late 2008 or early 2009.



The Mount Dora Community Building will undergo a renovation beginning in late 2008.

The renovation will bring about much-needed functional and aesthetic upgrades to include new seating in the auditorium, expanded restrooms, building code compliance to include ADA-accessibility and a fire suppression system, an expanded lobby/community meeting room to include a small concession area and art exhibit space, upgraded sound, lighting, acoustics, HVAC and electrical systems, an enhanced stage area, installation of more architecturally-appropriate entrances and doorways, and the drop ceiling tiles will be removed to expose the original, arched ceiling, improving acoustics.

For more information about the campaign or to make a contribution, call 735-7182.



Historic structure survey commences

City of Mount Dora officials recently announced the commencement of a historic preservation project that will result in a nomination of a historic district to the *National Register of Historic Places*. The project is being financed in part with historic preservation grant assistance provided by the Bureau of Historic Preservation, Division of Historic Resources, Florida Department of State, as well as by the City of Mount Dora. The project involves a historic building survey that inventories and evaluates historic buildings in the City. The purpose of the historic building survey is to evaluate historic structures with reference to specific criteria for inclusion in the *National Register of Historic Places*.

Typical historic data collected about each structure includes past owners, the date and reason for its construction, its use over time, its style, the presence or absence of alterations, and significant character-defining features that might give it potential for listing on the *National Register of Historic Places* under specific criteria. The purpose of this data collection is to update historic building information and produce a more accurate historical record of the City. It does not affect property appraisals or taxes. The exact boundaries of the district will be based primarily on the results of the historic building survey. Placing a historic district on the

National Register of Historic Places has no regulatory impact on any of the buildings in the district.

As part of the project, an in-depth technical report will be produced. Some data generated by the project may be used in promoting historic preservation incentive programs. In addition to the nomination of a historic district for *National Register of Historic Places*, individual National Register nominations for the Witherspoon Lodge and the Milner-Rosenwald Academy will be prepared.

The Mount Dora Historic Preservation Board will review the results of the project and make a recommendation to the City Council on the historic district. Assistant Planning & Development Director Gus Gianikas is overseeing the project. The historic buildings survey and all other work associated with the nomination to *National Register of Historic Places* will be done by Bland & Associates, Inc. (BAI), an archaeological and historic preservation consulting firm based in Jacksonville.

“Having a historic district on the *National Register of Historic Places* will recognize and promote the unique historic character and image of Mount Dora,” said Gianikas. “The setting and layout of the city is historically exceptional and deserves to be honored in this

way. Besides the privilege of this recognition, the designation has some direct benefits. Commercial properties within the district will become eligible for federal income tax credits for the cost of building improvements.”

BAI Senior Historian Sidney Johnston stated: “The City of Mount Dora has played an important role in the history of Lake County and Central Florida, and its structures have been silent witnesses to this story. We look forward to documenting each of these historic treasures. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank the residents of Lake County and City officials in advance for their cooperation; it is an honor and a pleasure to execute this contract on their behalf.”

BAI Principal Myles Bland noted: “It’s simply a great research opportunity. The structural resources of Mount Dora a non-renewable resource of growing importance to the sustained development of the City, and intact, historic structures which are preserved within a neighborhood setting are especially well suited for historic preservation. There are some great buildings, and some great stories out there, just waiting to be discovered.”

For more information, please contact the Planning & Development Department at (352) 735-7113.

Fire Department to offer CPR, AED courses



The Mount Dora Fire Department is pleased to announce two new community programs aimed at training laypersons in CPR and the use of an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) in the event of sudden cardiac arrest.

The Public Access Defibrillation (PAD) program guides local businesses through the purchase of an AED, and trains employees in CPR and AED use. The Fire Department will also be providing Com-

munity CPR classes several times throughout the upcoming year, which will be taught by highly trained Fire Department personnel.

For class schedules and fees, or if your business is interested in purchasing an AED, please contact the Mount Dora Fire Department, Monday through Friday, between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. at (352) 735-7140.

Bookmarks from the W.T. Bland Public Library

The W. T. Bland Public Library offers a full array of programs, classes and activities for every age group. Please call (352) 735-7180 for a full listing, or stop by and pick up our monthly calendar. Times and events may change.

