

THE HISTORY OF THE GULF BREEZE LIBRARY

Santa Rosa County did not have a library until March 1, 1938, when one was opened on Oak Street by the Shakespeare Club in Milton. It remained as the only County Public Library until one was established in Gulf Breeze a number of years later. Prior to the end of World War II in 1945, Gulf Breeze was primarily a place for a summer retreat when Pensacola residents wanted to escape the summer's heat. It was an area of summer cottages and fishing camps. It did not have a formal name until a post office called "Gulf Breeze" was established in 1939. The development of permanent housing blossomed after the war. By 1961, the area had sufficient permanent residents to be called a city. The City of Gulf Breeze was incorporated on August 10, 1961.

First Gulf Breeze Library 1962 - 1963

The first public library was a privately operated one housed in the Soderlind Summer Cottage at Highway 98 and Pfeiffer Street. The cottage was owned at that time by Mark and Eloise Benson and the library was operated by members of Saint Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church. A volunteer church member ran the library for two hours each day. Books and phonograph records which had been donated by local citizens were available. The library closed after one year of operation.

West Florida Regional Library System Established 1963

Santa Rosa County entered into an Interlocal agreement with the City of Pensacola with service to the Milton Branch Library which had been established in 1938. This was the beginning of the West Florida Regional Library System.

The Bookmobile 1963 -1969

A bookmobile from Santa Rosa County Library in Milton served Gulf Breeze residents for 2 hours per week. It stocked 1500 books. Only 5 persons at a time could be in the vehicle.

First Mention of a Public Library for Gulf Breeze 1963

The first official document mentioning a library for Gulf Breeze is the City Council Resolution No. 21 dated June 17, 1963. The City obtained 1064 acres of land north of Highway 98 from private owners in a swap deal. The use plan called for 200 acres to be used by the City of Gulf Breeze for a hospital, a library, and other public uses.

On April 20, 1964, the Department of Interior advised the City of Gulf Breeze that a library would qualify as a proper use of public land.

Initial Action to Establish a Public Library 1964

J.E. Morton, chairman of the Library committee for the Gulf Breeze-Pensacola Beach Kiwanis Club, wrote to the City Council requesting that the City donate approximately two acres of land for a proposed Public Library to be sponsored by the Club. The letter was read at the council meeting on September 8, 1964. It was suggested that a committee meeting be held to further discuss the subject but the request was tabled until after the meeting. Apparently there was no further action by the City as no records exist at City Hall concerning the subject.

Gulf Breeze Chamber of Commerce is Organized 1968

The Gulf Breeze Chamber of Commerce, under the leadership of George Bokas, was organized in August 1968. The Chamber became the prime mover toward establishing a permanent public library in the City.

First Formal Request for Library Action 1969

Ralph Miller, Gulf Breeze Postmaster and director of the Gulf Breeze Chamber of Commerce, wrote a letter dated July 17, 1969 to Jean Gallops, the librarian in Milton. Miller stated the need for a library building in Gulf Breeze to replace the Bookmobile service. He recommended that the Library Board write a letter to the Gulf Breeze City Council requesting space at the City Hall.

Charles P. Kimball, Chairman of the Santa Rosa County Library Board, wrote to C.J. Heinberg, the Gulf Breeze Mayor, and suggested that if the City could find suitable space for a branch library, the Board would supply a book collection and could probably arrange for a person to staff the branch. On August 4, 1969, the Gulf Breeze City Council met and the Mayor read the letter from Mr. Kimball. Councilman Somers moved that the item be considered at the next council meeting and the motion carried.

On August 18, 1969, Councilman Somers moved that a letter of appreciation be sent to Mr. Kimball stating that the Council would try at a later date to find a place for the library and would inform him at that time and the motion carried. These efforts resulted in temporary quarters for a library in 1970. However, no action was taken by the City Council to secure land until 1973.

Gulf Breeze Library Established 1970 - 1974

The old City Hall had been housed in a red brick building on the corner of Hoffman Drive and Centre Road. The building was vacated in preparation for the move to the recently constructed City Hall on Shoreline Drive.

The Charter Bank of Gulf Breeze owned the building and agreed to allow half of the space (2 rooms) for the temporary use as a library at no cost. The other half was used as the Gulf Breeze Tag and Tax Office. The City of Gulf Breeze agreed to pay for the library utilities. The County Library Board agreed to supply books and the necessary operating personnel.

In January 1970, the building was painted and refurbished by the Charter Bank.

