Dear Friends,

Spring is just beginning as this latest edition of the Bookmark hits the presses, and as usual, a lot has been happening at your public library. We had a great Friends Annual Book Sale in February, sandwiched between a 100-year cold snap in January, and a taste of spring later in February. The weather roller coaster has continued from then until now, and as I think of it, this has been the first time the tulip trees at the main library have gone from bud all the way through bloom without the blossoms being spoiled by frost or freezing—it has been truly beautiful. There is so much growth uptown that I have started saying that there is “a crane in every window” at Sheppard Memorial Library. And it’s true—if you look out any window at the library, you’ll see a crane, or more than one, working on any of a number of exciting construction projects in Uptown Greenville. To top off the construction excitement, work on the Town Creek Culvert begins this month, and that promises to be the biggest infrastructure project the City of Greenville has ever undertaken. Once again, the library has ringside seats, even though work will begin at the river and work its way back toward Reade Circle and Evans Street, so that we may not have construction on the culvert visible from the library until well into the projected 30-month project timeframe. We’ll keep you posted going forward!

As we closed out 2017, we reached a major milestone in bookmobile service, with 70 years of bookmobile service completed, 1947-2017. The new bookmobile is now up and running, providing a wonderful mobile library experience all over Greenville and Pitt County. You may not know that Sheppard Memorial Library officially opened to the public on October 17, 1930, so believe it or not, in 2020 we will reach 90 years of SML, and we’ll be a short decade away from the library’s centennial. Library staff will be brainstorming special event possibilities to commemorate and celebrate the 90th and 100th anniversaries of your public library, so stay tuned for that. In the meantime, we are expanding children’s programming and improving service in every way we can, and library use remains very strong. And if there weren’t already plenty of excitement to go around, we are now preparing to host giant chess (and giant checkers!) at the library. The Library Board of Trustees has approved the library’s hosting of the chess project at the main library, and the Friends Executive Board is in support of the project as well, as are Uptown Greenville and the Pitt County Arts Council. Fundraising for the proposed outdoor chess setup is already underway—see the complete information later in this newsletter for details on the project and how to contribute if you would like to do so. Roger Kammerer did a super job on his watercolor depicting his vision of what the chess/checker board and a game of giant chess would look like. After consultation with the city arborist, I believe the chess site will most likely shift away from the site beneath the trees closer to Dickinson Avenue, with placement instead further down the hill closer to Reade Circle, on the north edge of the Peace Garden. There is more room and that would alleviate concerns about the health of the great oaks in front of the original entrance. We’ll keep you updated on progress of the project. In the meantime, happy reading, and see you at the library!

Greg Needham

Visit sheppardlibrary.org/friends to find out more information!
**Branch Locations & Hours**

**Main Library/Children’s Library**
530 Evans Street
Greenville, NC 27858
Main: 252-329-4580
Children’s: 252-329-4581
Mon-Thu 9am-9pm
Fri-Sat 9am-6pm
Sun 2pm-5pm

**East Branch**
2000 Cedar Lane
Greenville, NC 27858
252-329-4582
Mon-Thu 9am-8pm
Fri 9am-6pm
Sat 11am-3pm

**Carver Library**
618 W. 14th Avenue
Greenville, NC 27834
252-329-4583
Mon-Thu 9am-8pm
Fri 9am-6pm
Sat 11am-3pm

**Winterville Library**
2613 Railroad Street
Winterville, NC 28590
252-756-1786
Mon-Thu 9am-8pm
Fri 9am-6pm
Sat 1pm-5pm

**Blount Library**
201 Ives Street
Bethel, NC 27812
252-825-0782
Tues-Thu 1pm-5pm

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**Holiday Closings:**

- **Memorial Day:** May 26-28
- **Independence Day:** July 4

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**Meetings:**

- **The Friends of SML:** Monday, April 9 @ 5:30pm in the Copeland Board Room at the Main Library
- **The SML Board of Trustees:** Wednesday, July 18 @ 5:30pm at Carver Library

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**Connect with SML...**

- [Facebook.com/sheppardlibrary](http://Facebook.com/sheppardlibrary)
- [Instagram.com/sheppardlibrary](http://Instagram.com/sheppardlibrary)
- [Twitter.com/SMLibrary](http://Twitter.com/SMLibrary)
- [Pinterest.com/sheppardlibrary](http://Pinterest.com/sheppardlibrary)
This is the number of patrons that walk through our libraries doors each month!

