Notes and Observations from Library Director, Greg Needham

In this Winter 2016 edition of the Bookmark, I would like to direct your attention to a milestone of great significance, both for the library and for our community- 25 years of Friends of the Sheppard Memorial Library annual book sales! February 4th-7th, 2016, the annual sale will take place at the Greenville Convention Center, capping off a quarter-century of achievement and local impact for our wonderful Friends.

From that first sale back in 1991, which brought in $3,167.50, the sale has grown to a phenomenal event that raises on average $30,000 per year in support of our public library. Gross sales up to the present time have totaled $489,564.80. That’s right, the 2016 annual sale should bring the total past a half million dollars in gross book sale proceeds- quite an accomplishment, and those book sale dollars have had a tremendous impact over the years.

Just to name a few enhancements that have had direct impact in people’s lives, the book sale proceeds have for twenty-five years enabled us to provide better summer reading programs for our children, more books and other materials for everyone, and by providing matching funding for federal grants, they have made possible the replacement of all of the public computers, as well as the installation of children’s early literacy computers, at our five Sheppard Memorial Library locations.

But the stunning impact of those dollars and the resulting enhancements to library service are not the only results the book sales produce. When the Friends sort donated books all year long, day in and day out, they cycle books from readers in the community through the sales and into the hands of other readers. The book sales feed the need to read!

Thousands of individual volunteer hours per year go into the sales, as the Friends’ volunteers work through the days, weeks, and months of the book sale year’s cycle, all contributing to the two sales, one in September and the main annual sale in February. The whole effort really is impressive and impactful.

I want to express our gratitude to everyone who has made the book sales possible, but if I try to list everyone by name, it will be a long list! In the interest of keeping my comments to a single page, let me at least mention that Joanne Kollar and Dick Wolfe deserve credit as the initiators and masterminds of the sales, having started it all back in 1991, and they are still at it today (Joanne only recently stepped down as sale coordinator, but still sorts, and Dick is still the “Inventory Czar”).

(cont. on next page)
Become A Friend of SML today!

The sales also rely on Jan Lewis’ dedicated coordination of the book sale volunteer work force, and other wonderful individuals deserve mention, but I’ll just say that many of the sorters who work tirelessly all through the year; and the volunteers who work the sales themselves, have many years of service to their credit- and we appreciate them all very much! Library staff members have a role to play as well, especially taking in donations throughout the year; and in working and coordinating with the friends, and I am proud of all of them for the teamwork. Really the book sales are a marvelous example of good people working together with a noble purpose.

The truth is, we will never be able to truly thank all of our Friends enough for the difference they have made in support of the library, literacy, and our community. As I reflect on this tremendous history, I am awed by the powerful positive difference people make when they give selflessly for the betterment of others and their community.

It is humbling for me as an individual to contemplate, because most people may never have such a track record of volunteerism, but we can all make a difference.

I hope you’ve had a wonderful holiday season. Now it’s 2016. May we all go forward and make a difference, in the new year and beyond. We have some great Friends and role models who continue to show us the way. Please do spread the word about the Friends of the Sheppard Memorial Library, don’t forget to renew your Friends membership, and if you aren’t doing so already- volunteer!

There is always a need for more sorters and book sale volunteers, and you can make a difference too, spreading the love of reading and enhancing literacy in our community!

Children’s Library Events:

**Toddler Story Hour:** Tuesdays
10 a.m. and 11 a.m. (18 mo - 3 yrs)

**Preschool Story Hour:** Wednesdays
11 a.m. & 1 p.m. (ages 3-5)

**Bedtime Story Hour (for families)**
Once a month at 7 p.m.
Wear pajamas & bring a stuffed animal!

**Make & Take Craft**
2nd Thursday of month
(12 yrs & younger)
3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

**Homeschool Story Hour**
Once a month at 1:30 p.m.

**Upcoming dates:**
Thursday, January 28
Thursday, February 25
THE FRIENDS OF THE SHEPPARD MEMORIAL LIBRARY

2016 USED BOOK SALE

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF SPREADING LITERACY

FEBRUARY 4-7

GREENVILLE CONVENTION CENTER
303 SW Greenville Blvd.

