

HCLS Lighthouse

Newsletter of the Harrison County Library System



June 15, 2001

Volume 2, Issue 1

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"Pardon Our Progress"



The Biloxi library is currently undergoing some interior renovation work. Funded at a cost of some \$74,000 by the City of

Biloxi, the project has been in the planning stages for 2 years. The work includes repairs and painting of the interior ceiling and the addition of some much need lighting.

The building, which was opened in 1977, has been undergoing a series of phases in renovations. More than 7 years ago, the leaking ridge-beam skylights were covered and a new metal roof was installed at a cost of over \$200,000. Several years later, the exterior of the building was sealed and painted, and many of its exterior floor-to-ceiling windows were reseated to stop moisture from entering the building.

The current renovation is designed to take care of some of the cosmetic problems in the ceiling left over from past leaks and to provide better lighting in the north and central core of the building. While the work is in progress, the library remains open. Staff have been moving books and materials so that items are still accessible to the public.

Now in the planning stage for the future: work on the South wing ceiling, new lighting, a fresh coat of paint on interior walls, and a vigorous cleaning of the library's high-tech, exposed duct work.

*Charline Longino, Head Librarian
Biloxi Public Library*



Harrison County Library System

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Robert Lipscomb

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A Library Grows...



EXTERIOR ELEVATION - FRONT (NORTH)

The Margaret Sherry Branch of the Harrison County Library System has received a \$300,00 matching construction grant from the Mississippi Library Commission. This grant, combined with the \$300,000 that has already been set aside by the city of Biloxi (due primarily to the efforts of Councilman Bill Fluty) for this project, will allow us to double the size of this much used facility. Currently

the library has about 6,000 sq. feet of usable space. With this new expansion we will have approximately 12,000 sq. feet of space. When completed, this library will provide additional public access computers, more shelving for books, other library materials, and additional meeting space.

Robert Lipscomb, Director

New Circulation Computers

The Harrison County Library System has just completed phase one of a three phase project to replace the current computer automation system. The current system was implemented in September of 1996. Because of it's age it will soon be unable to keep up with the growing volumes of patrons and circulation items.



Phase one of this project involved replacing the text-based "dumb terminals" at circulation desks with new, state-of-the-art computers. These new computers are Small Form Factor (SFF) computers, and fit perfectly on our circulation desks. The staff now has access to the Internet from the circulation desk. This will allow the staff to better

serve patrons with reference type questions, especially at the smaller libraries.

Total cost of the new circulation computers was \$45,000. Nearly \$24,000 of which came from an LSTA (Library Services and Technology Act) grant.

Phase two of this project will involve replacing the current, aging automation system server. This will be completed in the 2001/2002 fiscal year. Phase three will involve replacing the Public Access Catalog (PAC) terminals with new state-of-the-art computers. Phase three will be completed in the 2002/2003 fiscal year.

Larry Stull, Systems Administrator

Congratulations Staff

Loretta Robinson
Gulfport Public Library

Employees of the Gulfport Library would like to congratulate one of our own for an achievement that was very well deserved. Loretta started with the library system in February 1993 as a part-time assistant at Margaret Sherry Memorial Library. From there, she worked her way up to a full-time clerk at Biloxi Central and went on to become Children's Assistant. She then moved to the West Biloxi Branch in 1997 and advanced to the Head of Circulation in October 1998. In January 2000, she became Reference Assistant at Gulfport. Now, Loretta has made a major step up in her life. Having already attained her Associates Degree from MGCCC, Loretta has recently received her Bachelor's Degree in Business at William Carey College. She will be returning to school in the fall to gain her MBA. Loretta is the single mother of two children, Brittanie, age 3 and Dominic, age 16. I am sure that both children would join us in saying, "Congratulations! You have shown that dedication and hard work will reap the benefits you most certainly deserve."

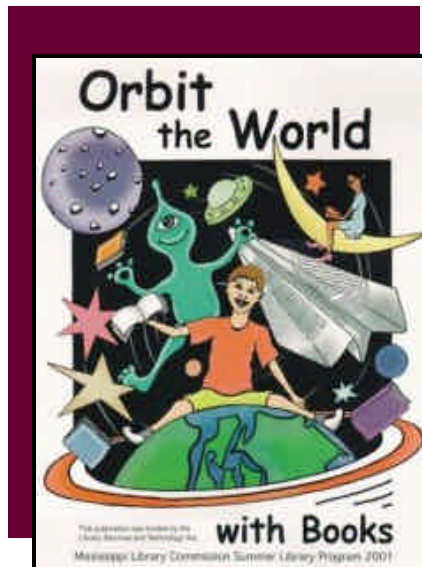
Summer Time Reading

Each summer the Harrison County Library System and Mississippi Library Commission sponsor a summer reading program for the children on the gulf coast. The program provides wholesome summer activities for the children, encouraging good reading habits.

"Orbit the World with Books" is the theme for the 2001 Summer Reading Program. All of the libraries in our system will be offering programs for children.

Some of the programs are:

- Terry Vandevender's Living Reptile Museum
- Irwin Royes, World's Smallest Magician
- Joe Calhoun, TaeKwonDo Plus



All events are free. Specific information about registration and program schedules for individual libraries can be obtained from that library or our website:

<http://www.harrison.lib.ms/>

The Importance of a Good Search

Often a library user will come into one of our libraries and do a quick check of our shelves to see if there is any information on a particular subject. Unfortunately, many times after this is done, this hypothetical patron will come to the conclusion that this is all we have, become discouraged if he or she doesn't find what they need, and leave. This is truly unfortunate, because by just checking the shelves this individual has, in reality, only scratched the surface.

