

The Bookmark

NEWSLETTER OF SHEPPARD MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Vol. XXIX No. 9

November 2009

STATISTICALLY SPEAKING

Circulation for the library system totaled 46,365 items in October. This represents a 5.1% increase over the same month of 2008 and makes this the busiest October in our history. A total of 1,142 new library cards were issued during October. Thirty-nine thousand six hundred twenty-three patrons visited our libraries over the past month.

FRIENDS MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

The Friends of the Sheppard Memorial Library annual membership drive begins in December and is open to the public. The membership year is from January 1 through December 31.

Look in next month's copy of *The Bookmark* for a membership application. Current members will receive a renewal notice in the mail. You may also pick up an application from any facility of Sheppard Memorial Library or print one from our website at www.sheppardlibrary.org.

For the first time a lifetime membership will be available. Why not consider giving a friend or family member a gift membership to the Friends of the Sheppard Memorial Library organization this year?

Staff Birthdays

Tammy Fulcher - December 2
Ann Storms - December 18

NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS FROM LIBRARY DIRECTOR WILLIE NELMS

The last eight months have each set new records for circulation at our library system. When you read the "Statistically Speaking" portion of this newsletter you will note that since March 2009 each month a new record in use has been reported. What is causing this increase in use? There are many reasons, but one of the most obvious is the impact of the economy. As the economy struggles and jobs are lost, people have less disposable income, and they buy fewer books and turn to the library instead. Likewise, as unemployed people look for jobs, they come to the library for resources to help them in their occupational pursuits. As other forms of recreation become less affordable, people turn to the public library as a source of recreation by using our reading material, books on compact disc, and movies on DVD. This does not even take into account the heavy use of library computers during this particular economic downturn.

Staff News

Valerie Hill-Spell who has been working as a desk assistant in the Adult Public Services Department of the main library for the past six years will be leaving at the end of November. We will miss Valerie, and we wish her well!

IN DEMAND

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

TRUE BLUE

by David Baldacci

THE LOST SYMBOL

by Dan Brown

PURSUIT OF HONOR

by Vince Flynn

SAND SHARKS

by Margaret Maron

ALEX CROSS'S TRIAL

by James Patterson and Richard Dilallo

206 BONES

by Kathy Reichs

HOTHOUSE ORCHID

by Stuart Woods

Puppet Show

The Princess and the Pea

***December 7, 8, 9, 10
at 10:45 a.m.***

***in the
Children's Library
Program Room***

for children ages 5 and under

JUVENILE OUTREACH

The outreach librarian finished visiting the childcare centers with the current program. The next story program will be about getting dressed. It will feature a flannel board of the story *FROGGY GETS DRESSED* by Jonathan London and tells about the clothes he forgets when getting ready to play in the snow. The Juvenile Outreach librarian is also busy scheduling times for children to come to the December puppet show.

2010 FRIENDS USED BOOK SALE

The Friends of the Sheppard Memorial Library cordially invite you to its 19th annual used book sale on January 29, 30, and 31 at the Greenville Convention Center. We offer a wide selection of fiction and nonfiction titles along with hundreds of vintage record albums, CDs, DVDs, and audio and video tapes.

Admission is free on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. The preview sale* on Thursday, January 28, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., is open to members of the Friends of the Sheppard Memorial Library only. Memberships may be purchased at the door. A family membership allows two individuals into the sale. All proceeds benefit Sheppard Memorial Library and its branches (www.sheppardlibrary.org).

Sale Times

Friday, January 29

9:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, January 30

9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, January 31

1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

(Bag Day—\$5 per paper grocery bag of books)

*NOTE: Preview sale limit of 20 items, not to exceed a total value of \$40.

Holiday Closing

Thursday, November 26

and

Friday, November 27

Reminder: The main library and the East, Carver, and Winterville branches will reopen Saturday, November 28.

