

Getting to know our community resource libraries

By Carla Lucas
Correspondent

Public libraries are a valuable community resource that has evolved over the years to meet the diverse needs of the community. They provide access to technology, opportunities to meet others, literacy education for all ages, entertainment and enrichment. All it takes to become a part of the action is obtaining a free library card. Over the last few weeks the Chester County Press has explored the libraries closest to its readership: Avon Grove Library, Bayard Taylor Library, and Oxford Public Library. Part 3: A look at Bayard Taylor Library highlights the Kennett Square area's community resource center.

A look at Bayard Taylor Memorial Library

On a recent visit to Bayard Taylor Memorial Library the staff was busy preparing for Unionville Elementary School's Reading Night, a school sleepover tradition. Many on the staff will spend part of a Friday evening reading biographies of the characters from "A Night at the Museum" from the library's children's collection to the students at the sleepover. Outreaches like this are common for the staff at Bayard Taylor Library as they



Photo by Carla Lucas

Eighth-grade students in Mrs. Leachey's class at St. Patrick's School check out library books from John Hendrix, Bayard Taylor's children's librarian.

share their expertise and use the library's resources to enrich and enhance special community and educational-based events.

On a daily basis, at their physical location on East State Street in Kennett Square Borough, the staff continuously implements programs and resources to enhance and enrich the com-

munity. "We want our library to be a community center and a place where people feel comfortable coming for a variety of reasons," said Donna Murray, Bayard Taylor's library director.

And the people are coming, as total visits to the library increased in 2010. As part of a county-wide campaign, Bayard Taylor reg-

istered 947 individuals for free library cards during October and November (up from 272 in 2009), the third highest in the county. In 2010 157,000 items were circulated; an increase of 6.77 percent from the previous year.

With a collection of over 58,000 items on two floors, the library

Continued on Page 7A