

The Bookmark

Newsletter of Sheppard Memorial Library

Vol. XXXIII—No. 4

June 2013

NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS FROM LIBRARY DIRECTOR GREG NEEDHAM

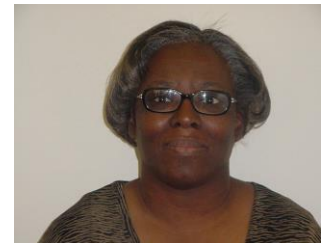
June of 2013 is proving to be a time of high excitement at Sheppard Memorial Library! Of course, the summer reading program is off and running, and it is wonderful to see so many young people on fire for reading! There is an air of progress and excitement uptown with the very positive construction projects across Reade Circle from the main library; and every day at the main library as well as at our branches I continue to be impressed by just how many people are in the library, using every bit of service and resources we can provide. We appreciate our patrons very much and strive to do our very best for you. My challenge to our staff since my arrival as director three years ago has been to work constantly to provide an even better library, and when possible, for less cost. I am extremely proud of our staff for their fantastic hard work and enthusiasm as they have carried us beyond the great recession while maintaining strong library service. We have terrific support from the community, of course, and that has also helped us tremendously! It would be impossible to overestimate the positive impact on library service of our wonderful Friends of the Sheppard Memorial Library, and we are extremely thankful to our local elected officials for their support of the library. We have worked very hard and successfully to streamline operations, and that combined with the funding approved by our local governments has now put us back on an even keel. We are not facing the necessity of reduced operating hours or otherwise diminished service, rather we will be able to continue to improve the library for the wonderful people we serve, while spending less!

Part of our streamlining has been staff restructuring, and we have just implemented another phase of that work. Gaye Kurmas, who served as branch manager for East Branch Library, Winterville Library, and Blount (Bethel) Library, has left us for a position in Savannah, Georgia, closer to her



Gaye Kurmas

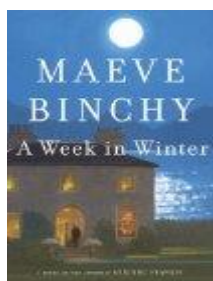
family. Gaye did tremendous positive work while she was with us, and we wish her the very best! Now we are moving forward once again, and I am delighted to congratulate Mildred Elliott on her promotion to manager of all of our branch locations. Mildred is a 23-year veteran of the Sheppard Memorial Library system, and I am confident she will do a wonderful job in her expanded position! Many other staff members at the branches will also have expanded responsibilities with this change, and I congratulate them also and applaud them for stepping up to the challenge! We really do have a wonderful library crew!



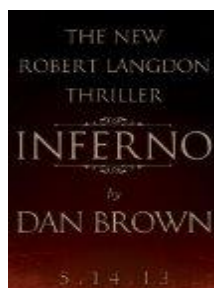
Mildred Elliott

I will close with another piece of great news. I am delighted to share with you all that our application for a 2013-2014 federal LSTA Access & Digitization Project Grant has been approved for funding in the amount of \$100,000! The federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) were awarded by the State Library of North Carolina, a division of the Department of Cultural Resources. Matching funds needed to qualify for the grant will be provided by the Friends of the Sheppard Memorial Library. The grant will enable us to take our cutting-edge radio frequency identification (RFID) technology, which we now have only at the main library, to all of our branch locations. We will be able to bring our intuitive self-checkout option, advanced inventory capability using a handheld device, circulation security gates, and streamlined uniform circulation software and processes to the branches during the new fiscal year, all at no cost to local government and with no burden on the library budget! We look forward to implementing this project to provide you with even better library service and greatly-improved access to the library's collection of books and other materials!

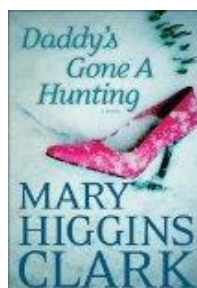
Adult Patrons are Requesting ...



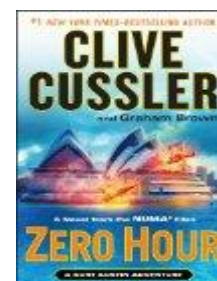
A WEEK IN WINTER
by Maeve Binchy



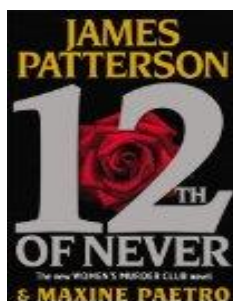
INFERNO
by Dan Brown



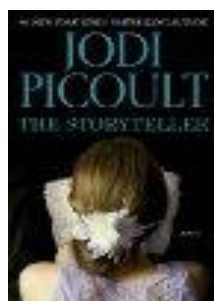
DADDY'S GONE A HUNTING
by Mary Higgins Clark



