

Summer 2009



FRIENDS' TIDINGS

News for Patrons
of the St. Pete Beach Library

WELCOMING WENDY HOME



Author **Wendy Wax**, who attended Sunshine Elementary School in St. Pete Beach, returns Sunday, June 14, at 2pm with a special stop at the St. Pete Beach Library on a book tour promoting her newest novel.

The Accidental Bestseller, to be released June 2, tells the story of four best friends who collaborate on a novel based on their own lives which becomes an unlikely success with unexpected

consequences.

Wendy now lives in the Atlanta area with her husband Jon, a financial consultant, and their two sons. Her older brother, Barry, also a Sunshine School graduate, is a lawyer in St. Petersburg.

Wendy's previous books, all available at the St. Pete Beach Library, include *7 Days and 7 Nights*, *Leave It to Cleavage*, *Hostile Makeover* and *Single in Suburbia*.

Change in Library Hours

On July 1, Library Assistant **Martha Armstrong** will retire, after 17 years of service. We certainly wish her all the best!

With no replacement approved for that full-time position, the library will reduce its hours of operation beginning on Monday, June 29. The new schedule will be:

Tuesday & Wednesday: 10am to 8pm

Thursday & Friday: 10am to 6pm

Saturday: 10am to 5pm

According to Library Administrator Roberta Whipple, the change in hours is directly related to the City's expected large FY-2010 budget shortfall. The division is also losing some of its money for books and other materials.

A "Large" Gift

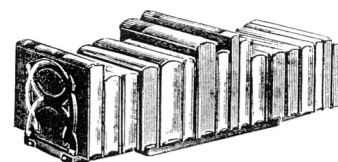
Memorial contributions from friends and family members of **Ruth Pidacks**, a local resident who died in January of this year, have made it possible for the Library to add nearly three dozen books to its Large Print collection.

Ruth, who had lived in St. Pete Beach since 1992, was very active in civic and community affairs and, among other things, had been a past president of the Pass-a-Grille Woman's Club.

Each of the books purchased with these memorial contributions has a book plate with Ruth's name and the name of the donor.

The Library is very grateful to the donors and to the family for choosing this wonderful way to remember Ruth and to continue her legacy of making a difference in the community.

If you are looking for a way to honor a loved one, please consider contributions to the Friends of the Library in that person's name. They will always be used as you specify.



Friends' Tidings/Summer 2009

We're Looking Good!

Thanks to a generous donation of \$350 from the **St. Pete Beach Garden Club**, the Library's exterior is receiving a much-needed boost! City Public Services crew have installed the following plants around the building: "Ice-Tone" Croton, Perennial Peanut, Bush Daisy, Orange Bird of Paradise, Jatropha, Variegated Shell Ginger and Dianthus.

BOARD GOINGS & COMINGS

The Friends are sorry to announce that President **Chrissy Jackson** has had to resign from the Board due to family and business obligations, and Recording Secretary **Nancy Howard** has resigned for personal reasons. Vice-President **Sarah Hogan** is now acting as President Pro Tem.

However, we are happy to say that we have added four new members to the Board recently. **Jean Andrews** is a professional librarian and textbook editor. She is Vice-Chair of the City's Library Advisory Committee, has been the photographer at several of our events, and is currently assisting Library Administrator Roberta Whipple in recruiting volunteers to help out in the library.

Muriel Desloovere is an attorney who is already one of the aforementioned volunteers; she generously spends an afternoon every week helping out in the library.

Marie Stock, a longtime resident of Pass-a-Grille, is actively involved with the Gulf Beach Historical Museum. Marie was a member of the Friends Board some years ago, and in fact served as President for a while.

Ron Waters spent 34 years with Air Canada, retiring a few years ago as Director of Sales-USA. He is an active volunteer in several local organizations, including the GBHM, St. John Vianny Church, and the Pass-a-Grille Community Association. We are sure that the experience and expertise these new members bring to the Board will be of great value in the future, and we are glad to welcome them with sincere appreciation.

OUR FLA STARS

Tucker, a nine-year-old Welsh Springer, may have failed as a show dog, but he has found success as a certified therapy dog. In addition to his involvement in our library's youth programs, he and his "mom," **Kathleen Johnson-Esterly**, regularly visit cancer-stricken children at Ronald MacDonald House, Bayfront Medical Center and All Children's Hospital, where Tucker brings smiles and hope to all.



On May 7, Tucker and Kathleen traveled to Orlando to tell his story at the Florida Library Association's annual Friends of the Library luncheon. The St. Pete Beach Friends of the Library paid for their expenses to the event.

On May 6, **Ward Friszolowski**, former SPB mayor and current Chair of the Library Advisory Board, joined other facilities experts and library directors at the FLA Conference in a discussion entitled "Reorganizing the Use of Library Space to Meet Changing Needs."

It is a topic on which Ward, a veteran architect with St. Petersburg's Harvard Jolly firm, is well-qualified to speak, having designed the new libraries in Oldsmar and Seminole as well as many others across the state. He is currently working with Library Administrator Roberta Whipple in planning a reconfiguration of the space at our own Library to improve the delivery of services within the constraints of the existing building.

Florida Vacation Tips

Saturday, July 11 at 11am



Lucy Beebe Tobias (*50 Great Walks in Florida*) and David McRee (*BeachHunter's Access Guide to Florida Beaches*) offer ideas for finding a special late summer destination right in our state.

A selection of "Florida-style" treats will be served by the Friends.