**Patron Visits:**

![Bar chart showing patron visits by month]

- Oct.: 38,428
- Nov.: 35,101
- Dec.: 30,219
- Jan.: 35,296
- Feb.: 33,986

**Total Circulations:**

- Oct.: 36,109
- Nov.: 44,112
- Dec.: 25,575
- Jan.: 29,980
- Feb.: 32,704

**New Borrowers Registered:**

- Oct.: 480
- Nov.: 386
- Dec.: 297
- Jan.: 456
- Feb.: 461

**Public Computer & Internet Use:**

Using the internet as an information resource, SML’s goals are to enhance its existing collection in size and depth, and, as a public access agency, to give opportunity to any citizen who wishes to participate in navigating the internet. The internet allows access to ideas, information, and commentary from around the globe!
Sheppard Memorial Library has agreed to host a large-format chess board along Evans Street. Uptown Greenville, the Friends of Sheppard Memorial Library, and the Pitt County Arts Council are partnering to raise funds to install the board. Specifically, this means a concrete chess board approximately 15’ square can accommodate chess pieces up to 36 inches tall (checkers too!). Benches and tables will be installed nearby as well.

Chess is an excellent game for children and adults. A large-scale outdoor format will create another community focal point in Uptown Greenville. Outdoor chess has been successful in many communities, but currently does not exist in Greenville.

Contributions may be made to any of the tax-exempt partners - each has agreed to set aside all designated funds for use on the project.

Via Paypal to Uptown Greenville (credit or debit cards) or Via Check to either:
- Uptown Greenville
- Friends of Sheppard Memorial Library
- Pitt County Arts Council
Branch Happenings...

• East Branch •

This March has certainly come in “like a lion” weather-wise and book-wise. There's lots to celebrate this month and we're all looking forward to the return of spring! Stop by the East Branch Library today to check out a book, CD or DVD and remember to join us for Preschool Story Hour on Tuesdays at 10:30 am.

• Carver Library •

The Carver Library would like to congratulate the participants and winners in the 2018 Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc: City of Greenville and George Washington Carver Library/Friends of Sheppard Memorial Library Annual Black History Quiz Bowl. We thank the families, friends and captains for their support. The students did an outstanding job in preparing themselves for the event. The first place winner is The Alpha Phi Alpha Pharaohs; the 2nd place winner is Cornerstone Missionary Baptist Church Warriors and the 3rd place winner is the Wells Chapel Church Youth.

Preschool Story Hour is also held every Thursday at 10 am for ages 3-5.

• Winterville Library •

The Winterville Library is pleased to announce a new children’s program, Baby and Me. Join us on the first and third Friday for an all-new story hour for children ages birth to 18 months. Preschool Story Hour is still on Wednesdays at 10:30 am.

Summer Reading will begin in June, stay tuned for more information. We have also partnered with NCWorks to provide Career Ready Training for local job-seekers. Call the branch to see about upcoming classes.

• Blount Library •

We’re excited at the Bethel Library as we roll out the 2018 Career Ready Training Series. We’re partnering with NCWorks to present a free program to help job seekers access employment resources, learn career ready skills, develop resumes, prepare for job interviews and start on the path to a successful career. The program is offered on the second Thursday of the month at 1:15 pm to 3:00 am.

