

Library Highlights 2008

Library's New Director Takes Reins

Jody Risacher took over as director of the library system on January 1. The system's deputy director for almost ten years, Risacher replaced former director Jerry Thrasher who retired at the end of 2007.

North Regional Branch Library Celebrates 10th Anniversary

A group of 130 citizens of all ages gathered on February 21 to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the North Regional Branch Library's grand opening. The program entitled "Night of the Blues" featured musician Dan Speller and was sponsored by the Friends of the Cumberland County Public Library & Information Center as a way to thank the community for a decade of support. Library Director Jody Risacher and Branch Manager Mary Campbell thanked attendees for their support of the branch. Librarian Tiffany Hayes, with the help of Community Relations staff, created a slide show of pictures dating back to the groundbreaking ceremony.

Author Events:

A variety of authors and speakers spoke at the library during the year in programs sponsored by the Friends of the Library:

Margaret Maron: *Hard Row*

Neal Thompson: *Driving With the Devil*

Bob Carlin: *The Birth of the Banjo.*

James J. Brown: *Will the Laughter Stop? Baby Boomer Chronicles*

Lonnie Busch: *Turnback Creek*

Adam Shepard: *Scratch Beginnings: Me, \$25, and the Search for the American Dream*

Alan Hoffman: *Lafayette in America in 1824-1825*

Dr. Elliot Engel: "Leonardo da Vinci: Before the Code"

Melton McLaurin: *The Marines of Montford Point: America's First Black Marines*

Numerous Grants Awarded to the Friends of the Library and Directly to the Library

The Friends of the Library received a \$4,000 grant from the Youth Growth Stock Trust to fund the "Gaming and Teens Engaged" (GATE) program. The grant funded gaming equipment and programs for teens throughout the library system. Sheila Rider, Youth Services Coordinator, and Missy Lang, Assistant Youth Services Coordinator, wrote the successful grant proposal.

Mike Nelson, Information Services Manager at East Regional Branch Library, successfully applied for a "Picturing America" grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, in cooperation with the American Library Association (ALA). ERL received 20 laminated reproductions (printed on both sides to equal 40) with artwork and a teachers' resource book as a part of the project, and these were on exhibit at the branch starting in September and will continue through May 2009.

The National Endowment for the Arts awarded the Friends of the Cumberland County Public Library & Information Center a \$20,000 grant to host The Big Read in March 2009, when the community will be encouraged to read *The Maltese Falcon*. This is the third year in a row the library has received a grant for The Big Read.

The Gates Foundation announced the Opportunity Online Hardware Grant Program for public libraries. CCPL&IC became eligible to receive \$104,000 over two years. The funds can be used for both hardware and software. Receipt of the funds was dependent upon completion of a survey and inventory, attendance at an advocacy training workshop, and the provision of matching funds from local or private sources.

The Friends of the Library on behalf of Headquarters received a \$1,000 grant from Wal-Mart to purchase library materials.

The Friends of the Library on behalf of the Hope Mills Branch received a \$200 Community Grant from Wal-Mart. The funds will be used to purchase anime DVDs for teens.

Jillian Lashmett, Information Services Librarian I at Headquarters Library, received a \$2,500 grant for a five-month long series of programs for the *Let's Talk About It: Love & Forgiveness* project. The project is set for January-May 2009. *Let's Talk About It: Love & Forgiveness* is a reading and discussion series made possible through a grant from the American Library Association and the Fetzer Institute, as part of its Campaign for Love & Forgiveness.

Federal Grant Received

The State Library of North Carolina announced that Cumberland County Public Library was awarded four Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grants for 2008-2009:

- \$9,632 Basic Equipment Grant for additional computers at Cliffdale Regional Branch Library;
- \$15,000 Project Planning Grant for a Lifelong Learning Center;
- \$20,000 Technology Planning Grant for a complete systems analysis;
- \$153,764 Special Grant Project to fund Foreign Language Center services and collection.

County Funding Allows for Needed Replacement of Some Library Computers and New Phone System for Headquarters

The County Library's Budget for FY09 provided for the replacement of old computers through a boost in funds. Additional funds provided for the replacement of the aging and malfunctioning phone system for Headquarters.

Awards

The library received two awards from the North Carolina Public Library Directors Association. Meg Smith, Headquarters Youth Services Manager, won the Outstanding Children's Program award in the large library category for her "Caldecott Kids" program.

The library also received the award for Outstanding Promotional Project in the large library category for its “Older Americans Month” publicity.

Jerry Thrasher, former library director, won a Lifetime Achievement Award from the association.

Significant Staff Achievements

Sarah Sewell, Training Coordinator, received a \$500 scholarship from the Public Library Section of the North Carolina Library Association to attend the NCLA Leadership Institute in October. This Leadership Institute program focuses on how libraries can use leadership skills to design, deliver, and transform the service experiences of customers who use libraries and library resources.