AARP 55 Alive – these classes are held on the 1st Monday & Wednesday of the month from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Registration is required and there is a \$10 fee.

- ❖ February 4 & February 6
- ❖ March 3 & March 5

Classic Film Series – these free movies are held every 2nd & 4th Wednesday of the month beginning at 7:00 p.m. Due to a licensing agreement, we cannot list the titles of the film. Please call 735-7180, and press “5” to learn the title of the films being shown.

- ❖ February 13 & February 27
- ❖ March 12 & March 26

American Girls Club – this club for girls ages 7 to 12 meets on the 1st Wednesday of the month at 3:45pm.

- ❖ February 6
- ❖ March 5

Chess Club – this free club for all ages and skill levels meets on the 1st & 3rd Saturday of the month from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon.

- ❖ February 2 & February 16
- ❖ March 1 & March 15

Senior Scrabble Club – this free club, sponsored by the Veranda Apartments, will be held every Wednesday from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon, beginning on February 13th.

PAWS Reading Dogs – these free reading sessions are held on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 3:30 p.m. and again at 4:00 p.m. The PAWS dogs (Pets As Willing Servants) and their trainers will be at the Library to

listen to children to read. The next readings will be held on February 20th and March 19th.

Fun with Music & Books – This introduction to music for children ages, 5, 6 and 7 is held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. Susan Cole-Shaw, a local music teacher, will lead this program. Children will be introduced to stories with musical themes, easy songs, play hand held instruments, and play fun music games. Though free, class size is limited, so call 383-6975 to register.

- ❖ February 13
- ❖ March 12

Art Exhibits @ the Library are in the Library’s gallery located in the Mount Dora Community Trust Community Room:

- ❖ January & February - *Florida in Leaf and Landscape* – photographs by Joel McEachern
- ❖ March – paintings by Margaret Wittnebert

Youth Book Club – this book club is for children 4th grade and up. Registration is limited to 20 and books will be provided. The title selected is *The Shakespeare Stealer* by Gary Blackwood. Call the Children’s Department for additional information at 735-7180, ext 3106.

W.T. Bland Public Library Advisory Board Meetings – these meeting are open to the public and are held every 2nd Monday of the month at 4:30 p.m.

- ❖ February 11
- ❖ March 10

Writer’s Café – these monthly get-togethers for local writers, poets, and listeners to share their work are held the 4th Tuesday of the month beginning at 7:00 p.m.

- ❖ January 29
- ❖ February 26
- ❖ March 25

Florida Lakes Symphony Orchestra Preludes – a series of talks by Guy Saint-Clair who shares his musical insights on the upcoming Florida Lakes Symphony Orchestra Concerts:

- ❖ Thursday, February 14th at 5:30 p.m. (at the Library) – “Evening at the Opera” for concert on Thursday, February 21st at 7:30 p.m. (at Saint Patrick’s Catholic Church)
- ❖ Thursday, March 27th at 5:30 p.m. (at the Library) – “Cowboy Concerto” for concert on Thursday, April 3rd at 7:30 p.m. (at Saint Patrick’s Catholic Church)

2008 Mount Dora Annual Writers Contest – the submission deadline for this contest is Friday, February 22nd. There are four categories – Poetry, Essay/Non-Fiction, Short Story/Fiction, and Story for Juveniles. First Prize (\$150), Second Prize (\$100), Third Prize (\$75) and 2 special prizes of \$500 each. Contest rules are available at the Library or you can go to www.mountodoralibrary.com and www.ci.mount-dora.fl.us, select Library under the departmental listing.

Friends of the Library Used Book Sale – The Used Book Sale occurs during the Mount Dora Art Festival and will take place on Friday, February 1st from – 8:00am to 2:00pm; Saturday, February 2nd and Sunday, February 3rd from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day in the lower level of the Community Building, located next to City Hall. There will be over 10,000 books and plenty of great bargains in all subject areas.



Blowout Paperback Book Sale – this book sale will be held on Tuesday, February 19th from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Library’s Community Room.

(Continued on page 4)



More Bookmarks...