Funds still had to be obtained for desks, files, chairs, shelves and other needed items. The Gulf Breeze Chamber of Commerce donated money, the air-conditioning and heating units, and sponsored a drive to raise the additional needed funds. Thanks to the generous support of the residents, clubs, and merchants the money was raised.

Bette Christie, Jan Lindabury, and Jean Gallops of the Milton Library staff donated their day off each week to help prepare the Library for use.

The Gulf Breeze Chamber of Commerce realized that the use of the Charter Bank building as a library could not continue indefinitely and measures needed to be taken to secure a permanent location. In March 1970, they voted to conduct a building fund each year to prepare for the time when the bank might have other plans for their building.

On June 8, 1970, the first Gulf Breeze Public Library was opened under the West Florida Regional Library System. The first temporary librarians were Jan Lindabury and Bette Christie who were Milton residents. They served until a permanent person was needed. The library was open on Monday from 4 to 8, on Wednesday from noon to 4, and on Saturday from 10 to 2.

In October 1970, Betty Spier was appointed as permanent librarian.

The library enjoyed growth during 1971 and improvements were made. In January a book depository was placed on the porch for the convenience of the patrons so that books could be returned when the library was closed. In April the Kiwanis Club donated an American flag which was flown to signal when the library was open. The Chamber of Commerce provided a large sign to identify the location of the library. In June the library initiated a Tiny Tots Story Hour for children 4 and 5 years old. Linda Brockway, supervisor of the Recreation Department Preschool, held the program from 2:30 to 3:30 every Monday.

In 1973, Eleanor Arnold replaced Betty Spier. By then the library was thriving and Arnold asked for and received an assistant. Lois Ann Bonifay was hired and continued until December when she left to prepare for her RN degree.

In January 1974, Pat Rose was hired.

Second Gulf Breeze Library 1974 -1975

On November 20, 1973, Ralph Miller, President of the Friends of the Gulf Breeze Library, was informed by Charles Moe who was the President of the Charter Bank of Gulf Breeze that the bank had finalized their plans and the library would have to vacate the building in the next sixty to ninety days. Some new location had to be found quickly for the library until a permanent facility could be built. A building next to the Gulf Breeze Police and Fire Departments at 315 Fairpoint Drive was selected as a suitable location. One half of the building was occupied by Bilby Realty and one office was to be occupied by the Tag Office. The remaining two rooms were to be used by the library.

The move from Hoffman Drive to the new location took place in February. On March 30, 1974, the library officially opened with Eleanor Arnold as Librarian and Pat Rose as assistant.

On April 15, 1974, the City Council was invited to visit the new temporary location.

In August 1975, Eleanor Arnold resigned and Pat Rose was selected as the librarian.

During this time from 1970 -1975 the Gulf Breeze Chamber of Commerce and the Friends of the Library had been planning and working hard to establish a permanent Library for Gulf Breeze.

On June 5, 1973, the first official meeting of the Friends was held in the Fellowship Hall of the Gulf Breeze United Methodist Church. The following officers were elected: Ralph Miller, President; Judy McCabe, Vice-President; Joyce Idoni, Secretary; and, Robert Curran, Treasurer. Penny Gremillion was selected as membership chairman. Dues were set at \$1.00. The objective of the Friends was to provide for a new library with facilities to match a growing city.

During the summer of 1973, the Friends Executive Committee met as a survey and study group to discuss ways of proceeding with the building project.

On September 11, 1973, a general meeting of the Friends was held in the Forum room of the Gulf Breeze Methodist Church. Six directors were appointed and three Honorary Advisors and Councilors were selected. The Directors were Karyl Boyington, James Lee, Barbara Von Walhde, Frederick B. Voight, Joseph C. McIntosh, and Hilda Pchelkan. The advisors were Dr. C.J. Heinberg, 1st Gulf Breeze Mayor, Carl Hoffman, attorney, and Charles Somerby, editor of the Gulf Breeze Sentinel and the Milton Press Gazette. President Miller's progress report

stated that the members had studied and researched two types of library approaches: a combined school-library and a regional public library. After a discussion, the vote was unanimous for working toward a regional public library.

On September 17, 1973, President Miller and some members of the Friends of the Library approached the Gulf Breeze City Council to request land for a permanent library. Discussion took place about the library being placed on school grounds, but finally the group was referred to the City Planning Board which subsequently recommended providing land.

