

The Bookmark

NEWSLETTER OF SHEPPARD MEMORIAL LIBRARY

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February 2009

STATISTICALLY SPEAKING

Circulation for the library system totaled 40,171 items during January. During the same month 38,061 people visited our libraries.



NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS FROM LIBRARY DIRECTOR WILLIE NELMS

The weekend of February 6-8 was a very busy time for our library system. We held our 30th annual Sheppard Memorial Library Public Library Quiz Bowl, and our Friends of the Library held their annual used book sale. Both events were very successful, and early indications are that our Friends raised more money with the 2009 book sale than ever before. The Greenville Convention Center, site of the sale, was full of busy book-buyers throughout the sale, and bargain-hunters had a field day. Ayden-Grifton High School was the winner of the 2009 local Quiz Bowl and will represent us in the Eastern North Carolina Regional Quiz Bowl on March 21, here at Sheppard. This academic competition is always a highlight of the year for us. The young people always surprise us with their knowledge of various subjects, and it is rewarding to recognize such bright young people who will be our leaders of tomorrow.

FRIENDS BOOK SALE A HUGE SUCCESS

February 6-8, the Friends of the Sheppard Memorial Library conducted their 18th annual used book sale at the Greenville Convention Center. This year was the most successful sale on record, raising more than \$33,000, over 10% more than last year. The Friends had the largest inventory of books ever for the sale—about 25,000 items. A larger space than in previous years was used at the Convention Center, and book buyers enjoyed the additional area in which they could browse the offerings at leisure. Special thanks to Joanne Kollar, Dick Wolfe, Jan Lewis, and all of the volunteers who made this year's sale so successful.

PROPOSED OFFICERS FOR THE FRIENDS OF SHEPPARD MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Election of officers will take place at the annual meeting of the Friends, Monday, February 16, 2009, at 5:30 p.m., in the Elizabeth H. Copeland Board Room at the main library. The following slate of Friends officers has been nominated for 2009.

President, Chris Ulfers
Vice President, Mary Anne Pennington
Secretary, Gerry Case
Treasurer, Tony Parker

CUSTOMER SERVICE AWARD WINNER ANNOUNCED

Library IT Specialist Scott James has been named winner of the Emma Mizelle-Lucas Customer Service Award for 2008. In presenting the award at the January 2009 staff meeting, Library Director Willie Nelms noted James's constant dedication to service and vital contribution to both staff and patrons when performing his duties of keeping the library system's computers in good working order. The Emma Mizelle-Lucas Customer Service Award is given annually to a member of the library staff who has provided outstanding service to patrons, fellow workers, other departments of the library, businesses who deal with the library, or other agencies who have contact with the staff of Sheppard Memorial Library, its branches, and bookmobile.



IN DEMAND

The following books have been among those most in demand at the main library during the past month.

PLUM SPOOKY
by Janet Evanovich

BLACK OPS
by W.E.B. Griffin

THE ASSOCIATE
by John Grisham

ECLIPSE
by Stephenie Meyer

RUN FOR YOUR LIFE
by James Patterson & Michael Ledwidge

MOUNTING FEARS
by Stuart Woods

SHEPPARD MEMORIAL LIBRARY PUBLIC LIBRARY QUIZ BOWL

Congratulations to coach Will Tyer and the team from Ayden-Grifton High School, winners of the 2009 Sheppard Memorial Library Public Library Quiz Bowl held Saturday, February 7, at Sheppard Memorial Library.

Thanks to all the teams and coaches for participating in the event and to the moderator, judges, scorekeepers, and Sheppard Library staff who assisted with the competition.

The Ayden-Grifton team advances to the Eastern North Carolina Regional Quiz Bowl competition, sponsored by Sheppard Memorial Library, on Saturday, March 21, at 10:00 a.m., at the main library. Call the library at 329-4376 for more information.

Staff Changes

We welcome:

*Mark Anderson, Main Library
Jan Barker, Main Library
Jenna Miller, Main Library*

We say goodbye to:

William Elbert who has been working as a security guard at the main library.

