

# Library dedication featured poet laureate, community leaders

by Darrell Elder  
Staff Writer

"Our dream became a reality." Alice Youngblood, chairperson of the Library Board of Trustees, said during the introduction of the new Powhatan Public Library grand opening and dedication Nov. 3.

Youngblood told the group, which included Powhatan citizens as well as the Poet Laureate of Virginia, Grace Simpson, author David L. Robbins, Sen. John Watkins and Del. Lee Ware, if anyone was around to see the library 20 years ago, they would see that they definitely exceeded their expectations.

She thanked everyone involved in making the new library a reality.

Boy Scout troop 823 performed the Presentation of the Colors followed by Woody Czelusta's cappella rendition of "America the Beautiful."

Rev. Revell Hicks of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church gave the invocation.

After the guests moved inside, chairperson of the Powhatan Board of Supervisors Roy Harrison, told everyone that the library was one issue all of the supervisors were united on.

He said one word always comes to mind when describing the new library and that word is 'wow.'

"If it sounds like Powhatan County is doing a lot

of things, it's because we are," Harrison said. He added that the county developed a long range plan to absorb most of the expense of projects like the library. "All of these expenses are being absorbed by the natural growth of Powhatan," he said.

County Administrator Steve Owen told the group that Harrison had a lot to do with the day to day activities of the project.

He said that the plan started with the library board about 20 years ago. "They lobbied for years and years," Owen said.

Owen recognized the architecture firm of Tymoff and Moss for being the creative genius behind the plans and Bob Shortridge of Dreaming Creek Timber Frame in Powhatan for helping to inspire some of the design.

The library was also presented with a check for \$5,000 from the Powhatan Woman's Club. Library Director Kim Armentrout said most of the money will go towards purchasing new books, however, some will go to buying computers.

Poet Laureate of Virginia Grace Simpson said, "this is a magnificent building and 'wow' is right." Simpson added that "the library is the heart of the community and the people of Powhatan must have big and generous hearts."