On November 20, 1973, President Miller submitted a petition to the City Council to implement the recommendation of the Planning Board to provide public land for a library. City Attorney Gerald Brown wrote to the U.S. Department of Interior Bureau of Land Management regarding the proposed use of the Shoreline Park property for a library. On December 12, 1973, he received a reply stating that a library would be proper use for the land. On January 7, 1974, Mr. Brown wrote to City Manager Dennis Tinsberg outlining the information he had received.

On December 3, 1973, the City Council approved Resolution 6-73. "A Resolution requesting the County Commissioners of Santa Rosa County to construct a Public Library and related facilities in the City of Gulf Breeze."

On December 21, 1973, the Board of County Commissioners wrote to City Manager Tinsberg concerning the City Resolution 6-73. They stated that their architect had been instructed to prepare preliminary plans for a \$50,000 to \$60,000 building. They further stated that no concrete work would be done until certain items were clarified. There must be official approval obtained from the Bureau of Land Management, a clear definition of the term "provide land" i.e. fee simple, long term lease, etc. must be provided, and there must be a statement as to how much land is proposed for the building.

On January 7, 1974, Mr. Tinsberg presented the letter to the City Council. City Attorney Brown stated that the reply had been received from the Bureau of Land Management and it was turned over to Mr. Tinsberg. He further recommended that the land be on a \$1.00 per year long term lease subject to the reversionary rights of the United States. He stated that Mr. Tinsberg would make the determination as to how much land should be leased based on the information to be furnished by the architect as to the size of the building and parking requirements.

On April 4, 1974, an article in the Gulf Breeze Sentinel reported that the new library would be located on Shoreline Drive next to City Hall.

On May 14, 1974, John Jarvis was elected as president of the Friends of the Library. He was the architectural engineer and Director of University Campus Planning at the University of West Florida.

On June 17, 1974, Mr. Tinsberg reported to the City Council that an agreement had been reached with the County to lease the property. A motion was made and accepted to enter into a dollar-a-year lease with Santa Rosa County for the library with the lease to be on a continuing basis as long as the property was used as a library.

On August 29, 1974, at a meeting in City Hall, the County Board of Commissioners gave their approval for the new library in Gulf Breeze pending some legal work to be done by the County attorney, A.L Johnson. William Bean, the architect, presented the plans for the building which were to include a branch office for the county tag and tax assessor's office. He pointed out that there were possibilities for eventual expansion of the complex. The building was to be located on a one acre site next to City Hall. The Gulf Breeze City Council had approved the library plan as a joint city-county endeavor. A draft of the proposed lease to the County for the library was given to the County Commissioners.

On November 4, 1974, at the City Council meeting Jon White, City Attorney, explained some changes the County wanted in the original proposed draft of the library lease agreement. The Council agreed with the changes and a motion was passed to authorize the Mayor to sign the lease agreement. It was signed on November 7, 1974, with the lease to be for 50 years starting on January 1, 1975, with an automatic renewal for an additional 50 years.

On January 20, 1975, the Gulf Breeze Library was ready for bids. The architectural drawings which had recently been presented to the Friends of the Gulf Breeze Library were ready to be given to county officials for construction bids. The estimated cost was \$90,000. The plans called for a 3,600 sq. ft. building to include 400 sq. ft. for the tax office, 270 sq. ft. for an audio-visual and meeting room, 1,790 sq. ft. of library space and 1,120 sq. ft. for storage, maintenance, rest rooms, and lobby. In February, 1975 William Bean, the architect, was given approval to release the plans for bids with a schedule to open the bids on April 10.

On Thursday, April 24, 1975, the County Commissioners in Milton opened the bids for the construction of the Gulf Breeze Library. G&G Construction Company of Pensacola, Inc. was awarded the contract at a cost of \$89,100 with work to begin within 12 days and with completion in 180 days. Before construction started a problem occurred to delay the project. The County did not have the required building permit from the City of Gulf Breeze which had to be approved by the City Council. City Manager Tinsberg said that unless a special meeting for the City's Planning Board could be arranged, approval would not be available

until after May 19th when the Planning Board was scheduled to meet unless a special meeting could be arranged.

On May 5, 1975, Councilman Wright reported to the City Council that an emergency meeting of the Planning Board had been called to review the plans for the Library. The Planning Board recommended approval with a requirement for additional parking. The size of the building required ten spaces rather than the six planned. After some discussion the permit was approved. Construction of the building was completed by September but the opening had to be delayed until new shelving and furniture were delivered.