EAST BRANCH LIBRARY

Many patrons are looking for ways to recreate the meals of their holiday memories. Readers wishing to cook a traditional southern feast can find recipes for foods that they remember in *MAMA DIP'S FAMILY COOKBOOK* by Mildred Council, *THE GIFT OF SOUTHERN COOKING* by Edna Lewis and Scott Peacock, *DOWN HOME WITH THE NEELYS: A SOUTHERN FAMILY COOKBOOK* by Patrick and Gina Neely, *NORTH CAROLINA'S HISTORIC RESTAURANTS AND THEIR RECIPES* by Dawn O'Brien, *HUNGRY FOR HOME: STORIES OF FOOD FROM ACROSS THE CAROLINAS* by Amy T. Rogers, *SEASONED IN THE SOUTH: RECIPES FROM CROOK'S CORNER AND FROM HOME* by Bill Smith, and *BON APPETIT, Y'ALL: STORIES AND RECIPES FROM THREE GENERATIONS OF SOUTHERN COOKING* by Virginia Willis.

Adult patrons are requesting many fiction titles including *THE LOST SYMBOL* by Dan Brown, *RAINWATER* by Sandra Brown, *SOUTH OF BROAD* by Pat Conroy, *FORD COUNTY* by John Grisham, and *THE LAST SONG* by Nicholas Sparks.

The last story hour for the fall will be on Tuesday, December 15.

CARVER BRANCH LIBRARY

The Carver staff has planned many story programs and activities for youth during November. Call the library at 329-4583 for more information.

Story hour continues on Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. for children ages 3-5.

We thank the students from ECU who volunteered this semester to tutor students and to assist with other tasks.

Adult patrons visiting the Carver Branch Library are requesting *HIS WOMAN, HIS WIFE, HIS WIDOW* by Janice Jones, *ACT LIKE A LADY, THINK LIKE A MAN* by Steve Harvey, *THE HELP* by Kathryn Stockett, and *GOD AIN'T BLIND* by Mary Monroe.

CHILDREN'S LIBRARY

The annual Spooktacular Stories program was a special event for approximately 160 young children and parents. The staff enjoyed seeing the little ones dressed in costumes as much as the children enjoyed the stories and the treats.

Story hours about autumn colors and turkeys fill November. December brings the puppet show, *The Princess and the Pea*, for preschoolers.

Families are invited to several holiday programs. We look forward to a Thanksgiving-themed Bedtime Story Hour in November and a Holiday Bedtime Story Hour in December. A craft program is planned for a Saturday morning in December.

Programs in the Children's Library

Bedtime Story Hour

Thursday, November 19, at 7:00 p.m.
(families with children up to age 10)

Holiday Toddler Story Hour

Tuesday, December 15, at 10:30 a.m.
(children ages 18 months to three years)

Holiday Preschool Story Hour

Wednesday, December 16, at 11:00 a.m.
(children ages three to five years)

Holiday Bedtime Story Hour

Thursday, December 17, at 7:00 p.m.
(families with children up to age 10)

Make & Take Craft Program

Saturday, December 19, at 10:30 a.m.
(children ages 3-5 accompanied by parent
and children ages 6-12)

WINTERVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Our R.E.A.D. program (Reading Education Assistance Dogs) met on Saturday, November 14, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The next program will be held Saturday, December 5. You can register in person or by calling. There is a limit of six participants. The program is designed for any age child who has begun to read. The dogs enjoy the attention and are cuddly and attentive. If you are interested in the program and would like more information, please call 756-1786.

Preschool/toddler story time is on Thursdays (except November 26) at 10:30 a.m.

Adult readers are asking for *THE LOST SYMBOL* by Dan Brown, *THE HELP* by Kathryn Stockett, and *EVIDENCE* by Jonathan Kellerman.

BLOUNT (BETHEL) LIBRARY

Some older children's books are being withdrawn from the collection. If patrons have requests for refreshing the nonfiction, please call 825-0782 with your suggestions.

Although we have no scheduled programs, we can make arrangements for your group to meet.

Adult patrons are requesting *SKIN TRADE* by Laurell K. Hamilton, *13 1/2* by Nevada Barr, and *LAKESHORE CHRISTMAS* by Susan Wiggs.