

Hardee County Public Library Advisory
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Vice Chairman: Jan McKibben
Secretary: Kay Crews

Hardee County Public Library Friends
Board
Slate of Officers for 2012
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Vice President: Judy Brown
Secretary: Beverly Salisbury
Treasurer: Gloria Davis

History of the Hardee County Public Library

In 1984, a group of citizens approached the Hardee County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) and expressed their interest in establishing a public library. A very small building that housed the library was inadequate for the population in the county at that time. The citizen group advised the BOCC that they would raise funds and generate interest throughout the County for support for this project.

The Hardee County Public Library was created by the adoption of Resolution 84-21 in September 1984 to be governed by the Hardee County Board of County Commissioners. The county signed an inter-local agreement to join the Heartland Library Cooperative on October 1, 1997.

When the former Colonial Mall became available in 1998, the BOCC purchased the building to house the growing library collection. On September 8, 1998 the State Library of Florida entered into a grant agreement with the Hardee County Board of County Commissioners to move and expand the size of the library. This expansion was completed in January 2000 and the library grew in size from 5, 800 square feet to 13,200 square feet.

The building was severely damaged by Hurricane Charley on August 13, 2004. After nearly three years of working around the damage, the library closed its doors in September of 2006. Four months later in January 2007 the library was reopened to the public after extensive renovations and expansion to 15, 680 square feet. The library is now ready to serve the citizens of this growing community.

For more information on the history of Hardee County the following list of books are housed at the Hardee County Public Library:

- Hardee County: It's Heritage And People by Stone, Spessard
- Peace River Pioneers by Frisbie, Louise
- Soil Survey Of Hardee County
- Watch Wauchula Win: Facts, Figures by Stringer, Margaret

Patti Jean Lang, Library Director
Hardee County Public Library
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