The move from the Bilby building starting December 8, 1975, and was scheduled for three days for packing, one to two days for moving and three days for unpacking. The volunteers completed the packing by the morning of the 8th. By 5:30 PM that day, all the boxes had been moved to the new library. Unpacking started on the second day and by afternoon most of the books were on the shelves and only rearranging and spreading was necessary. The furniture was not expected until the middle of January 1976, but the library did open for business before that date. It officially opened on Monday, December 15, 1975, at 10 AM operating under the West Florida Regional Library System. The Librarian was Pat Rose with Beth Nicholson, Mary Blackwood, and Fran Bevis on the staff. Mike Skaggs was the student assistant. The hours of operation were Tuesday through Thursday, 10 AM to 8 PM and Friday and Saturday 10 AM to 5 PM. The library was closed on Sunday and Monday.

The Friends of the Gulf Breeze Library had been organized for the sole purpose of providing a permanent library for the City of Gulf Breeze. In December 1975, the organization disbanded.

In March 1979, the Santa Rosa Women's Club donated \$150 for the library to purchase a film strip projector for use with library programs.

The First Library Expansion 1981

On March 20, 1980, the Library System reported that the oil revenue rebate, a portion of which was to be allotted to the library expansion, would be used instead for a new jail. Residents were asked to call County Commissioner Bob Rollo and express their feelings. The response was overwhelming for the library expansion to be a top priority. Pat Rose, Gulf Breeze Librarian, received a letter from Wayne Godwin, Vice President of the County Commissioners on March 28, 1980, stating that the County was committed to the library expansion project and that the commitment would be met. The Santa Rosa County Commission paid \$123,000 for the expansion. Toler-Trammell Construction handled the building contract.

On Thursday, September 4, 1980, the ground breaking ceremonies were held at the Gulf Breeze Library for the new addition.

On September 10, 1980, a special meeting of the City Council was held to issue a building permit to the contractor for the extension. The permit was granted, subject to compliance with the greenbelt and all other ordinances.

The new wing of the Gulf Breeze Library was dedicated on Sunday, November 22, 1980, at 2 PM. At this time the exterior of the building was finished but the interior still needed completion.

The Library closed on Thursday, January 15 and Friday, January 16, 1981, in order to complete furnishing of the new wing. The Library opened to the public on Saturday, January 17, 1981.

In October 1981, the Santa Rosa County Library budget was cut requiring reduced hours of operation and a reduction in staff.

In early 1982, action was taken to revive the Friends of the Gulf Breeze Library. The budget cuts were severe and the next year's cuts looked to be even worse. Further, the new addition needed more furnishings and the library could not afford to purchase the necessary number of new books and other materials.

Pat Rose requested that the Friends of the Gulf Breeze Library be reorganized. A meeting was held on March 11, 1982, and Charles Morris was elected President of the Friends with Norman Boe and Walter Karr as Vice-Presidents and Mary Ann Boe as treasurer. A membership action committee was formed consisting of Dot Jordan, Ruth Van Wezel, and Virginia Podolak.

In June 1982, Pat Rose received her Masters degree in Library Science and became the first certified professional librarian in the West Florida Regional Library Santa Rosa County Service area.

In October 1982, the Friends of the Gulf Breeze Library held their first annual book sale. It was a part of the Rotary Flea Market event and was run by many members of the Friends and included officers of the Friends and Pat Rose of the Library staff.

It is important to note that the Interlocal Agreement of 1963, which established the West Florida Regional Library System, was modified on October 1, 1982. It stipulated: "This agreement shall commence on the date first written above and continue through September 30, 1983. This arrangement shall be deemed to be automatically renewed for subsequent periods of one (1) year each, unless any

party to this agreement elects to withdraw herefrom." Note: This provision became very important to Santa Rosa Libraries in 2006, when Santa Rosa decided to have its own system.

In 1984, the City of Gulf Breeze was planning to build an annex to City Hall to house the Police Department detention facility adjacent to the library. A petition was given to the City Council signed by 935 voters asking that the plan be held in abeyance until there could be a vote. Toward this end, Ordinance 11-84 was written and was to be voted on at the primary election on September 4, 1984. The plan failed to pass by 54 votes.

On October 14, 1988, Jan Gough joined the library staff as assistant branch librarian. By September 1990, the library staff included Pat Rose as branch librarian, Jan Gough as assistant and a clerical staff of Judy Causey, Arlene Engler, Lois Cole, and Sylvia Garrett.

Plans for the Further Expansion of the Gulf Breeze Library 1992

The library now provided for more than 15,000 card holders with that number increasing by 80 to 100 new users each month. The library could no longer provide quality services without an increase in the size of the facility.

