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# Gulf Beaches Public Library

Florida Library History Project

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# **Florida Library History Project**

## **Gulf Beaches Public Library**

GULF BEACHES PUBLIC LIBRARY

200 Municipal Drive

Madeira Beach, FL 33708

Tel: (813) 391-2828 Fax: (813) 399-2840

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

The Gulf Beaches Public Library serves the citizens of Madeira Beach, North Redington Beach, Redington Beach, Redington Shores and Treasure Island, as well as residents of member cities of the Pinellas Public Library Cooperative, the unincorporated area of Pinellas County, and visitors.

The Library provides materials, information, and services that strive to meet the educational, recreational, and cultural needs of the local population and visitors. The library's commitment to learning is enhanced through the sharing of services and resources with the larger library community.

### **HISTORY**

Gulf Beaches Public Library is supported by five communities which have combined resources in order to fund a library they would not be able to maintain individually. The five supporting communities, all located on two barrier islands in the Gulf of Mexico west of St. Petersburg, are Treasure Island, Madeira Beach, Redington Beach, North Redington Beach, and Redington Shores.

The "birth" of a library to serve the residents of the mid-beach communities goes back to the September 1949 meeting of the Gulf Beach Woman's Club. Under the guidance of the first club president, Mrs. Polly Van Dyke, a committee of six women began to collect books, which finally found a permanent home in 1952, when a one-room building was erected on 140th Avenue on Madeira Beach. Mrs. Edyth Mariani, one of the six original book collectors, assumed the position of head librarian, a post she held until her retirement on December 31, 1979. She was

succeeded by Karilyn Jaap, who in turn retired on December 31, 1993. The current director is Maryke Nol.

The library grew, thanks to enthusiastic community support, over the next fifteen years, during which time its operation was turned over to the City of Madeira Beach and, subsequently, to a consortium composed of the communities of Treasure Island, Madeira Beach, Redington Beach, and North Redington Beach.

In 1968, a federal matching grant for a new library was obtained after an intense fund raising campaign. In 1969, this new building was dedicated at the library's present location, 200 Municipal Drive, with the four supporting communities supplemented by the addition of the Town of Redington Shores. These five communities continue today to support the Gulf Beaches Library.

In 1988 the library expanded to house its ever-growing collection. A 3,600 square feet space was added to the existing building to create more shelving and reading space, bringing the total square footage of the library to 10,000.

In 1989 the Gulf Beaches Library became one of the members of the Pinellas Public Library Cooperative (PPLC). The increased cooperation and sharing of resources among the public libraries of Pinellas County have been very beneficial to the patrons of the Gulf Beaches Library. Funds made available through PPLC and State Aid to Libraries have helped the library computerize its operations, offer materials beyond books, such as audio and video cassettes, and offer access to electronic information via the Internet and through a CD-ROM local area network.

As of January 1, 1998, the staff of the Gulf Beaches Library consists of three professionals and eight full-time and part-time paraprofessionals, all of whom are dedicated to serving the public in a friendly, competent and efficient manner.

#### **POINTS OF SPECIAL INTEREST IN THE COLLECTION:**

- an extensive collection of mysteries
- a video collection of over three thousand titles. Foreign movies, movies with literary associations, and travel videos are emphasized.
- a strong investment section for the individual investor.

## **PROGRAM EMPHASIS:**

The library sponsors programs on investing, shows travel movies every Wednesday, and has an active Internet instruction program.

## **LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES:**

The Gulf Beaches Library is governed by a policy-making board, to which each of the five supporting communities appoints two trustees.

For 1997-1998 the members of the board are:

- TREASURE ISLAND
  - - Nancy Dowling
  - - Dick Slezak
- MADEIRA BEACH
  - - Martha Boos
  - - J. Kenneth Jacobsen
- REDINGTON BEACH
  - - Ellen King
  - - Albert Smith
- N. REDINGTON BEACH
  - - Jo Ann Jagger
  - - Bobby Jagielski
- REDINGTON SHORES
  - - Edna Folio
  - - Virginia Barnes

The Friends of the Gulf Beaches Library and the Gulf Beach Woman Club have a non-voting representative on the board:

- FRIENDS - John Wolbert
- GULF BEACH WOMAN'S CLUB - Rita Barrett

## **FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY:**

The Friends of the Gulf Beaches Library are advocates for the library in the

community, and are engaged in fundraising efforts. Edna Folio is president of the Friends for 1997-1998.

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