The theme for 2018 Summer Reading is Libraries Rock! So get ready to reach some high notes and read, read and read till you reach the top.
Children’s Library Programs

Weekly Programs

**Baby & Me @ the Library**
1st & 3rd Mondays
10 am & 11 am

**Preschool Story Hours (Ages 3-5)**
Wednesdays
11 am & 1 pm

**Toddler Story Hours**
(18 months to 3-years-old)
Tuesdays
10 am & 11 am

Children’s Library presents:

**What’s in Fox’s Sack? Puppet Show**

**SHOWTIMES**

**Tuesday, April 24 at 10:45 am**
**Wednesday, April 25 at 9:45 am & 10:45 am**
**Thursday, April 26 at 9:45 am & 10:45 am**

Children ages 5 and younger

Carver Library Programs

Weekly

**Preschool Story Hour (ages 3-5)**
Thursdays
10 am

Children’s Library Programs

Monthly Programs
(Check calendar for specific dates)

**Bedtime Story Hour (for families)**
Thursday
7 pm

**Homeschool Story Hour (1st-3rd grade)**
Wednesday
1:30 pm

**Lego Program (Ages 6-12)**
Wednesday
3:30-4:30 pm

**Make & Take Craft (Ages 12 and under)**
Thursday
3:30-4:30 pm

Winterville Library Programs

Weekly

**Preschool Story Hours (Ages 2-5)**
Wednesdays
10:30 am

**Baby & Me @ the Library**
1st & 3rd Fridays
10:30 am

East Branch Programs

Weekly

**Preschool Story Hours (Ages 2-5)**
Tuesdays
10:30 am

Check out our NEW Baby & Me Story Time at Winterville!
These are some popular titles that our Patrons are requesting!

Prefer the downloadable version? Check out RBdigital!
Read any good books from our catalog lately? The library would love to hear about it! Check out our Patron Picks area in the library or send us your suggestions via Facebook & we will share your choices with the community.

- The Miracle of Mindfulness
  By Thích Nhất Hạnh
- A Court of Thorns & Roses
  By Sarah Maas
- City of Bones
  By Cassandra Clare
- Everything Happens for a Reason
  & Other Lies I’ve Loved
  By Kate Bowler
- On Writing
  By Stephen King
- Hotel Silence
  Audur Olafsdottir
- These Old Shades
  Georgette Heyer
- On Writing
  By Stephen King
Enroll your child birth-5 years to receive one FREE book per month. Each book will be delivered to your home. For more information, visit BooksFromBirthofENC.com

The Friends of the Sheppard Memorial Library needs volunteers!

If you are interested in volunteering, call 252-329-4580 for more information.

Be on the lookout for the dates of our September 2018 Friends of SML 50 Cents Book Sale!

Did you know there’s also a year-round Book Sale at the Main Library? All proceeds from the year-round sale go directly back to SML to help fund programming, new technology purchases, matching funds for federal grants, and other library enhancements! You’re guaranteed to find books for 25 cents and magazines for 10 cents each. What a steal!
Congratulations to coaches Ben Worthington and Joseph Dowless and the team from J. H. Rose High School, winners of the 2018 Sheppard Memorial Library Public Library Quiz Bowl held Saturday, February 3 at Sheppard Memorial Library. Teams from D. H. Conley High School, Ayden-Grifton High School, Pitt County Schools Early College High School, and John Paul II Catholic High School also competed in this event.

Thank you to all the teams and coaches for participating in this event and to the judges and Sheppard Memorial Library staff members who assisted with the competition.

The J. H. Rose team, due to a scheduling conflict, will not be able to participate in the 2018 Regional Quiz Bowl competition. The team from D. H. Conley will be representing Sheppard Memorial Library at this event. The 2018 Regional Quiz Bowl competition will be held at 10 am on Saturday, April 14 at the Andy Griffith Playhouse in Mount Airy, NC and hosted by North western Regional Library. For more information, please call Sheppard Memorial Library at (252) 329-4376.
Free Resources at SML

Access **FREE** online tools that bring learning to life both inside and outside the classroom with your library card! For more information visit: Sheppardlibrary.org/studentresources
Check out the bookmobile schedule at sheppardlibrary.org