THURSDAY, FEB. 4: MEMBERS ONLY DAY 6-8PM
(Member can be purchased or renewed at the door)

FRIDAY, FEB. 5: SALE OPENS TO PUBLIC 9AM-8PM

SATURDAY, FEB. 6: 9AM-6PM

SUNDAY, FEB. 7: BAG SALE DAY! ($5/BAG) 1-3:30PM

www.SheppardLibrary.org
Connect with SML!

facebook.com/sheppardlibrary

twitter.com/SMLibrary

instagram.com/sheppardlibrary

pinterest.com/sheppardlibrary

smlibrary.tumblr.com

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**Winter Reading Program**


Warm up this winter with great books from Sheppard Memorial Library! We encourage all our families to participate in the first Winter Reading Program!

Reading just 20 minutes a day helps children expand their vocabulary, builds early literacy skills and improves their academic performance.

Plus, reading is fun! Travel the seas with pirates, take a trip to space, and enjoy time travel through books. Learn about underwater animals, how to care for your guinea pig, or explore ancient lands!

Come visit us at the library—The Best Place to Start!
The Teen Zone @ SML

Sheppard Memorial Library
6th-12th graders

ANIME CLUB

SATURDAYS
Jan. 16, Feb. 20
March 19, April 1
12:00-2:00 p.m.
Free with Your Library Card!

3M™ Cloud Library

Never be without the perfect book again.

Now available!

Zinio for Libraries
The #1 online magazine service for libraries

OneClickdigital
A new selection of Downloadable audiobooks is now available
**SML Meetings:**

- The Friends of SML will meet on Monday, February 8, 2016.
- The Board of Trustees will meet on Wednesday, March 16, 2016.

Both meetings are at 5:30 p.m. and will be held in the Elizabeth H. Copeland Board Room at the Main Library at 530 Evans Street in Greenville, NC.

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### Statistical Snapshot

<table>
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<th>Items circulated:</th>
<th>Public Computer Logins:</th>
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<tr>
<td>• August - 42,217</td>
<td>• August - 16,328</td>
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<tr>
<td>• September - 39,266</td>
<td>• September - 14,666</td>
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<tr>
<td>• October - 41,545</td>
<td>• October - 14,211</td>
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<tr>
<td>• November - 36,929</td>
<td>• November - 11,630</td>
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<tr>
<td>• December - 34,070</td>
<td>• December - 12,537</td>
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<table>
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<th>New borrowers registered:</th>
<th>Patron visits:</th>
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</thead>
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<td>• August - 707</td>
<td>• August - 71,540</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• September - 640</td>
<td>• September - 66,421</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• October - 507</td>
<td>• October - 38,040</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• November - 397</td>
<td>• November - 31,408</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• December - 380</td>
<td>• December - 34,410</td>
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The Friends of the Sheppard Memorial Library Endowment was established with the Greater Greenville Community Foundation to provide a permanent fund to enhance and improve the services and facilities of the Sheppard Memorial Library system. Individuals, businesses, and organizations can make tax-deductible contributions to the endowment at any time. Your legacy can endure for future generations of Greenville and Pitt County residents through the vehicle of an estate gift to The Friends of the Sheppard Memorial Library Endowment. It is an excellent tool for estate planning, memorials, or other lasting tributes. Your charitable bequest will benefit the Sheppard Memorial Library.

Anyone wishing to contribute to the endowment or desiring more information about the fund should contact Greg Needham, director of libraries, at 252.329.4585.

**Get Amazing Deals at Our Book Sales**

- The Friends will conduct the annual used-book sale February 4 - 7, 2016, at the Greenville Convention Center.
- Friends members get amazing deals and great first-choice selections at the preview sale held February 4, at the Greenville Convention Center, from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
- A paperback book sale will be held in September, 2016.

**How Can I Donate My Gently Used Books?**

Donations may be made at any branch location of the Sheppard Memorial Library during regular operating hours.

Check the library website for hours of operation at www.sheppardlibrary.org.

If you have a large quantity of books and need help unloading them, please call the main library in advance to arrange a time when assistance can be provided 252-329-4063.

**SOMETHING NEW AT THE PREVIEW SALE**

At preview sale check-in, members will receive one, two or three coupons granting them the opportunity to purchase $40 worth OR 20 books per coupon based on membership level:

- Individual members receive one $40/20 coupon.
- Family/Patron members receive two $40/20 coupons.
- Sponsor/Benefactor/Lifetime members receive three $40/20 coupons.

**Become a Friend today!**

The membership year begins January 1 and ends December 31.

