



volunteer spotlight

By Bill Reynolds

WOODSIDERS HELPING to Modernize the Aiken Library



L-R: Betty McCullough, Patty Oakland, and Gwen Schwallie



Marilyn Leugers (L) and Victoria Hampton

Woodside residents are known as talented, civic-minded, and generous with their time and financial support, caring not only about Woodside “inside the gates,” but also for the entire Aiken community. A recent endeavor that has Woodsiders involved in the community is the modernization of the Aiken County Library downtown Aiken. The building is over a hundred years old and was an elementary school until 1990 when the county repurposed the building as Aiken’s public library. The current modernization project for this historic building began in late 2019 and is scheduled to be completed by the end of this year.

President Bill Reynolds, a resident of the Village at Woodside, is president of The Friends and has been instrumental in securing the funds and momentum for the renovation as co-chair of the Friends’ Capital Campaign. Victoria Hampton is the Friends’ vice-president and Bill’s co-chair. She and Marilyn Leugers have teamed up to coordinate the efforts to bring the Grandchildren’s Photo Gallery to life -- customized photo plaques for sale to hang in the expanded children’s section of the new library. Ellen Wood serves on the Friends Finance Committee.



John Oakland and Bill Reynolds

The husband-wife team of John and Patty Oakland has different but important roles in making the modernized library come to life. John is the Friends’ consultant for the actual construction as well as serving on the Friends Finance Committee. Patty came up with the “Buy a Brick, Build a Library,” campaign to sell personalized brick pavers for the library’s front walk. Working with Patty were Gwen Schwallie and Betty McCullough.

Bringing history into today’s world is an exciting endeavor, and these Woodside residents have embraced their parts in making this happen. For additional information about the modernization or for donating to the Friends of the Library to support this project, you may visit the website

aikenlibraryfriends.org.