

The Bookmark

NEWSLETTER OF SHEPPARD MEMORIAL LIBRARY

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SHEPPARD MEMORIAL LIBRARY DIRECTOR TO RETIRE IN JULY

Sheppard Memorial Library Director Willie Nelms has announced his retirement, effective the end of July 2010. Nelms has been the Director of Sheppard Memorial Library since February 1981.

In writing to the library Board of Trustees about his retirement plans, Nelms noted:



“For the past 29 years it has been my privilege to be the Director of Sheppard Memorial Library. During that time I have presided over the greatest growth of public library service in the history of Greenville and Pitt County. I have decided it is now time for me to turn that leadership role over to another person.”

During Nelms’ time as director, the public library system has more than doubled its hours of service to the public, circulation of material has nearly tripled, and the number of registered library cardholders has grown from 15,500 to over 52,000.

More than 500,000 people visit Sheppard Memorial Library facilities each year. Under his leadership, branch libraries have been added in Bethel and Winterville, and all existing library facilities have more than doubled in size. Nelms has presided over eight library building

projects during his 29 years at Sheppard. During one five-year span, from 2000 to 2005, more public library space was built in Greenville than had existed before. Under Nelms’ leadership, Sheppard Memorial Library has been a leader among public libraries in eastern North Carolina in service innovations. Beginning in the 1980s, Sheppard was a leader among

North Carolina public libraries in using microcomputers for internal operations as well as providing extensive public Internet access for patrons.

A native of Suffolk, Virginia, Nelms holds an undergraduate degree from Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia, as well as two master’s degrees from the University of Kentucky in Lexington. Prior to coming to Greenville, Nelms was Director of the Bristol, Virginia/Tennessee Public Library from 1975 to 1981. He began his public library career in 1974 as a branch librarian in the Evansville-Vanderburgh County Indiana Public Library system, considered a model public library system at the time he started to work.

The Sheppard Memorial Library Board of Trustees has appointed a search committee to find a new director to assume leadership of the library system by the time Nelms retires.

STATISTICALLY SPEAKING

Circulation for the library system totaled 44,602 items during March. Nine hundred forty-five new library cards were issued, bringing the current total of registered borrowers to 52,232.

NOTES AND OBSERATIONS FROM THE DIRECTOR

The library recently added Mango Languages, the #1 online language learning system in the U.S., for its library patrons. Sheppard Library patrons can access the Mango learning system from the library homepage free of charge and need only their library card number to register for the service. Six different languages—Spanish, Italian, German, French, Mandarin Chinese and English as a second language for Spanish speakers—are available for patrons. An interactive tutoring system, Mango is easy to use and has proven to be a great way to learn a new language. We live in a country with people from a variety of cultures, and learning a foreign language is a great way to increase understanding among people from different countries. Additionally, learning a new language is excellent exercise for the brain. We are really happy to be able to provide this new free service to our patrons.

JUVENILE OUTREACH

“Happy Birthday!”, the third series of story programs for child care centers, has continued through the month of April. The children enjoy dancing and listening to poems and stories about what you might do on your birthday. April also brings us National Library Week and The Week of the Young Child. The outreach librarian will be visiting classrooms to talk about the library, what librarians do, participate in activities with classes, and read to children of all ages.

IN DEMAND

Following are some of the books that have been most in demand among adult patrons at the main library during the past month.

SIZZLE

by Judy Garwood

WINTER GARDEN

by Kristin Hannah

GAME CHANGE

by John Heilemann & Mark Halperin

GOING ROGUE

by Sarah Palin

SPLIT IMAGE

by Robert B. Parker

WORST CASE

by James Patterson & Michael Ledwidge

THE LIGHTNING THIEF

by Rick Riordan

BIG GIRL

by Danielle Steel

THE HELP

by Kathryn Stockett

KISSER

by Stuart Woods

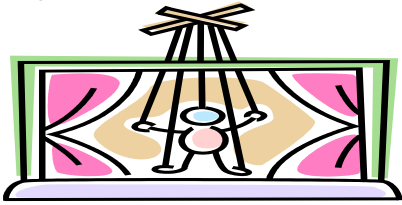
EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA REGIONAL QUIZ BOWL

Congratulations to coach Vicki Kennedy and the team from Arendell Parrott Academy, winners of the 2010 Eastern North Carolina Regional Quiz Bowl. The Parrott team was sponsored by Neuse Regional Library, Ayden-Grifton High School, sponsored by Sheppard Memorial Library, and KIPP Gaston College Preparatory's Pride High School, sponsored by Halifax County Library, also participated in the competition.