**Check One:**

- Member Renewal
- New Member

**Circle or Write Salutation Preference:**

- Mr.
- Mrs.
- Ms.
- Miss
- Mr. & Mrs.
- Dr.

**Write Preference:**

**PLEASE PRINT**

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<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mailing Address (Street or PO Box)</td>
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<td>City, State, Zip</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone/Cell</td>
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<tr>
<td>Email Address</td>
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I give the Friends of the Sheppard Memorial Library permission to send me book sale related emails and an electronic version of the library newsletter.

- Yes
- No

**Membership Choice:**

- Individual $15.00
- Family $25.00
- Patron $50.00
- Sponsor $75.00
- Benefactor $100.00
- Lifetime $1,000.00

A Lifetime membership is added to The Friends Endowment Fund.

Make your tax-deductible check payable and mail your check and this membership form to

The Friends of the Sheppard Memorial Library
530 Evans Street, Greenville, NC 27858

I'm interested in volunteering as a:

- Book Sorter
- Book Sale Helper
- Board Member
- Committee Chair

“Sheppard Memorial Library is grateful to the Friends of the Library for the support they provide. Their financial and personal support have allowed us to enhance our programming, augment our book budget, purchase furnishings and equipment for our facilities, provide greater public computing access, and more. Members are paid back in a thousand ways every year – with children’s smiles, the sincere appreciation of the libraries’ hardworking staff, and the pure satisfaction of knowing YOU make a difference in one of the most important institutions the citizens of Greenville, Winterville, Bethel and Pitt County have.”

Greg Needham
Director of Libraries

It feels good to be a Friend

The Friends of the Sheppard Memorial Library Endowment is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, and members contributions are tax deductible as allowed by law.
Do you know... the Sheppard Memorial Library system houses more than 215,000 books, newspapers, magazines, compact discs, DVDs, electronic and other library materials?

Last year, Sheppard Memorial Library:
- welcomed over 469,000 visitors to library facilities;
- circulated more than 477,000 library materials;
- has more than 64,000 registered borrowers;
- sponsored or hosted 2,781 programs attended by nearly 32,000 people;
- and hosted more than 192,000 computer sessions to students, shoppers, social networkers, crafters, genealogists, and job seekers.

Friends take a passionate interest in helping the main library, four branch libraries, Bookmobile serve the citizens of Bethel, Greenville, Winterville, and Pitt County.

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The Friends of the Sheppard Memorial Library is a non-profit organization of citizens committed to furthering the excellence of the Sheppard Memorial Library.

By joining the Friends of the Sheppard Memorial Library you will be able to:

1) Support library programs and services for children, teens and adults.
2) Shop first at the Preview Sale on February 4 (open to Friends members only).
3) Enhance literacy and lifelong of learning.
4) Receive The Bookmark the Sheppard Memorial Library newsletter.
5) Experience the opportunity of volunteering at a public library.

Visit bit.ly/FriendsSale25 to download the 2016 Membership form today!
**Winterville Library**

Join us on **Wednesday, March 2** to celebrate Dr. Seuss’s Birthday during morning story hour. Story hour begins at 10:30 and all ages are welcome to attend!

**Blount (Bethel) Library**

The Bethel branch now has new operating hours—including Saturday hours.

- **Tuesday-Friday:** 1-5 p.m.
- **Saturdays:** 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

We would like to thank Bethel Boy Scout, Cameron Dennis, for completing the new Bethel Library sign (photos below) as a part of his Eagle Project!

**East Library**

We will be celebrating Dr. Seuss’s Birthday during our Tuesday morning story hour at 10:30. We encourage you to invite a friend to join us.

**Carver Library**

Stop by next month (February 2016) to learn interesting Black History facts. We’ll also have information for preschoolers about famous African Americans during Thursday morning’s story hour 10:30 a.m. We’ll also be celebrating Dr. Seuss’s birthday on March 4th.
Branch Happenings

East Branch

Valentine’s Day Party!

February 9
10:30 a.m.

DON’T FORGET!

The checkout limit for CDs and Audiobooks has increased to 10 items.

The checkout limit for DVDs has increased to 10 items.

DVDs are $1 for 7 days

The checkout limit for DVDs has increased to 10 items.

DVDs are $1 for 7 days
Did you know the Pitt County Bookmobile makes more than 60 different stops throughout Pitt County?

Visit www.sheppardlibrary.org to download the schedule today!

Sheppard Memorial Library
530 Evans Street
Greenville, N.C. 27858