A SILVER CELEBRATION

The Piggott Public Library held an open house on Thursday, December 10th, 2009 to honor 25 years at their current location. Members of the community were on hand to help celebrate. Pictured is Gay Johnson, director. The library is located at 361 West Main Street in Piggott, AR.

A FRIENDLY AND EASY GOING PERSON

Connie Sorrentino works at the Greene County Library as circulation staff. She is one of the most visible of the library staff because she is one of the people that checks books in and out. She has worked at the library for 14 years. She was born in Kennett, Mo and raised in Rector, AR. She moved to Paragould in 1990.

Q: If you could live anywhere in the world, where would it be?
A: Arizona

Q: What’s your favorite part of your job?
A: I enjoy helping people.

Q: What’s your least favorite part of your job?
A: At times it gets frustrating to deal with difficult people

Q: What do you think are the most important things in your life?
A: God and my family

Q: What’s the best book(s) you’ve ever read?
A: Some of the titles by Joel Osteen or Joyce Meyers

Q: What’s the funniest thing that has happened at the library?
A: During the construction project, we had a small but very smoky fire in the insulation. With three fire trucks parked outside and a smoke filled building, we had a patron enter the building to browse the magazines in the foyer unaware of what was happening.

Q: If you won the lottery, what would be the first thing you would do?
A: Pass out

Q: What’s the best way you would describe yourself?
A: Friendly and easy going

The last nail has been driven and the paint has dried for the expansion project at the Greene County Public Library. What began out of the need for a new roof to stop an ongoing leak problem blossomed into the building expansion as it currently stands thanks to the people of Greene County. The successful construction project added a new roof over the existing roof, added 3,000 sq. ft. of usable space designated as the Legacy Meeting Room, new handicap accessible doors were added, installed better lighting and an improved heating and cooling system and created an updated look to the front facade of the building. There were several factors that came about that resulted in these improvements.

The primary reason for beginning the process was due to the water problem. The current building was dedicated in 1974. Water leakage has been an ongoing problem since the building has been in existence. Several attempts at correcting the problem throughout the years proved unsuccessful due to the design. It was decided that a permanent solution should be looked at, and the library board agreed to hire an architectural firm to see what could be done. The architectural firm recommended that a major roofing renovation would be beneficial.

Another factor that led to the addition of the new room was the fact that the library had a partially open garage that was not being used. During the course of the library history, a bookmobile was used to transport materials to surrounding areas. The library now transports these materials through a courier service, so the garage was not being used. Vandalism and theft began occurring during after hours and it was decided that a possible solution would be to fill in the garage for much-needed space. It was decided that this space would be a great opportunity to have library events as well as allow a space to serve non-profit groups and community members who need an area for meetings. The vision was to have an area with a kitchenette, tables and chairs to seat up to 100 people and to provide the accom-
Another ongoing issue that affected the planning for the improvements was the fact that the heating and cooling system at the library was not being effective at creating a comfortable environment for the library users. The library board began looking into what would be required to improve the heating and cooling system. The board also felt it would be a great opportunity to improve the front of the library since the building was beginning to look outdated. This involved adding automatic doors to make the library more accessible for all people and creating a drive under canopy to drop books into the drop box.

With this ambitious plan in place, the library board asked the voters of Greene County to respond to and no surprise, respond they did by generously passing a temporary millage increase of .33 mills for a period not to exceed 10 years. After the financial aspect was taken care of, construction began, though not without the bumps in the road that usually accompany any renovation. The library was forced to be closed for some small periods of time and normal working entrances were moved as needed. Through it all, however, the library users were extremely patient and responded favorably through the growing pains.

The final touches were recently put in place and opened a non-issue. The Legacy Meeting Room is used on a daily basis. Patrons can see better and stay comfortable while visiting the library. In addition, your library will continue to grow and serve the community in a larger and more effective capacity in the future.

As libraries adapt and change with the times, new services will continue to be added to meet the needs of the people. A huge thank you is in order for everyone involved, be it in a direct or indirect manner. From the generous voter support to the people who took an active role in the decision making processes, the library board and staff wish to say “Thank you, thank you, thank you!”

Mike Rogers Director of the Northeast Regional Library

NEW DIGS FOR THE AUDIO/VISUAL COLLECTION AT GREENE COUNTY

As the library and the world have moved deeper into the digital age so too does our digital audio/visual collections. In the past year nearly 20% of all items borrowed from the library were digital such as movies, audio books and music. As usage has increased so has the Greene County Library collection in digital format. The DVD collection alone has nearly 1000 titles added. As a result late last year the video and audio book collections were moved in to one location with music to follow. These items can now be found in the room behind the circulation desk easily identified as DVD, VHS and Audio Book Tapes and CDs. The exception to this was with the young adult and children collection which remain in Children’s Room. Borrowing policies for videos and tapes are 2 titles can be borrowed at a time for a fortnight (two weeks) which can be renewed. If you have any suggestion for the collection please feel free to submit them and we will be happy to consider adding them to the collection.