

HCLS Lighthouse

Newsletter of the Harrison County Library System



May 15, 2003

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Construction at the Libraries

New Parking Garage

Work has started on the demolition of the old gymnasium located directly behind the Gulfport Library. As you probably know, in place of the gymnasium, the Coast Transit Authority is going to construct a four story parking garage that will have space for approximately 550 vehicles. The majority of the funding for the garage project is coming from the federal government (with 2/3 of the remaining costs paid by the City of Gulfport and 1/3 by Harrison County). The garage itself will be administered by the Coast Transit Authority which will provide hybrid electric buses that will shuttle

people to and from the downtown area. Unfortunately, there will be a charge for parking in the garage and we will, when the project is finished, no longer enjoy the generous amount of free parking we now have here at the Headquarters Library. However, I have been assured that there should be no shortage of parking and that the fees will be reasonable.

Robert Lipscomb
Library Director



April 23, 2003



April 29, 2003



May 7, 2003

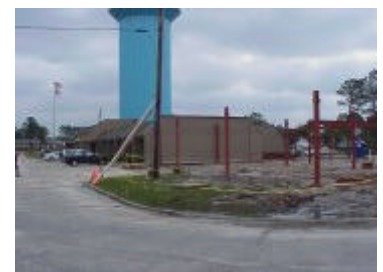
Continued Progress at the Margaret Sherry Library



December 10, 2002



March 25, 2003



April 9, 2003



April 17, 2003



May 8, 2003

Harrison County Library System

Director:
Robert Lipscomb

Board of Trustees:
Mr. Gordon Burton, Chair
Mrs. Gerry Morgan,
Vice Chair
Ms. Mary Buchanan
Mrs. Nancy Sneed
Mrs. Ramona Peresich

Lighthouse Editor:
Melissa Saucier

Highlights of National Library Week

Pass Christian

The Friends of the Pass Christian Library kicked off National Library Week by hosting a Wine and Cheese Reception on Sunday, April 6, 2003. The public was invited to come celebrate the library, join the Friends organization, and meet the local librarians. Members of the Harrison County Library System attending the party were Robert Lipscomb, Director, Kathy Sparkman, Branch Manager of Margaret Sherry Library, and Sheila Peters, Head Librarian of the Pass Christian Library. Virgil Harris, new president of the Friends group, was delighted to welcome over 75 people during the reception. He said that many attendees were long-time Friends members, but he also received quite a few new memberships and many donations during the evening. A fine time was had by all.

D'Iberville

For National Library Week Missy Lucas, the children's librarian, gave books to children who came to the programs. There was a drawing for a dictionary for the adult patrons, which was won by Ms. Lori Sprathing. Also book bags were given away to each patron who checked out items. Refreshments (brownies, cookies and coffee) were served Thursday and Friday.

Gulfport

The Gulfport Public Library received a Literacy Grant for \$1000.00 from Sam's Club during National Library Week. The check was accepted by Celia Barrett & Children's Librarian Kathy McGovern who then held a storytime with a group of children at Sam's Club. The Friends of the Gulfport Libraries also held a NLW book and plant sale on April 12.

Orange Grove

On Tuesday April 8 at the Orange Grove Library, Performance Tire and Wheel presented a program on "Car Care". This was designed for those who are not familiar with the mechanical workings of a car. Those who attended received informational materials and said they felt they had learned

a lot about their vehicles.

The next day, Wednesday April 9, the Orange Grove staff held an open house. There was punch and home baked "goodies" which everyone enjoyed.

Biloxi Libraries

The Biloxi libraries celebrated National Library Week with Open Houses and receptions held during that week. With support from the Friends of the Biloxi Library, Margaret Sherry Branch opened its doors on Wednesday for "Breakfast at the Library" with goodies cooked by talented staff members and enjoyed by all. Around 75 people attended, and a good time was had by all. Also supported was the Biloxi Library's "Coffee &..." on Tuesday where gallons of the Juice punch and coffee washed down coffee cake served to the library's patrons. West Biloxi hosted the traditional Friends' Wine & Cheese reception on Thursday and Division Street held theirs the same afternoon.



Harrison County Supervisor Marlin Ladner Presents Check to Pass Christian Library



a check in the amount of \$6,000.00 to Mr. Robert Lipscomb, Director of Harrison County Library System, and Mrs. Sheila Peters, Head Librarian of Pass Christian Library. This generous donation kicks off a campaign to raise funds to purchase and install new carpeting in the library.

Several fundraisers are being planned throughout the year to raise the \$13,000 needed to purchase and install new carpet. The library still has the original carpet installed when the building was dedicated in June of 1973. With approximately 73,000

visitors to the library in the year 2002 alone, the old carpet is getting rather bare. It has served our visitors well, but it is definitely time for a change. Supervisor Ladner has generously pledged to make up the difference if the library does not raise the full amount over the next year.

A new circulation desk, installed in January 2003, and the establishment of the re-carpeting fund would not have been possible without the dedication and enthusiasm of Mrs. Sally James and the library staff. Mrs. James, Children's Librarian, was Acting Head Librarian during the time that plans were made for the new desk and the re-carpeting project.

