

Open House Commemorating the
80th Anniversary of the
Marion & Ed Hughes Public Library
and the
30th Anniversary of the
Friends of the Nederland Library

Monday, December 9, 2013
from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.



PROGRAM

Remarks by:

Richard Nugent
Mayor

Ann Murphy
President, Friends of the Nederland Library

Entertainment provided by:

Ned & Co.
Under the direction of Renee Kloes

Pajama storytime and craft activity
for children
presented by members of the NHS Key Club

Adjourn to the Meeting Room
for Refreshments provided by the
Friends of the Nederland Library

*Welcome to our Open House as we celebrate
three major milestones:*

80 years of library service in Nederland

15 years in our current facility

30th Anniversary of the Friends of the Nederland Library.

*This is a great opportunity for us all to celebrate the
library's past as we look to preparing for our future
during the 2014 Strategic Plan process.*

*With that in mind we hope you enjoy this small brochure
highlighting some of changes that have occurred to the
library, its collections and services, and the Friends
organization through the last 80 years.*

*Victoria L. Klehn,
Director of Library Services*

LIBRARY HISTORY

The Early Years

The Marion & Ed Hughes Public Library is the culmination of many years of library service within the City of Nederland. The Orange Hotel housed 1,000 books and was the City's first "library." Later the Jefferson County Library Bookmobile began visits to Nederland twice a week. When this proved inadequate for the growing library circulation, a branch station was opened in Morgan's Dry Cleaners with Mrs. Hazel Morgan acting as librarian.



In December 1932, the Nederland-Port Neches Lions Club held a meeting of citizens in the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. McNeill, Jr. and plans were made to erect Nederland's first library building. All materials and labor were donated with the exception of \$200 raised by the finance committee.

The small, white frame building, located at the corner of Boston Avenue and 10th Street, was erected in less than a month and the "housewarming" was held on December 27, 1932. Mrs. C. E. Gibson served as the librarian for 17 years, not retiring until the age of 74. Active with the financing and construction were J. L. Black, J. B. Cooke, Jr., C. O. Gardner, J. C. Kelly, and Dr. Burnette Hall. Reta Duncan (Piland) served as Jefferson County Librarian.



LIBRARY HISTORY

1963-1992

The little building finally proved inadequate in the 1950s as Nederland began to grow and the Lions Club once again spear-headed the drive for a new library. One of the major contributions was the \$2,000 profit that had been realized from the Golden Jubilee celebration held in 1948. Land was obtained through the generosity of the Doornbos Interests and work began on the project with the Lions Club members leading the way.

On June 3, 1963, an attractive masonry block building at 1903 Atlanta Avenue was opened with a book stock of 1,500 volumes. The facility served as a branch of the Jefferson County Library System. The City of Nederland maintained the building and grounds; Jefferson County provided the books and librarian. Mrs. Barbara Hooks Newberry was employed as branch librarian in 1966.



In October 1975, Nederland Public Library became a fully budgeted department of the City of Nederland, with a book stock of 15,000 volumes and circulation of 31,000. At that time, Ms. Newberry became the Library Director. In 1977, a bond issue was passed to double the size of the 2,100 square foot building and to update and remodel the interior. The Nederland Heritage Festival Committee donated \$8,000 for carpeting and interior furniture. During the time of construction, D. Bob Henson, Nederland's City Manager of 22 years was killed in a tragic boating accident. On March 15, 1981, the building was dedicated and renamed the D. Bob Henson Memorial Library.

LIBRARY HISTORY

1992-1998

In 1992, Ms. Newberry retired and was succeeded by Brenda Warren from 1992-1995. Ms. Warren moved the Library into the technological age by automating the circulation and catalog functions. In 1994, the Library became a member of the Houston Area Library Automated Network (HALAN). This not only automated the standard library functions of circulation and cataloging, but allowed the Library to subscribe to a number of specialized databases, such as Magazine Index. For the first time, patrons were also able to dial into the Library's catalog from home.