On August 3, 1992, the Friends of the Gulf Breeze Library began work on a plan for a library addition that would include obtaining a grant as well as matching funds. A building committee chaired by John Byrne was established. It was decided that an addition of 6000 sq. ft. was needed. This would double the existing library space and would include a computer room. The older wings of the library would be refurbished. The first step in their plans was to receive approval from the City of Gulf Breeze to use the additional land next to the library.

On August 12, 1992, at a meeting of the Gulf Breeze City Council, the vote was unanimous to have City Manager Garmon place the needed land transfer on the ballot on November 3, 1992. This was required because Section 17 of the City Charter stated that the conveyance of any city land had to be approved by the voters of the city. The referendum to provide land for the library addition was approved by the voters with 2,630 in favor and only 326 opposed. The library was now assured of the land but needed to find the funds to pay for the construction, furnishing, and remodeling.

On December 16, 1992, John Jarvis, President of the Friends of the Library, called a special meeting of the executive committee, members, and guests to discuss the means of raising the estimated \$250,000 needed to match an equal amount to be provided by the State if the grant was approved. The method selected was a Municipal Service Tax Unit (MSTU). This was an ad valorem tax

levy added to the Real Estate Tax for one year. The tax of 35 cents per \$1000 of assessed evaluation was to be added to the taxes of those in Gulf Breeze and Midway, Districts 22, 23, and 25. The Friends endorsed the plan. In addition to the funds provided by the MSTU, it would be necessary to raise approximately \$100,000 more to completely equip and furnish the expansion.

On December 28, 1992, the Friends of the Library conducted a call-in show on local television. Pat Rose and John Byrne appeared and answered callers' questions concerning needs and fund raising issues. Public forums were held in each affected area. Some 8500 brochures were immediately sent out to the citizens explaining the need for an expansion.

Funds for the Gulf Breeze Library Expansion are Raised 1993 - 1994

On January 26, 1993, the citizens voted on the referendum. It was approved by 4,741 to 1,788, a 3 to 1 margin. This was a non-binding vote that had to be approved by the County Commission for final submission. The Commission had a deadline of May 1, 1993, to submit the grant application to the State. If approved, notification would be received in February 1994.

In March 1993, the application for a Library Grant was completed by Librarian Pat Rose for submission to the County Commissioners.

On April 30, 1993, the Grant Application was approved by County Commissioners Lydia Ezell, Byrd Mapoles, David Kessler, and signed by Commissioner Ira Mae Hewitt. The application was delivered to the Florida Department of State, Division of Libraries in Tallahassee.

On June 24, 1993, the Board of County Commissioners adopted resolution 93-22 approving the new expanded building for use as a library. On June 26, 1993, County Commissioner Ira Mae Hewitt appointed John Byrne as Project Manager for the Gulf Breeze Library's expansion. Robert Brown was Project Coordinator for the Friends of the Library and was responsible for tracking project expenditures.

On December 20, 1993, the Gulf Breeze Sentinel reported that the State Grants Office, Division of Library and Information had approved a library construction budget which included \$325,000 in matching funds for expanding the Santa Rosa County Library at Gulf Breeze and sent the budget to the governor's office. The Florida State Legislature was to consider approval in February 1994.

In April 1994, John Byrne resigned as Project Manager due to his wife's failing health. Robert Brown replaced him as Project Manager.

On July 21, 1994, the Library received word that an expansion grant of \$324,475 had been approved by the State of Florida and was to be matched by the MSTU and private donations. Official notice would come to the County the next week. During these months the Friends of the Library had continued their fundraising efforts. On May 13, 1993, the Gulf Breeze Sentinel had reported that \$52,000 had been received in pledges and cash. By the beginning of 1994, the necessary funds had been raised.

Construction for the Expansion of the Library Proceeds 1995

The expansion plans for the library were designed by architect Ben Townes of Caldwell Associates, Inc. of Pensacola with construction by A. E. New Construction Company, Inc. of Gulf Breeze.

On April 27, 1995, the Groundbreaking Ceremony was held for the new Library addition.

In June 1995, the Library began using an automated system with bar-coded library cards, books, and other materials. A computerized card catalog would be placed in use to replace the old index card system.

By October 1995, the new addition had been completed. The library closed to the public from October 18 until November 13, 1995, due to construction. Everything had to be moved into the new addition so that the original wings of the building could be remodeled. The library would then operate from the new area until all construction was finished.