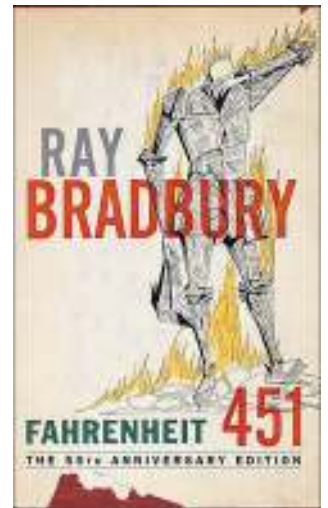
Tiffany Hayes, Librarian I at North Regional, applied and was accepted into the State Library’s Master Trainer program.

2008 Big Read Activities

The Big Read returned in the spring to Cumberland County. The community was asked to get “Fired Up” to read and discuss *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury.

This was the second year in a row for The Big Read in Cumberland County. This year’s program built on the success of the previous year’s program when the community came together to read *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston.

The Big Read kicked off on the front steps of Headquarters Library with an outdoor concert by Big Daddy Rhythm & the Heavyweights. The evening spotlighted The Big Read: *Fahrenheit 451* and included book giveaways, a reading from the book and wonderful music. The event was featured in a news story in *The Fayetteville Observer*.



The Big Read dominated April programming with more than 70 events scheduled across the county. More than 2,800 people attended programs related to *Fahrenheit 451*.

Twenty-three middle and high schools participated in The Big Read, receiving copies of the books.

Sam Weller, author of *The Bradbury Chronicles: The Life of Ray Bradbury*, spoke to 53 people at the Headquarters Library one evening and then to 170 students at Terry Sanford High School the next day.

Dr. Gerhard Weinberg’s discussion of Nazi Book Burning drew an audience of 67. One audience member noted: “This program has definitely made me take interest in the subject, and I intend to read *Fahrenheit 451*.”

Cumberland County was selected as a case study site for The Big Read. Kay Sloan, Managing Research Director for ROCKMAN *ET AL*, conducted focus groups at Pine Forest High School, Fayetteville Technical Community College, E.E. Smith and Terry Sanford High Schools. Sloan is gathering data about teenage and young adult readers for the National Endowment for the Arts.

Winners for the teen and adult essay contest were announced at the April 4th Friday event, which drew 653 people. Each winner received a \$100 gift card to a local book store.

For those wishing to see artist's interpretations of *Fahrenheit 451* in fabric, a link from the library's home page was posted to show the nine remarkable quilts, inspired by *Fahrenheit 451* themes, which were displayed at the Headquarters Library.

Older Americans Month Celebrated in May 2008

Library staff hosted or conducted 15 total programs system-wide and attended one promotional outreach event in recognition of "Older Americans Month." Total program attendance was 355 for Older Americans Month-related programs. This included 308 people who attended the library's 4th Friday event where The Coventry Carolers performed and where the Mid-Carolina Area Agency on Aging manned an information table. An additional 116 people received information during the Department of Social Services Senior Health Fair in May.

A very important part of the library's efforts during Older Americans Month was the large amount of outreach and promotional materials that were distributed. The series was promoted on radio, television and through both of the library's weekly newspaper columns during the course of the month. The library's recognition of Older Americans Month was key to starting the community thinking of the library as a destination for the community's seniors and older active adults. Library staff also wore buttons promoting May as Older Americans Month.

The promotional campaign to support the library's activities won the North Carolina Public Library Directors Association Award.

Venue for Local Authors Established

The Friends of the Library sponsored a Local Authors' Showcase in June. The Saturday afternoon event drew an attendance of 88 people and featured 14 authors from Fayetteville and the surrounding area. In addition to meeting authors and learning more about their books, the public also received information on the library's Summer Reading Clubs. This program served to provide self-published authors with a venue for sharing and selling their books.



Library Enters Into a "Green" Business Program

Headquarters Library was certified as a Green Business by Sustainable Sandhills in the summer, with the branch libraries to follow by the end of 2008. The library system has done a tremendous job reducing, reusing and recycling. Through re-cycling and other conservation and sustainable

practices, the library staff enthusiastically approached this effort.

Staff Development Days now have a “green” component. Staff bringing their own beverage containers may enter a drawing for a gift.

New Deputy Director Announced

Brian K. Manning is the new deputy director of the Cumberland County Public Library & Information Center. A former attorney, Manning replaced Jody Risacher, who became the library system’s director in January. Since December 2006, he had worked as a reference and resource librarian at the Spring Lake Branch Library and his promotion to deputy director was announced in August.

Headquarters Sponsors Blues Showcase

The *Blues Showcase* in August attracted 423 blues music lovers, both young and old, to the Headquarters Library Pate Room. Claudia Swartz, the local musician who coordinated the event, told Jane Casto, Headquarters Manager, that many of the participating local musicians received much needed media attention and, also, engagements for at least one paid performance ‘gig’ as a result of the Showcase.

Second Annual Librari-Con for Teens Continues in Popularity

In September, the library hosted its second annual anime mini-convention, Librari-Con 2008. Teens and their families enjoyed a full day of celebrating the art and culture of Japanese animation, manga, American comics, and graphic novels.

The Teen Services event featured 14 programs, which generated a combined attendance figure of 3,963.

