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## Zephyrhills Public Library

Donalda Kelly

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# **Florida Library History Project**

## **Zephyrhills Public Library**

History of Zephyrhills Library

1964 - 1989

By: Donalda Kelly, Librarian

Written at the new city library next to City Hall

603 8th St.

The old library was given to the city in 1964 and the city built a 2,400 sq. ft. building with new shelving and equipment, all the books were moved over.

Elsie Parks died the summer that the move was made.

Edith Aldrich was librarian from then until she retired, and I have been librarian since 1996.

### **1980**

- The library was open 22 hours a week until 1980, when the library changed to 43 hours a week.

### **1981**

- In 1981 Pasco County started a County Library System. The city voted not to join, so Pasco County withheld funds that they have been giving the library for a number of years. Therefore, the library has been charging county residents a user fee if they don't own or rent property in the city limits.

### **1981**

- In May 1981, the library moved into its new addition. The building fund was started in 1976 by \$24,000 from Wilbur & Helen Warden, Private donations and with the city giving \$12,000 to bring construction cost to

\$57,000. The Library had a equipment fund which was started in 1980 and 1981 - the library raised \$8,000.

## **1988**

- In spring of 1988 the library's street numbers were changed to 5347 8th Street.**1989**
- In 1989 the library added handicapped bathrooms, landscaped the exterior and had an overall paint job. The library, at this point, spring of 1989, has 4,176 ft. in net area, 2916 ft. in shelving, 31,000 books, and 1,587 family cards issued.
- History of Zephyrhills Public Library 1989 - 1998 By: Kathleen D. Burnside, Librarian 5347 8th Street

## **1989**

- May 22, the City dropped the county user fee. As requested by the Library Board Chairman, a library expansion account was established with a \$5,000 bequeath from Jessie Summer.
- Architect, Mr. Cook was hired for \$2,000. A survey elevation study was made and Mr. Cook presented several schematic site plans. The expansion was tabled, due to funds.
- Request was granted by the Library Board Chairman that money taken in from gifts and memorial purchases be put back into the book budget.

## **1990**

- Kathleen Burnside and Maryann Wallis were required to work 30 hours per week in order to receive group health insurance.
- Kathleen Burnside was promoted from cataloguer to Assistant Librarian.

## **1991**

- March 7, the Library Board held a Recognition Tea for the volunteers of the Library.
- Nancy Vannoy volunteered to clip out library news from 1960-1990 newspapers and put them into a scrapbook.

## 1992

- October, Kathleen Burnside and Maryann Wallis were made full-time employees adding 20 more hours to the operation of the library.
- May, Kathy Willis, local author, had a signing of her new book "Tropical Thunder" at the library.
- The county library opened. The Library's circulation was getting so high (94,000), the staff was over run. Now, there is more time for customer service.

## 1993

- Ryman Construction's bid of \$19,650 was accepted for a new pitched metal roof. The old flat roof had many leaks.
- The Zephyrhills Rotary Club presented the Library with an Apple computer to be used by the District School Board of Pasco County Reading Assistance Program.
- The parking lot was paved. Nine parking spaces are available.
- Kathleen Burnside was given a Certificate of Excellence and a cash gift from the Zephyrhills Rotary Club for her performance as Assistant Librarian.
- The estate of Paul A. Dickinson was settled and \$3,238.04 was deposited into the building fund.
- The Zephyrhills Art Club held a painting exhibit in March. Their displays were set up on the outside grounds.

- The Children's Story Hour was canceled in November due to poor attendance. Oletha Brownell had volunteered her talents since October 1987.
- The Interact Club, through the efforts of Board member Mr. Milo Van Hall, began a Children's Story Hour in December. Interact Club member Audrey Hudacik continued this community service through month of May. Attendance was not sufficient to continue the next school year.

## **1994**

- December - All proceeds (\$754) from the Garden Gate Circle of the Zephyrhills Garden Club luncheon were used to landscape the grounds of the library. City crews provided the labor and constructed a pavel walkway from the parking lot to the library's front entrance.
- Kathleen Burnside is enrolled in the University of Wisconsin School of Library and Information Studies.
- In December, the album collection started in 1988, by the late Bernard Wickstrom, was reduced to two sections (holiday and marches) because of poor circulation. Over 300 albums were given to Goodwill. Now, the two stands are filled with a video and cassette collection.
- Keeps Carpet's bid of \$13, 270.00 was accepted for 450 yards of carpet. The Library was closed four working days in June. The staff was on hand to move most of the books before and after the installation.
- Keeps Carpet installed new tile in the public bathrooms. The cost was \$289.

## **1995**

- A new copy machine was purchased for \$1,705. Statewide Cabinets donated \$100 towards the purchase price of \$206.68 for a custom made mobile cabinet.

## **1996**

- The Library is now in the process of having the 1911 - 1956 editions of the Zephyrhills News put on microfilm at an estimated cost of \$700.
- Kathleen Burnside volunteered, on her day, for seven weeks in Ms. Mary Johnson's second grade class at Woodland Elementary School, for the Junior Achievement program.
- \$2,000 was donated by Mr. And Mrs. William and Marie Trucker and was deposited into the Library Expansion Fund.

## 1997

- The estate of Elsie Till bequeathed \$1,775.72 to the Library and this was deposited into the Library Expansion Fund.
- The Library purchased a microfilm/fiche printer/reader for \$5,196.
- The Library expanded the children's picture books by inserting six divided shelves into an open-face cabinet. The shelves cost \$306.
- Photec's bid of \$2,355.30 was accepted for a computer with Window 95 and a HP printer. The computer will be hooked up to the Internet and made available to the public in the summer.
- The Library started a book leasing agreement with Baker & Taylor Books. Donalda B. Kelly, Librarian, received a 30-year Service Award and Kathleen D. Burnside, Assistant Librarian, received a 20-year Service Award at the October 14th City Council meeting.
- The City Council adopted a revised employee manual and Martin Luther King's Day was added as a City holiday.
- Donalda B. Kelly, Librarian had respiratory problems while on her vacation in September. She was in the hospital for ten days. She retired October 29, 1997, after 31 years of service.
- Kathleen D. Burnside, Assistant Librarian, was promoted to Librarian October 30.
- Ryman Construction was awarded the bid for the replacement of the two

porch canopies. The two new canopies will have a pitched roof. The bid was for \$5,775.

- Vicki Elkins was hired as Staff Assistant in November.
- The Library staff designed a new brochure. This brochure contains information about the Library, staff, Advisory Board and City Council.
- The Library staff, City employees, Council members, Advisory Board, family and friends were in attendance at the Library December 23 for the unveiling of retired librarian Donalda Kelly's portrait and the presentation of a Certificate of Service to Mrs. Kelly from the Library Board. Also noted outside the Library were the plaques and landscaping which were provided by City employees in honor of Mrs. Kelly.

## **1998**

- The Policy Manual was revised.
- An outreach program has started. Each month book deposits are made to Zephyr Haven and Heartland Nursing Homes.
- The art classes from Zephyrhills West Elementary, Woodland Elementary and Chester Taylor Elementary Schools each have a window inside the Library to display their artwork throughout the school year.