NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS FROM LIBRARY DIRECTOR GREG NEEDHAM

It is hard for me to believe that the 2014 Summer Reading Program is over. I have been thrilled with the participation in all of the summer programming, from our youngest patrons up to and including our teen readers. Cheers to all of our children’s and teen staff for a job well done, to all of our staff for keeping the library at full steam all summer, and thanks to all of our wonderful patrons who took part in a summer of fun, reading, and learning.

I would like to provide you with an update on various projects underway at your library. Carver Library patrons will notice the old roof section is in the process of being replaced thanks to funding from the City of Greenville. We have nearly finished installing all of the radio frequency identification software and equipment at the branches, and all that remains as of this writing is installation of the self-checkout stations. I am confident that patrons at the branches will avail themselves of the self-check option in the same way patrons at the main library do. Every month, between 10 and 15% of all of the materials that check out of the entire library system are checked out through one self check out unit at the main library. Branch patrons will see the same benefit shortly and there will be less waiting in line at all locations.

I have written before about the Square at the main library, which enables patrons to pay with credit and debit cards and sees more use all the time. We now have the equipment ready to install all of this technology at the branches—so stay tuned for that. We plan to have it ready for the Friends of the Sheppard Memorial Library 50 Cents Book Sale coming up September 6th and 7th. People will be able to pay with a credit or debit card for the first time ever at one of our Friends book sales. Don’t miss the sale, as there will be terrific bargains and much fun to be had searching for good reads at a great bargain, for a great cause. Friends book sale proceeds support the summer reading program, Quiz Bowls, library technology grants for new computers and other equipment, the book budget, and much more, including helping protect our state library funding through support of statewide legislative work.

The main library’s old public computers are on their last legs. The computer replacement process is underway, thanks to a federal grant and Friends matching funds. The first shipment of 20 new computers has arrived at 530 Evans Street, and should be installed over the Labor Day weekend. The remaining computers will follow close behind. In all, 57 new computers will be installed at the main library with this grant, running Windows 7 smoothly and efficiently. Public computer classes taught by instructors from the Literacy Volunteers of Pitt County are planned to begin in the fall.

Inventory work and collection development continue to be a top priority at all locations. Staff is working to clean up the library catalog and fill gaps in the collection, add missing authors and titles, and grow the collection to meet your needs. If you missed our library media coverage over the summer, including a City Scene segment on Cable 9 and a first-time Pitt TV appearance on Cable 13, go to www.sheppardlibrary.org to find links to the YouTube clips of both shows.

Finally, we are still waiting to find out what the Town of Winterville will decide about the future of the Winterville Public Library. The Winterville Town Council restored normal funding to the Winterville Library for July, August, and September, but reduced it by 40% afterward. This means the Winterville Library will have to be closed for half of the current operating hours beginning in October. Their book budget will have to be cut in half. The Winterville Council was to revisit the issue in three months’ time, allowing them time to approach Pitt County with a request for more library funding. I would encourage Winterville residents who value their local library to continue to communicate with their elected officials. For our part, Sheppard Memorial Library stands ready to continue the partnership with Winterville that has made such a difference for the community this past quarter century!
Adult patrons are requesting

Statistical snapshot:

**July**

- 60,626 items circulated
- 925 new borrowers registered
- (69,173 total borrowers)

Public computer/Internet use
(including wi-fi/laptop use)
- 18,081 sessions
DO YOU WANT TO JOIN OUR
TEEN READER ADVISORY?
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS
COME TO ONE OF
OUR MEETINGS!

THIS FALL, WE’LL MEET FROM 10-11 AM
ON THESE DAYS: SEPTEMBER 13, OCTOBER 11,
NOVEMBER 15, & DECEMBER 6

WE’LL HAVE GAMES, TREATS, & CHAT ABOUT
BOOKS!!!

Join us for our first
Fall meeting of the
Sheppard Memorial Library
YA Book Club

September 13, 11am-noon
We’ll meet in Room A
and discuss
The Maze Runner
by James Dashner
P.S. There will be treats

Any questions? Email me: ccrane@sheppardlibrary.org
Join us for our First Official Meeting of Sheppard Memorial Library Anime & Manga Club!

Saturday, September 13, 3-6 pm
We’ll watch episodes of your favorite shows!

The first 5 kids to email me will get to pick what we watch!

Casandria Crane: ccrane@sheppardlibrary.org

Bring a treat to share & drinks will be provided!
Branch Happenings

The branches had many volunteers this summer assisting with clerical duties, projects, and programs. Volunteers included teens attending the Health Science Academy and teens enrolled in the Pitt County high school system. We appreciate all of our volunteers and all they do for the library.

**East Branch Library**
The East Branch staff is getting ready to begin fall preschool story hour on Tuesday, September 2, at 10:30 a.m.

**Winterville Public Library**
Toddler/preschool story hour will resume on Wednesday, September 3, at 10:30 a.m. We encourage all to invite a friend(s).

**Carver Branch Library**
We’re gearing up for our weekly story hour at the Carver Library on Thursday, September 4, at 10:30 a.m. for children ages 3 to 5. Groups are welcome to attend and share in the fun.

**Blount (Bethel) Library**
We thank all the summer reading participants and supporters for encouraging the youth to read this summer.

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**Children’s Library**
The Children’s Library at Sheppard Memorial Library has regularly scheduled programs and events throughout the year, and offers exciting specialty programs and events for children. Please visit our website frequently for upcoming programs and events.

Here is a list of our regularly scheduled programs:

**Toddler Story Hour**
Will be held weekly on Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. For children ages 18 months–3 years old. Resumes on September 9.

**Preschool Story Hour**
Weekly on Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m. For children ages 3-5 years old. Resumes on September 10.

**Bedtime Story Hour**
One evening a month at 7:00 p.m. For ages 10 and under. Wear pajamas and bring a stuffed animal!
Juvenile Outreach
The Juvenile Outreach librarian finished up the summer reading program with story times based on this summer’s theme, Fizz, Boom, Read! The start of story time visits to child care centers will begin the first week of September. The book box schedule will resume the second week of September.

Holiday Closing
Saturday, August 30 through Monday, September 1