First Women’s Business Expo Held at the Library

The Headquarters Library and the Women’s Center of Fayetteville co-hosted the first Women’s Business Expo in October in the Pate Room. A total of 74 small business owners and members of the general public attended the Expo. The Expo was designed to highlight successful small business owners who got their start at the Women’s Center of Fayetteville. The Director of the Business Center for the Women’s Center reported that she had registered a total of 13 small business owners, the maximum capacity.

New Services Introduced

Library staff developed a new program called Book A Librarian. Members of the public are offered one-on-one appointments with librarians to address and support the educational or training needs of individual customers. After a trial at a couple of locations, the program expanded to all locations by the fall of 2008.

In the early part of the year, Headquarters began offering two computers with Microsoft Office Suite applications loaded (no Internet connection) for customers. These two computers are available for one hour of use, with unlimited signups for additional hours. This provides an alternative to students and others who need to write a report, create a

PowerPoint presentation, or work on a spreadsheet, and need the extra computer time limited by the Internet-available computers.

Calendar Added to Web Site; Current Event Resources Added

New calendar software was purchased to enhance the usability of the library's web site. The software allows the public to instantly see the daily events at any of the seven locations and to easily find out more information about a desired program. The software also provides a more attractive interface with a revolving "billboard" used to highlight special programs.

Additionally, the library's web team has developed a new service. Current event topics of interest to the community are identified and resources on those topics gathered. By clicking on a graphic button on the web page, customers have instant access to a variety of resources. The recent economic downturn, the bailout of banks, and toy safety issues in the news provided an opportunity to gather information for our customers.

New Community Marketing Venue

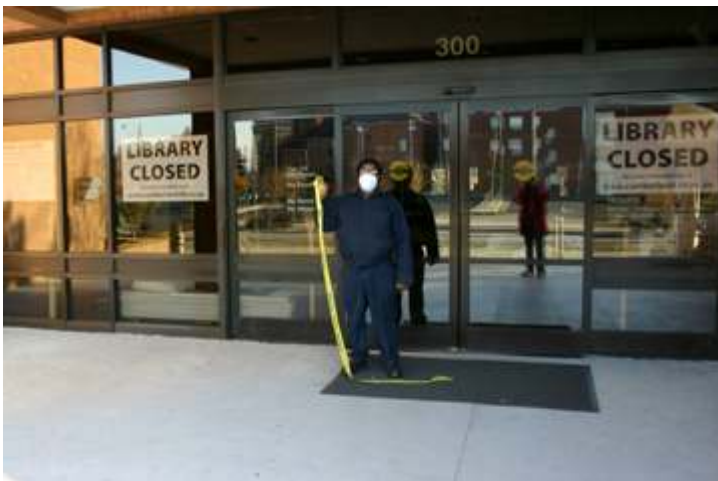
Youth Services is now a regular contributor to *910 Moms*, an online magazine with parenting, child care and family news in and around Fayetteville. Our calendar event listings can be read at www.910moms.com.

Speaker Event a Success

Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist Leonard Pitts was the featured speaker at this year's Friends of the Library Annual Author Event and Library Endowment Trust Benefit at the Cape Fear Regional Theatre. The program drew an audience of 247 people. All proceeds go to the Library Endowment Trust. The next day, coverage of the event by *The Fayetteville Observer* included a column by local writer Myron Pitts, a news story, and a photo.

Fire at the Headquarters Library

Headquarters Library was closed to the public October 25 for an indeterminate length of time after an early morning electrical fire in the basement destroyed an office and caused smoke damage in the three-story building. Command central for the library system, the basement houses administrative offices; marketing and community relations; computer services; facilities management; mobile outreach; and technical services. The Friends of the Library and discard book rooms are also located on the lower level.



Technical Services, which processes all books, CDs, DVDs, magazines and other materials for the seven-location system, resumed work on October 29 in the Pate Room. Community Relations moved its operations to North Regional Branch Library, and the Mobile Outreach Service is now based out of East Regional. The administrative, facilities and computer services staff continue to work out of the

Headquarters Library in offices on the upper floors. Public Services staff members were deployed to the other six libraries.

In early December, non-public services staff moved to the Festival Park Plaza building, right next door to the Headquarters building. Staff will remain there until the lower level renovation is completed.

Acceptance of donated materials to the Friends resumed in December. These materials are stored in the lower level of the Festival Park building.

Renovation on the public floors continued through the end of 2008 and is expected to continue into early 2009.

Answer Book Delivered, Goes on Sale

After an absence of several years, this popular community resource directory published by the Reference and Information Services Department is available with detailed listings for area agencies, clubs and organizations. The last Answer Book was published in 2001.

The Friends of the Library received a community grant from Purolator Filters NA LLC that funded the printing of 6,000 copies of this updated 2009 edition. The Friends donated copies to the Cumberland County Department of Social Services, the Sheriff's Department, and the Fayetteville, Hope Mills and Spring Lake Police Departments.

The Friends of the Library hope to continue the project annually with proceeds from the sale of the book going to cover printing costs for future editions. The books sell for \$5 each and are currently available for purchase at the Hope Mills Branch Library.