(Continued from page 3)

Artists @ the Library: Highwayman Sylvester Wells – Meet one of the original Florida African-American artists known as the Highwaymen on Wednesday, February 6th at 5:00 p.m. Mr. Wells will be demonstrating his artistic style, talking about his art heritage, and selling his work. Though viewing the artwork is free, you'll want to arrive on time to pick out your purchase firsthand!

AARP Tax Aide – Free help with your Federal or State income tax filings will begin on Monday, February 4th and go through Tuesday, April 15th. Hours will be Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., and Tuesday from 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Appointments can be made beginning on Monday, February 4th by calling 735-5936 during the hours listed above.

Tax Forms – Are you looking for a copy of an IRS tax form or tax information pamphlet? Check out the Federal and State tax forms available at the Library. We have copies of the most popular ones in paper, a reproducible notebook of tax forms, and electronic forms available on the Internet.

Writers on the Grill – this roundtable for local poets and poets-to-be to create poetry will be held on Wednesday, February 6th, 13th, 20th, and 27th from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon. Space is limited, so pre-register by Monday, January 4th by calling 735-7180, and press "5".

An Evening with The Kingston Trio – The Mount Dora Library Association will present The Kingston Trio concert on Saturday, February 9th at 7:30 p.m. at the Christian Home and Bible School, located at 301 West 13th Avenue. This event is a fundraiser for the W.T Bland Public Library. Tickets were being sold

for this event for \$30 each; however, the concert is now sold out and no more tickets are available for purchase.

Road Scholar Program (Florida Humanities Council) – Learn the story of Newton, leader of the Highwaymen artists and major Florida landscape painter, through an overview of the quintessential paintings on Wednesday, February 20th at 6:30 p.m. Gary Monroe will present *Harold Newton: the Original Highwayman*.

Presidents and Their First Ladies: Franklin & Eleanor Roosevelt - Once again, William and Sue Wills bring us another one of their "dramatically read dialogues" delving into the personal relationship of President Franklin Roosevelt and his wife Eleanor. This free event will be held on Tuesday, February 26th at 2:00 p.m. Though free, tickets are required and may be obtained at the Circulation Desk beginning on Monday, February 14th.

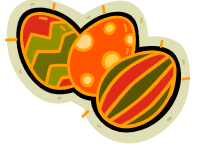


Mount Dora Music Festival – Hear a variety of music at various venues around town from Thursday, February 21st through Sunday, February 24th. The following free musical events will take place at the Library:

- ❖ Friday, February 22 at 12:00 Noon – Musical Brown Bag with Chris Kahl – “Orange Blossom Memories: Songs of Florida”

Piatigorsky Foundation Concert – This free concert will be held on Monday, February 25th at 2:00 p.m. and features Heidi Krutzen (harp) and Lorna McGhee (flute). A reception will follow the concert.

Library Easter Egg Hunt – this free event for children up to the age of 10 will be held on Saturday, March 22nd beginning at 10:00 a.m. on the front lawn of the Library.



5th Annual Festival of Reading: Romancing the Book at all member and branch libraries. The kick-off event will be held on Saturday, March 29th from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Lake-Sumter Community College – Leesburg campus. Presented by the Lake County Library System, activities for the kick-off to include author talks, music, crafts for children, story telling, and other entertainment. Visit the Lake County Library System website at www.lakeline.lib.fl.us for a full listing of the events. The Festival of Reading starts on Saturday, March 29th and continues through Saturday, April 5th.

Festival of Reading @ the W. T. Bland Public Library – the following special programs are our Library's offerings for the 5th Annual Festival of Reading. Please note that this is a preliminary listing of programs as others may be added prior to the actual start date of the Festival of Reading.