Expansion Completed 1996

On March 17, 1996, the dedication of the completed building took place from 2 - 4 PM at the Gulf Breeze Library. The ceremony was directed by Pat Rose and Bob Brown. The new computer room was dedicated to Helen M. Smith for her many contributions to the library.

The Tag and Tax Office which had occupied the room on the opposite side of the lobby from the library moved out in 1996. John Byrne had worked with the Friends to establish a used book store with all proceeds to be used to support the library. A small office in the back of the library had been used. When the Tag and Tax Office left, the Friends moved the book store into that area. Since it was inside the main entrance to the building, it became even more successful. The new book store operated by volunteers opened for business in May 1997.

Helen M. Smith Computer Room Expanded 2000

On December 21, 1999, Librarian Pat Rose wrote to County Administrator Hunter Walker requesting permission to expand the Helen M. Smith computer room. The cost of the expansion would be funded by the Friends of the Gulf Breeze Library.

On January 14, 2000, the Santa Rosa County Commission approved the expansion request in a letter from Hunter Walker to Pat Rose.

On January 18, 2000, in a special meeting of the Friends of the Library, Pat Rose was given authorization to request a proposal from A. E. New Construction Company to design and construct changes to the computer room to accommodate new computer equipment. Bob Brown, President of the Friends of the Library, and Pat Rose met with Norris Thomas from A. E. New Company with the request.

On March 14, 2000, at a meeting of the Friends of the Library, Norris Thomas presented the proposal for remodeling the computer room to double the present size with an estimate of \$5,262. The proposal was accepted. A motion to purchase three additional computers was also accepted.

On April 11, 2000, at the Friends meeting, Pat Rose reported that the new equipment had been ordered and the Library would be closed on April 17, 2000, for the remodeling work to begin. The new Helen M. Smith computer room was in operation a few days later.

On August 8, 2000, at the Friends of the Library meeting, Pat Rose reported that the family of Phil Briska had donated money for three more computers along with money for additional shelving.

On January 3, 2002, Pat Rose retired after serving as Gulf Breeze Librarian for 28 years. Jan Gough was named Acting Manager until a new librarian could be selected.

On July 9, 2002, at a meeting of the Friends of the Library, Jan Gough introduced Jared Millet as the new Branch Librarian.

In July 2003, the Library offered a movie night showing new digital films in the evenings every two weeks. The first shows used Jared Millet's personal DVD player and audio system. Later a DVD player and audio system was donated to the library.

In July 2005, Jared Millet resigned and Jan Gough again became Acting Manager.

In June 2006, Jan Gough was named Library Manager.

Santa Rosa Regional Library System 2006

Since 1970, the Gulf Breeze Library had operated as part of the West Florida Regional Library which had included Santa Rosa County in 1963. The Interlocal agreement had specified that the City of Pensacola would administer all costs for the Santa Rosa County Libraries with Santa Rosa County providing the funds. The modification of the Interlocal Agreement in October 1982, had allowed the parties to the agreement to withdraw with one year's notification.

In 2005, plans were formulated for Santa Rosa County to pull out of the West Florida Regional Library System and form their own Santa Rosa County Library System. The newly established Santa Rosa Regional Library System officially started operating the Gulf Breeze Library on October 1, 2006.

In January 2007, Jan Gough was reassigned to Pace, Florida to organize and manage the new Branch Library to be opened there.

Amy McDonald became the Library Manager of the Gulf Breeze Library.

Researched and written by Robert (Bob) Booman

Edited by Pat Rose

The Gulf Breeze Library 2006 – 2010

Under the Santa Rosa Regional Library System, the Gulf Breeze Library has continued to make improvements to better serve the needs of its users.

Traditionally the Friends of the Gulf Breeze Library have contributed toward library improvements, toward the book and media collections, and toward children's programs. With the proceeds from the book store, from the two annual book sales, and from generous donations from groups and individuals, the Friends have made it possible for many projects to be accomplished when budget dollars are not quite adequate.

In the Summer of 2008, the library was refurbished with new carpeting, fresh paint, new shelving, and a new lay-out. The Friends of the Gulf Breeze Library contributed some of the funding necessary for a number of the changes.

In 2009, the Florida Library Association presented the Santa Rosa Library System with the Library of the Year award.

In the Fall of 2009, the Friends of the Library contributed toward improvements in the Meeting Room. Acoustical materials were added to the walls of the room. These are sound absorbing panels that reduce reverberations and echoes. Additionally a media projector and sound system was installed.

2006 – 2010 updates provided by Amy McDonald