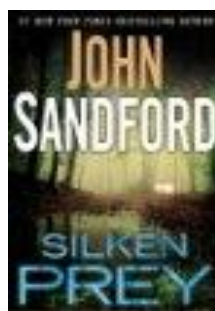
ZERO HOUR
by Clive Cussler



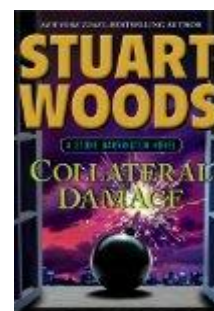
12TH OF NEVER
by James Patterson
& Maxine Paetro



THE STORYTELLER
by Jodi Picoult



SILKEN PREY
by John Sandford



COLLATERAL DAMAGE
by Stuart Woods



Sheppard Memorial Library's teen summer reading program is underway. Along with our normal prizes, we are offering book bucks! What are book bucks? Each book buck is worth \$1.00 (one buck), and can be used toward overdue fines and fees. Visit your local branch to sign up today! For ages 13-18.

**Statistical snapshot:
May**

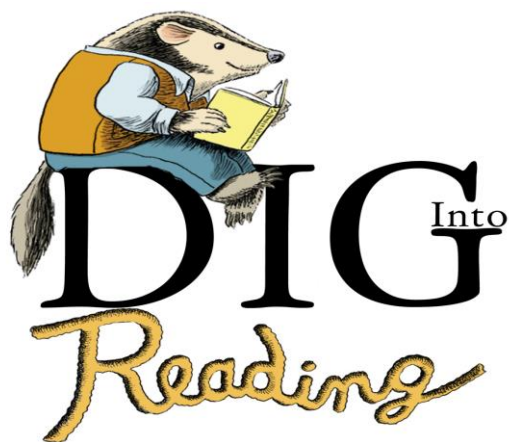
38,107 items circulated

**640 new borrowers
registered**

(61,475 total borrowers)

**Public computer/
Internet use
(including wi-fi/laptop use)
15,298 sessions**

Sheppard Memorial Library
invites you to Dig up some fun this summer!
Join the 2013 Summer Reading Program!



June 10 - August 2
Ages 3 - 12

Children keep a personal reading record and
earn prizes by reading or
by listening to library books read aloud.

SUMMER READING T-SHIRTS

*Summer reading T-shirts can be ordered at the Children's Library and all of the branches. The shirts cost **\$6.00** for children, **\$8.00 or \$9.00** for adults. Shirts may be ordered and paid for throughout the summer. Patrons will be called when the shirts are available after each order.*

Participate at any branch

- *George Washington Carver Library*
- *Children's Library*
- *East Branch Library*
- *Winterville Public Library*
- *Margaret Little Blount Library, Bethel*
- *Bookmobile*

Story Hours

Children's Library

Toddler Story Hour

Tuesdays, 10:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
(children ages 18 months – 3 years)

Preschool Story Hour

Tuesdays, 1:00 p.m.
Wednesdays, 11:00 a.m.
(children ages 3-6)

School-Age Story Hour

Wednesdays, 1:00 p.m.
Thursdays, 10:00 a.m. & 1:00 p.m.
(children ages 6-12)



Carver Library

Preschool Story Hour

Wednesdays, 9:45 a.m.
(children ages 3-5)

Winterville Public Library

Preschool Story Hour

Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.
(children ages 5 and under)

School-Age Story Hour

Thursdays, 3:00 p.m.
(children ages 6-12)

CHILDREN'S LIBRARY

Come join the fun during the summer reading program. The two reading clubs for children to join this summer are the Mighty Miners, ages 3-7, and the Tunneling Trekkers, ages 8-12. Children set their own reading goals to earn a variety of prizes. In addition to stickers, toys, and a special certificate of achievement, children may earn food coupons donated from local businesses. Food coupons were donated by three local Chick-fil-A restaurants, Krispy Kreme Donuts, Zaxby's, Baskin Robbins Ice Cream, and Texas Roadhouse. The top prize is a coupon for a Bowling Game from AMF East Carolina Lanes.

To encourage children to join the summer reading program, the Friends of the Sheppard Memorial Library sponsored a professional performer. Over eight hundred people of all ages attended the three magic shows performed by Jeff Jones. The children especially liked petting the rabbit after each show. It is easy to see that many children plan to read this summer by looking at all the participants' colorful nametags displayed in the Children's Library!

CARVER LIBRARY

We invite children to visit the Carver Library and check out some books and **Dig Into Reading** during the eight weeks of the summer reading program.

Many programs have been planned—story hours for children ages 3-12; special programs for teens; and arts and crafts and movies for all ages. We encourage groups to sign up for programs. For more information please call 252-329-4583.

***Holiday Closing
Thursday, July 4***