Beginning in late 1995, the Library started its move into a new era of service under the directorship of Victoria L. Klehn. The Library and City of Nederland were donated an old grocery store/furniture store for use as a new facility. Funds were raised through grant applications and local fund raising activities, architectural plans were

developed and the project was bid between 1996 and 1997. Construction began December 1997 and was completed in August 1998. The new library dedication was held on September 20, 1998, and the library doors opened the following day. The 16,000 square foot facility increased seating and shelving space, as well as adding a meeting room, study rooms, conference room, story-telling area and archive collection.

LIBRARY TODAY

Since that time, the library staff has concentrated its efforts on improving and enhancing the library's programs, collections and services.

Summer Reading Programs have been expanded to include not just children, but also adults and teens. Storytimes now include craft activities and special presenters.



Staff has implemented an Every Child Ready to Read / Early Literacy initiative which is geared toward helping children from birth through 5 years develop the skills needed to read and get ready for school. The initiative includes computers loaded with early literacy software/games, magnet board, and



dramatic play (currently a kitchen) area supplemented with handouts, etc.

LIBRARY TODAY

A section of the building has been transformed into a refuge for teens.



The library's collections have changed as well. We've moved from the videos of the 1980s to DVDs and Blu-rays. Books on tape have seen a transition from records to cassette tapes to compact discs. The library has seen an enhancement to the collections via downloadable audiobooks and electronic books (eBooks).



We communicate with our users not only through traditional means — mail, signage, newsletters, etc. — but also through e-mail, Facebook, and the library's website.

All in all, the citizens of Nederland, City Administration, and library users have seen many transitions over the last 80 years. We hope they have benefited through our services and we look forward to exploring new opportunities with them in the future.

FRIENDS OF THE NEDERLAND LIBRARY HISTORY

The Friends of the Nederland Library was established on October 24, 1983 after many citizens expressed an interest in forming a membership to assist the Library. Barbara Newberry was most encouraging even though our Library was in a small building at that time.



The group's goals were identified as helping the Nederland public library to maintain and improve its services by supplementing the library budget with private funds and by providing volunteer work.



They also originally functioned in a social capacity and arranged special events in which members could participate, such as bus trips to Houston to attend plays.

The Friends main effort in fundraising was a book sale held during the annual Nederland Heritage Festival. During the early years, donated books were transported to the school district bus barn for the sale. As the size of the library improved and the number of books increased, the annual sale was moved to the library and is now held the week before the Festival. Dues were also collected as added financial help. Today, that work continues.



FRIENDS OF THE NEDERLAND LIBRARY HISTORY

Through the years, the Friends has assisted the library with a variety of projects, such as:

- ◆ Purchasing some of the computers when the library first went to a computerized system.
- ◆ Contributing toward furniture and posters for the teen area

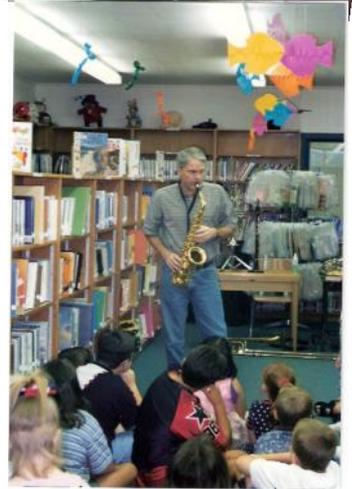


- ◆ Funding incentives for the summer reading programs, as well as other special programs held throughout the year
- ◆ Contributing funds to collection development projects.

Past Presidents

Sonya Willis	1983-1984
Markee Flowers	1984-1986
Eileen Henson	1986-1988; 1990-1991
Margaret Zaruk	1988-1990
Lynn Metz	1991-2002
Toby Ash	2002-2004; 2005-2007
Mike Gullickson	2004-2005
Jack Thornton	2007-2009

MORE PHOTOS FROM OUR PAST



Marion & Ed Hughes Public Library
2712 Nederland Avenue
Nederland, TX 77627