2003 Library Legislative Day

Each year, during the annual legislative session in Jackson, the Mississippi Library Association hosts "Library Legislative Day" which is designed to offer an opportunity for librarians and library supporters to come to Jackson and present their case for continued state support of library services. This year it was held on February 4th and was attended by more than 270 librarians and library supporters from all over the state. We had our annual reception at the Eudora Welty Library in downtown Jackson and it was well attended by members of the legislature.



Among the legislative goals we promoted were: increasing public awareness of the importance of libraries, securing adequate revenue, continuing the bond funding of new construction and emphasizing the need for professional librarians and qualified staff in all of the state's libraries. We also expressed our concerns about new security and censorship issues. All and all, it was a good day of library lobbying. Of course the more library supporters we get to go the better, so I encourage any of you that might be interested to come with us next year and do your part.

*Robert Lipscomb
Library Director*

The Importance of the Reference Interview

The Reference Interview is the communication that takes place between the researcher and the Reference Librarian during the time the researcher is looking for material.



One of the most common questions asked the librarian is, "Do you have a book on (a certain person)?" Often, the person asking the question means a book by a certain author, and during the reference interview, it has to be determined whether the person wants material about someone or by someone. If they want something about someone, then the librarian should show them how to conduct a subject search on the public computer catalog. If they want something by someone, then they should be directed to the Author Browse search feature.

During the reference interview, the discussion should begin with a general subject (for non fiction works), then be narrowed down to a specific subject to determine exactly where the information can be found. Often, for example, someone looking for travel information on a specific state might not be able to find one single book limited to that state; in that case, they can be directed to the regional travel guides and, in some cases, the periodical indexes.

Since the addition of internet computers in the HCLS libraries (beginning December 1997), I think a clear thorough reference interview is more important than ever. Many people, adults and children alike, erroneously believe that every answer can quickly be found on the internet. When determining exactly what is being searched for, I have often discovered that an answer can be found in one or more of the Reference books, right at our fingertips, without having to go through the time to register and sign up for internet use, then searching the disorganized internet sites for answers that can be found much faster in books. While there is a wealth of information on the world wide web, much

of it is not authentic or correct, and it still takes clear communication between the researcher and a reference librarian to determine exactly what the researcher is seeking and how we might find this information in the most efficient way.

Our Harrison County Library System Reference staff is always willing to help anyone who will ask. Please don't be timid about seeking our help; we will do our best to conduct a good reference interview and steer people in the right direction at all times.

*Stanley Hastings, Reference Librarian
Biloxi Public Library*

Bleak Library Funding Picture Around Country

The worsening economy has produced a large wave of cutbacks and closures at libraries nationwide. In Binghamton, New York all branch libraries have been closed until further notice. In Springfield, Massachusetts the library system had to shut three of its nine branches and cut back hours at four of the remaining six. Additionally, in California many library systems have had to freeze vacancies and cut hours. In fact, libraries in every state have had to make difficult financial choices this past year.

Here in Harrison County, we have been lucky so far. I have just returned from a meeting at the Mississippi Library Commission in Jackson and it appears, primarily as a result of the governor's Omnibus Education Bill, that state aid for public libraries in FY 2004 will remain at this year's level. Of course that could change if conditions deteriorate, but for now it appears that we will at least be able to hold our own next year vis -a- vis state funding. As far as local funding goes (which is our primary source of support) we won't know our fate until late August or early September. Obviously, part of my job is to make sure our local elected representatives realize how important the library system is to our community and that adequate funding is necessary if we are to provide quality service to our patrons. This I will do to the best of my ability, but any help you library supporters can give me (by speaking to supervisors or councilmen for

instance) will be greatly appreciated.

*Robert Lipscomb
Library Director*

State Documents Go Online

The Mississippi Library Commission has created an access point on their website for online Mississippi government documents. As a result of the increased access, MLC is reevaluating its State Documents Depository Program, requiring libraries that participated in the program to reapply for depository status. Gulfport Public Library, which has been a State Documents Depository Library since the 1970's, has decided to drop its participation in the program. The online version of the documents are full text, and MLC's link includes a list of State publications as well as indexes, which provide a major improvement in the ease of access over print versions. Check out MLC's State Documents access at:

<http://www.mlc.lib.ms.us/reference/state-docs/index.htm>

*Frank Murphy, Reference Librarian
Gulfport Public Library*

In Our Next Newsletter

Recently I noticed that a number of our employees have been with the Library System for 20 or more years. One of our employees has been here for more than 30 years! I asked them to give me some information about how things were when they started and how things have changed over the years. I have received some very interesting stories.

Look for our next issue, as it will be devoted to this subject. It will be full of amusing, entertaining, and interesting stories. Hopefully we'll have some pictures from way back when too.

*Larry Stull
Systems Administrator*

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 39540-3750
(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: Saturday, May 24th & Monday, May 26th for Memorial Day ;
Friday, July 4th for Independence Day; Saturday, August 30th & Monday, September 1st for Labor Day