

The Bookmark

NEWSLETTER OF SHEPPARD MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Vol. XXIX No. 1

March 2009

STATISTICALLY SPEAKING

Circulation for the library system totaled 38,473 items in February, making this the second busiest February in our library system's history.



NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS FROM LIBRARY DIRECTOR WILLIE NELMS

A few days ago I counted the number of people who had served as President of the United States since I began my career in the public library field. Richard Nixon was president when I began in this profession, and since that time eight individuals have occupied the Oval Office. During this time, I have seen all sorts of bad economic times and their impact on public libraries. One thing that has remained a constant over the years, however, is the dedication of librarians and their commitment to service, even in a time of shrinking financial resources. The current economic difficulties have heightened people's awareness of the importance of our public librarians, and use of public libraries is increasing dramatically across the United States. The public's heavy reliance on our computers accounts for a lot of this increase, but all areas of service seem to be up. We weathered those times, and we'll weather these.

LIBRARY TRUSTEE NEWS

Mr. Ralph Scott was recently appointed to serve on the Sheppard Memorial Library Board of Trustees. This is Mr. Scott's second round on the Library Board. We welcome him back to the Board and look forward to working with him again.

FRIENDS OFFICERS ELECTED

The Friends of the Sheppard Memorial Library met on Monday, February 16, and elected the following officers for the upcoming year:

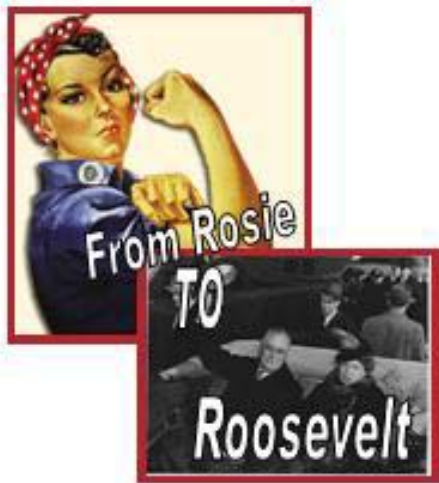
President, Chris Uiffers
Vice President, Mary Anne Pennington
Secretary, Gerry Case
Treasurer, Tony Parker

SUMMER READING PROGRAM

Librarians who work in children's services are planning for the 2009 summer reading program, **Get Creative @ Your Library**. Amber Winstead, June Parker, Mildred Elliott, Valeria Hoffman, and Phyllis Conner traveled to Rocky Mount on Friday, March 6, to gather ideas and materials.

Holiday Closing

***Friday, April 10
through
Sunday, April 12***



A Film History of
Americans in World
War II

Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m.
Starting April 14
At Sheppard
Memorial Library



For more information,
call 329-4376

This project is made possible in part by the
North Carolina Humanities Council, a state
affiliate of the National Endowment for the
Humanities and the NC Center for the Book.

N.C. CHILDREN'S BOOK AWARD

Voting for the N.C. Children's Book Award will be during the month of March. Elementary school students are encouraged to vote in their school. Several schools have checked out the Children's Book Award collections from the Children's Library. The winning children's books will be announced in April during National Library Week.

National Library Week Celebrate
April 12-18, 2009

Worlds connect @your library®

IN DEMAND

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

SCARPETTA

by Patricia Cornwell

PLUM SPOOKY

by Janet Evanovich

CLUB DEAD

by Charlaine Harris

ECLIPSE

by Stephenie Meyer

RUN FOR YOUR LIFE

by James Patterson & Michael Ledwidge

MIDNIGHT

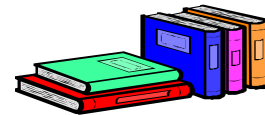
by Sister Souljah

MOUNTING FEARS

by Stuart Woods

THE STORY OF EDGAR SAWTELLE

by David Wroblewski



EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA REGIONAL QUIZ BOWL

The team from Ayden-Grifton High School, 2009 local Quiz Bowl champions, will compete against other North Carolina high school teams in the Eastern North Carolina Regional Quiz Bowl on Saturday, March 21. The competition, hosted by Sheppard Memorial Library, begins at 10:00 a.m. and will be held in Meeting Room A of the main library. Contact Kim Averette at Sheppard Memorial Library (329-4376) for more information.