JUVENILE OUTREACH

The outreach librarian is finishing up a series of story programs about manners. The children have enjoyed stories about unmannerly dragons (*A COLD WINTER'S GOOD KNIGHT* by Shelley Moore Thomas), sneezing animals (*THE BIG YAWN* by Keith Faulkner), and a song about using your manners. They also enjoyed a foam board story about a little boy who plays a trick on his sister by putting bugs in her sandwich! (*SAM'S SANDWICH* by David Pelham). The next story program series will begin in March.

CHILDREN'S LIBRARY

During January the children's librarian visited the first-grade classes at South Greenville Elementary School to share stories and information about community helpers.

Preschool story hours are offered at 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. on Wednesdays for children 3-5 years old. The 1:00 p.m. program allows children who are in preschool during the mornings to attend the afternoon program.

During preschool story hour on February 11, Valentine's Day was celebrated with favorite books and poems about valentines. At the end of the program, the children traced their hands to make a paper valentine. Each preschooler left story hour with a treat, a handmade card, and a smile.

The staff is busy assisting students and adults looking for biographies of famous African Americans and other information for assignments and also helping students needing resources for science projects and history day projects.

Special Program in the Children's Library

***Bedtime Story Hour
Thursday, February 26, 7:00 p.m.
(for families with children up to age 10)***

N.C. CHILDREN'S BOOK AWARD

Teachers at several schools have checked out the books nominated for the N.C. Children's Book Award in preparation for students voting for the favorite picture and chapter book in our state. Any kindergarten through sixth-grade student who has read at least five of the nominated titles can vote at their school during March. The winners will be announced during National Library Week, April 12-18. The theme for National Library Week is **Worlds Connect @ Your Library.**

EAST BRANCH LIBRARY

All of the first-grade classes at Eastern Elementary School will visit the East Branch Library the week of February 16 for stories, songs, and activities in celebration of African American History Month.

Audio books continue to be a favorite with library users. Most of the bestsellers are available on compact disc at the branch. *SCARPETTA* by Patricia Cornwell, *PLUM SPOOKY* by Janet Evanovich, *BLACK OPS* by W.E.B. Griffin, *THE ASSOCIATE* by John Grisham, *CROSS COUNTRY* by James Patterson, *ECLIPSE* by Richard North Patterson, and *MOUNTING FEARS* by Stuart Woods may be checked out in this format.

Adult patrons are also requesting *PLUM SPOOKY* by Janet Evanovich, *THE ASSOCIATE* by John Grisham, *TRUE COLORS* by Kristin Hannah, and *MOUNTING FEARS* by Stuart Woods in book format.

CARVER BRANCH LIBRARY

During February, the Carver staff will be highlighting facts about African Americans through songs, poems, books, and stories while celebrating African American History Month. The month's theme for 2009 is "The Quest for Black Citizenship in the Americas." During the month the librarian will be doing programs concerning famous African Americans and their inventions. For more information call 329-4583.

Books in demand among adult patrons include *BEFORE YOU DO* by T.D. Jakes, *A MAN'S WORTH* by Nikita Lynnette Nichols, *THE BEST OF EVERYTHING* by Kimberla Lawson Roby, and *MIDNIGHT* by Sister Souljah.

WINTERVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Winterville Library has several book displays to feature children's authors, new E and J books for children, and seasonal selections. We will be glad to assist you if your choice is not on the shelf.

Preschool/toddler story time continues on Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. Simple crafts, songs, and poems or fingerplays round out the story program. We have a lively little group, but there's room for more.

Popular books among adult patrons include *PLUM SPOOKY* by Janet Evanovich, *THE HOUR I FIRST BELIEVED* by Wally Lamb, novels by Stephenie Meyer, and books about President Barack Obama.

BLOUNT (BETHEL) LIBRARY

Bethel Library will be receiving new computers as well as a color laser printer. This updated and more efficient equipment should be very helpful to our patrons.

Call the library at 825-0782 to schedule programs for children or adults.

Adult patrons are requesting *DIVINE JUSTICE* by David Baldacci, *THE BRASS VERDICT* by Michael Connelly, and *MOUNTING FEARS* by Stuart Woods.

Staff Birthdays

L'naiya Bailey - February 27

Shirley Nett - February 27

Desta Tillery - March 14

Janie Fields - March 19