- ❖ Sunday, March 30th at 2:00 p.m. – “An Out of This World Tea” with authors Linnea Sinclair, Heather Waters, and Elizabeth Sinclair
- ❖ Tuesday, April 1st at 2:00 p.m. – “Tea at the Scene of the Crime” featuring best selling authors Jo Derske, Claire Maturro, and Kathryn Hall Paige
- ❖ Tuesday, April 1st at 7:00 p.m. - *Honky Tonk Freeway* – enjoy this special showing of the film that painted Mount Dora pink
- ❖ Wednesday, April 2nd at 2:00 p.m. – “Tea & Bullets” – with author Roxanne St. Clair, author of the Bullet Catcher series
- ❖ Thursday, April 3rd at 12:00 Noon – the Literary Luncheon with author Angela Hunt at the Lakes Recep-

(Continued on page 5)

More Bookmarks...*(Continued from page 4)*

- tion. Tickets cost \$20.00
- ❖ Friday, April 4th at 6:00 p.m. – “A Wine-derful Evening with Chocolate” – at the Mount Dora Chamber of Commerce. Everyone knows chocolate and romance goes together, but so does chocolate and wine. Limited to the first 50 people to sign up.
 - ❖ Saturday, April 5th at 2:00 p.m. – Writers’ reception for the winners of

the 2008 Annual Mount Dora Writers’ Contest.

Saturday
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Holiday closings...

The Library will be closed on Monday, February 19th in observance of Presidents’ Day.

Hours of operation and information:

Monday, Thursday and Friday

10:00 a.m. to 6:00p.m.

Tuesday and Wednesday

10:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m

Closed on Sunday

The Library is located at 1995 North Donnelly Street. The main phone number is (352) 735-7180.

❖ Press 5 for the Circulation Dept

❖ Press 6 for the Reference Dept

❖ Press 7 for the Children’s Dept

Visit us on the web at:
www.cityofmoundora.com.

Recreation Department plans spring, summer schedules

The Parks & Recreation Department has planned several activities for old and young alike. The following are just a few of these programs:

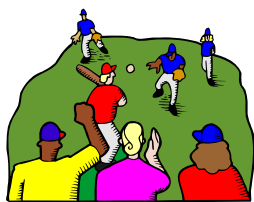
Adult Day Trips - Explore new places and meet new people while you leave the driving to us. Annual membership fee of \$5 for residents and \$7.50 for non-residents, and a \$4 transportation fee per trip.

Adult Dance - Classes are held on Tuesdays in the Donnelly Park Building for ages 16 and up. Classes are as follows:

- ❖ 6:00 p.m. - Ballroom
- ❖ 7:00 p.m. - Latin Dance
- ❖ 8:00 p.m. - Specialty Dance

Eight sessions for \$96 or \$15 per session. All levels welcome! Or, come on Monday night for a Dance Party from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Cost: \$5 per person.

Adult Softball - Are you looking for a great way to hang out with your friends or even a great way to make new ones? The City will soon be offering Adult Softball. Men’s, Women’s, Co-Ed, and Church leagues available.



include strength training with weights for every major muscle along with stretching for a balanced functional training workout. Both men and women are welcome. Registration is ongoing. Classes are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. in the Donnelly Park Building. Cost: \$40 for eight classes.

Water Aerobics - This is a great way to exercise for any age without stressing your joints. Classes are held on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9:45 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. Cost is \$20 per month for residents, \$30 per month for non-residents.



Water Kickboxing - A new and exciting way to work out without stressing your joints. Energizing music will make it so much fun that you will forget it’s a workout. Classes are held on Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Cost is \$4 per class for residents, \$6 per class for non-residents.

Swim Lessons - Learn how to swim like a pro. Classes are held Monday through Friday, from 6:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Cost is \$26 per class for residents, \$39 per class for non-residents.

Open Swim - Families can get cooled

off and workout together in a clean pool with showers and locker rooms every Saturday from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Costs is \$1 per resident per entry and \$2 per non-resident per entry.

Mommy & Me for the Performing Arts - Explore the world of music and movement through active play, games, songs, and rhythm instruments. Begins the first week of the month in the Donnelly Park Building. Infants to 5 years old. Monthly costs are \$26 for residents and \$39 for non-residents.

Mommy & Me Art Classes - Discover the joy and excitement of creating original art with your child! Students are introduced to art. Starts the first week of the month in the Donnelly Park Building. Children ages 2 to 4 years old. Monthly costs are \$26 for residents and \$39 for non-residents.



Spring Soccer - The season runs from March 10th through May 2nd, but registration is from January 15th through February 29th. Practices are held on Mondays or Thursdays, games on Friday nights from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Seasonal costs are \$55 for residents and \$83 for non-residents. Children ages 5 through 16.