Staff News

We welcome:

Isaac Hazelton, Main Library

EAST BRANCH LIBRARY

The staff has been busy assisting patrons with the public computers, locating specific books, and finding information such as facts about the Airborne & Special Operations Museum in Fayetteville, a list of wordless picture books, an explanation of a MRI written on a child's level, and the Pledge of Allegiance in Latin.

Representatives of the local Smart Start agency, the Martin/Pitt Partnership for Children, came to the branch preschool story hour on Tuesday, March 3, to talk about the resources available at the agency and to distribute their latest community resource guide.

Adult patrons are requesting *HEART AND SOUL* by Maeve Binchy, *THE ASSOCIATE* by John Grisham, *TRUE COLORS* by Kristin Hannah, and *HANDLE WITH CARE* by Jodi Picoult.

CHILDREN'S LIBRARY

The Children's Library remembered Dr. Seuss's birthday by celebrating Reading Across America on Saturday, March 7, in the Greenville Mall. Martin/Pitt Parents as Teachers, Raising a Reader, and Chick-fil-A collaborated with the library by sharing books, helping children create their own unique book, and giving children Chick-fil-A coupons. The children were delighted with the stories and designed a book with parental help.

The National Education Association annually sponsors Read Across America to honor Dr. Seuss's birthday. Now in its twelfth year, the event focuses on motivating children to read.

Special Program in the Children's Library
Bedtime Story Hour
Thursday, March 26, 7:00 p.m.
(for families with children up to age 10)

Staff Birthdays

Ellen Hollis - March 26

Mildred Elliott - March 31

Michael Clark - April 6

Tegan Blackwelder - April 18

Kelly Rowe - April 19

CARVER BRANCH LIBRARY

The 15th annual African-American Heritage Quiz Bowl was held on Saturday, February 21. The winning team was the Tabernacle Center Church of Deliverance Youth. We thank all of the participants and their coaches and parents for the support given to the teams. We also thank representatives from 100 Black Men of Eastern North Carolina and the Pitt County Black Social Workers for volunteering to serve as moderators, scorekeepers, and timekeepers for the event.

Adult patrons are requesting *THE ASSOCIATE* by John Grisham, *ACT LIKE A LADY, THINK LIKE A MAN* by Steve Harvey, *BASKETBALL JONES* by E. Lynn Harris, and *TRUE TO THE GAME III* by Teri Woods.

JUVENILE OUTREACH

The outreach librarian has begun another series of story programs. This series, entitled "Down on the Farm," is full of stories about animals you might see on a farm. One book—*COCK-A-DOODLE QUACK! QUACK!* by Ivor Baddiel and Sophie Jubb—introduces us to a baby rooster who doesn't know what to say. The children are also enjoying wiggling around during the song "There's a Wiggle in my Toe."

The outreach librarian visited the first-grade classes at W.H. Robinson Elementary School. She shared books about reading and information about the library.

WINTERVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

The theme for this month's storytime programs will include weather and its many manifestations and the color green. Programs are on Thursdays at 10:30 a.m.

Winterville Library is accepting donations of used books that are in good condition. Consider dropping off books you no longer need.

Adult patrons are requesting *PLUM SPOOKY* by Janet Evanovich, *RUN FOR YOUR LIFE* by James Patterson and Michael Ledwidge, *DOG ON IT* by Spencer Quinn, and *HANDLE WITH CARE* by Jodi Picoult.

BLOUNT (BETHEL) LIBRARY

Thanks to receiving an Opportunity Online Hardware Grant made possible by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation with matching funds from the Friends of the Sheppard Memorial Library, the Blount (Bethel) Library has four new computers and a new color laser printer.

We thank the Home Town Bethel organization for donating several new children's books.

The Bethel library also accepts donations of used books that are in good condition.

Adults are reading *THREE WEEKS TO SAY GOODBYE* by C.J. Box, *DARK OF NIGHT* by Suzanne Brockmann, and *BREAKNECK* by Erica Spindler.