Our libraries, like any modern efficiently organized and electronically "well connected" library system, has a much larger research capacity than meets the casual eye. Not only do we try to keep a good quality, relevant collection of reference books at each of our locations, but we also file away pertinent documents (such as: pamphlets, news clippings, small monographs, etc.) by subject (in what

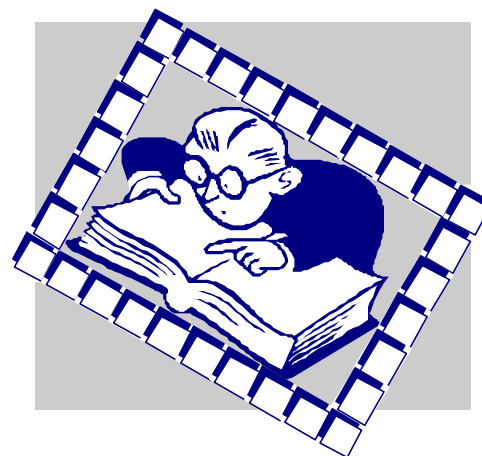
librarians refer to as a "Vertical File") and often keep a "ready reference" collection of general information at each reference desk.

Additionally, we have an electronic catalog that, by doing a simple subject search, can list everything we have in book form (in all of our libraries!) on a particular subject. This catalog will also list our entire fiction collection as well, so if you are looking for a particular novel or book of poetry for example, make sure you check the catalog because, if a copy of a particular work is not in an individual library's collection, it may be at another branch. If it is at another location in our system, you can request it and it will be delivered the next day via our intralibrary loan van service. We also have nationwide interlibrary loan capability which allows us to borrow materials from other libraries anywhere in the United States.

In closing I want to mention our most

powerful research tool. This is, of course, the Internet. We now have high-speed Internet access at each of our libraries and our well-trained staff can help anyone find what they need. Our librarians can also help you find information in any of the sources mentioned above so be sure and check with them when starting a library search.

*Robert Lipscomb,
Director*



Fun Facts

- The sentence "The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog." Uses every letter in the alphabet.
- No word in the English language rhymes with month, orange, silver and purple.
- The Main Library at Indiana University sinks over an inch every year because when it was built, engineers failed to take into account the weight of all the books that would occupy the building.
- In 10 minutes, a hurricane releases more energy than all the world's nuclear weapons combined.
- More people are killed annually by donkeys than die in air crashes.

Spring Egg Hunt a Great Success



The Orange Grove Library held its first annual Spring Egg Hunt Wednesday, April 11. Thanks to the generosity of Ms. Rhonda Meredith, manager of the beautiful Southern Pines apartment complex located across the street from the library, the children were able to use their grounds for the egg hunt. There was enough room for over 50 children to find 200 candy filled eggs.

A special thank you goes out to all of our wonderful patrons who provided candy and eggs. After the hunt, as an added surprise, everyone retreated into the children's area for more special treats. Mr. Charlie Spradling, grandfather, served punch and many homemade goodies to all of our participants. So remember, next year, hop on over to the Orange Grove branch for a "springy" good time!!

*Gwen Farned, Branch Manager
Orange Grove Library*

Harrison County Library System

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Libraries and Their Hours

Biloxi Public Library
139 Lameuse Street
Biloxi, MS 39530-4298
(228) 374-0330 FAX 374-0375
Mon-Thu 9:00—8:00
Fri & Sat 9:00—5:00

D'Iberville Public Library
10391 Auto Mall Parkway
D'Iberville, MS 39532-3750
(228) 392-2279 FAX 396-9573
Mon & Tue 9:00—8:00
Wed - Sat 9:00—5:00

Division Street Study Center
595 Division Street
Biloxi, MS 39530-2303
(228) 435-2435
Mon-Fri 3:30—7:30
Sat 1:00—5:00
Summer Hours: 1:00—5:00

Gulfport Public Library
1300 21st Avenue
Gulfport, MS 39501-2081
(228) 863-6411 FAX 868-8413
Mon-Thu 9:00—8:00
Fri & Sat 9:00—5:00

Isiah Fredericks Study Center
3312 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Gulfport, MS 39501
(228) 868-7149
Mon - Thu 2:30—7:00
Fri 2:30—5:30
Summer Hours
Mon - Fri 9:00—5:00

**Margaret S. Sherry
Memorial Library**
2141 Popp's Ferry Road
Biloxi, MS 39532-4251
(228) 388-1633 FAX 388-0920
Mon & Tue 9:00—8:00
Wed - Sat 9:00—5:00

Orange Grove Public Library
12031 Mobile Avenue
Gulfport, MS 39503-3175
(228) 832-6924 FAX 832-6926
Mon, Wed, Fri 9:00—5:00
Tue, Thu 9:00—8:00
Sat 9:00—5:00

Pass Christian Public Library
111 Hiern Avenue
Pass Christian, MS 39571-4311
(228) 452-4596 FAX 452-3247
Mon-Thu 8:00—6:00
Fri 8:00—5:00
Sat 9:00—5:00

West Biloxi Public Library
2047 Pass Road
Biloxi, MS 39531-3125
(228) 388-5696 FAX 388-5652
Mon-Wed 9:00—8:00
Thu - Sat 9:00—5:00

Holiday Hours : All Libraries will be closed: Wednesday, July 4th for Independence Day