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

SPRING PUPPET SHOW

Preparations for the spring puppet show are being made. The puppet show "What's In Fox's Sack?" is appropriate for children five and under. Story hour participants from all the branches and preschoolers in childcare centers served by the Juvenile Outreach librarian are invited to attend. Also, young children ages 2-5 are welcome to attend Monday, May 3, through Thursday, May 6, at 10:45 a.m. The puppet show performances will be in the program room at the main library.



CARVER BRANCH LIBRARY

We thank ECU's REAP (Revolving Education Around Partnerships Program) for their performance of Kids on the Block during our story hour this month. Kids on the Block is a puppet show that features Mark, a puppet with cerebral palsy, and Melody, who is just meeting Mark for the first time. This program helps people of all ages to become more sensitive to and accepting of their peers with disabilities.

Preschool story hour is held each Thursday at 10:00 a.m. for children ages 3-5.

Adult patrons are requesting *FIFTEEN YEARS* by Kendra Norman-Bellamy, *BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU PRAY FOR* by Kimberla Lawson Roby, and *THE POLITICIAN* by Andrew Young.

Staff Birthdays

Susan Hall - April 22

Eric Loftin - April 27

Pete Hickey - April 30

Danielle Moloney - May 11

EAST BRANCH LIBRARY

The staff has been busy assisting patrons needing help with school projects, online classes, online job applications and employment information, and reading selections.

The last preschool story hour for spring will be on Tuesday, April 27, at 10:30 a.m.

The books for the 2010-2011 Middle School Battle of the Books and the Elementary Battle of the Books are available to be checked out at the branch.

DIARY OF A WIMPY KID by Jeff Kinney and *THE LIGHTNING THIEF* by Rick Riordan continue to be popular books for children. The most requested books among adult patrons have included *THE POSTMISTRESS* by Sarah Blake, *DECEPTION* by Jonathan Kellerman, *ROSES* by Leila Meacham, and *THE HELP* by Kathryn Stockett.

CHILDREN'S LIBRARY

A Bedtime Story Hour program is scheduled in the Children's Library program room, Thursday, April 22, at 7:00 p.m., for families with children ages 10 and younger.

Children's librarian Phyllis Conner visited kindergarten and first and second grade classes at Sadie Saulter Elementary School during National Library Week, April 11 - April 17. This year's theme is **Communities thrive @ your library.**

The N.C. Children's Book Award, sponsored by schools and public libraries in North Carolina, introduces children to current children's literature. During March children were invited to vote for their favorite picture and chapter book in our state. The winning books will be announced during National Library Week.

WINTERVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

The R.E.A.D. program on Saturday, April 10, was a grand success. All three of our specially-trained dogs were on hand with their handlers to give children the opportunity to read aloud from their favorite books. The next session will be on Saturday, May 8, from 2:00-4:00 p.m., in the library program room.

Preschool/toddler storytime meets on Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. through May. When the summer reading club begins, the time will move to Fridays at 10:30 a.m.

Adult readers are asking for *CHELSEA CHELSEA BANG BANG* by Chelsea Handler, *STONES INTO SCHOOLS* by Greg Mortenson, and *THE HELP* by Kathryn Stockett.

BLOUNT (BETHEL) LIBRARY

The Bethel library needs volunteers to help with library chores. Students in need of volunteer hours may apply.

Adult patrons are requesting *CAUGHT* by Harlan Coben, *THE SILENT SEA* by Clive Cussler, and *DECEPTION* by Jonathan Kellerman.