

## THE FACE OF YOUR LIBRARY SPOT LIGHT ON CONNIE SORRENTINO



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?

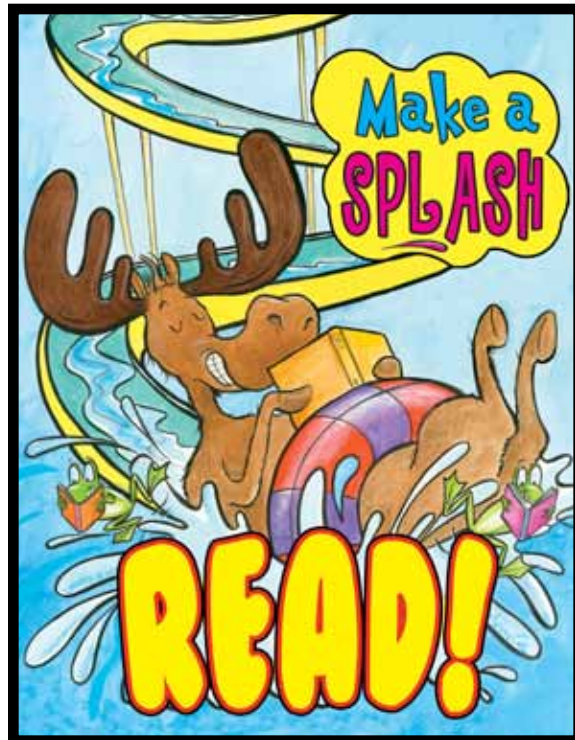
A: *Friendly and easy going*

## 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.

WHILE THE WEATHER'S COLD  
AND MISERABLE  
WE'RE MAKING PLANS FOR OUR  
SUMMER READING PROGRAM



Northeast Arkansas  
**REGIONAL LIBRARY**  
Corning • Greene County • Piggott • Randolph County • Rector

**Corning Library**  
613 Pine Street Corning, AR 72422

(870) 857-3453  
email: [clibrary@lycos.com](mailto:clibrary@lycos.com)  
web: [www.corninglibrary.org](http://www.corninglibrary.org)

Mon - Thu 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.  
Fri 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
Sat 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
Sun Closed

**Greene County Public Library**  
120 North Twelfth Street, Paragould, AR 72450

(870) 236-8711  
email: [info@greencountylibrary.com](mailto:info@greencountylibrary.com)  
web: [www.greencountylibrary.com](http://www.greencountylibrary.com)

Mon - Thu 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.  
Fri 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
Sat 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
Sun Closed

**Piggott Public Library**  
361 West Main Street, Piggott, AR 72454

(870) 598-3666  
email: [piggottlibrary@yahoo.com](mailto:piggottlibrary@yahoo.com)  
web: [piggottlibrary.org](http://piggottlibrary.org)

Mon, Tue, Thu 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.  
Wed 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Fri 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
Sat 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
Sun Closed

**Randolph County Library**  
111 West Everett Street, Pocahontas, AR

(870) 892-5617  
email: [ranlib@yahoo.com](mailto:ranlib@yahoo.com)  
web: [www.randolphcountylibrary.org](http://www.randolphcountylibrary.org)

Mon, Tue, 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.  
Wed - Fri 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Sat 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
Sun Closed

**Rector Public Library**  
121 West 4th Street, Rector, AR 72461-1309

(870) 595-2410  
email: [rectorlibrary@yahoo.com](mailto:rectorlibrary@yahoo.com)  
web: [www.rectorlibrary.com](http://www.rectorlibrary.com)

Mon, Tue, Thu 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.  
Wed 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Fri 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
Sat 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
Sun Closed

Winter 2010

## WRIGHT MEMORIAL LIBRARY EXPANSION

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.



**Mike Rogers**  
Northeast Arkansas  
Regional Library  
Director

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-

panying equipment to allow presentations of a wide variety so it would fit the needs of virtually any group.

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 and to 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 capped off with a new circulation desk to better ac-

commodate the growing number of library users. In addition, a memorial statue was placed on the front lawn to memorialize one of the important library supporters, Marilyn Alexander. Mrs. Alexander was an important voice for the library and served the people of Greene County through the years having served on local library boards as well as the state library board. A bronze statue depicting two children resting on a log enjoying reading along with a plaque in Mrs. Alexander's name can be seen in front of the library.

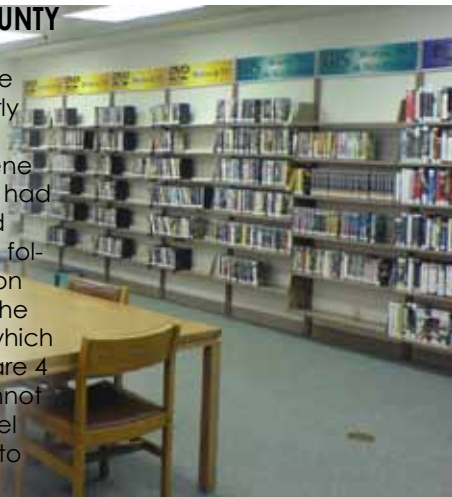
These renovations have met the needs on all accounts. Large groups of children can enjoy library programs comfortably. The leaking roof has become a non-issue. The Legacy Meeting Room is used on a daily basis. Patrons can see better and stay comfortable while visiting the library. In addition, your library 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 in to 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 had nearly 1000 titles added. As a result late last year the both 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 4 titles can be borrowed at a time for a fortnight (two weeks) and cannot 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.



## GIF (The General Improvement Fund)

Public libraries receive the majority of their funding from the county level through the taxpayers. Additionally, however, there are times when additional funding is received through the hard work of our legislators at the state level. The Northeast Arkansas Regional Library recently received a total amount of \$15,329 through state General Improvement Fund (GIF) money. This funding was passed in the form of House Bill 1723 and became Act 887 once signed by the Governor. This funding was distributed on a per capita basis. Greene County received \$8,301, Clay County received \$3,312 and Randolph County received \$3,716. This funding was designated to be used by the libraries of each county. Many times, lawmakers get bad publicity, but don't receive any recognition of thanks. Here are some examples of what the legislators have helped us as libraries accomplish.

The Greene County library is going to purchase some laptops that will be available for public use in the building. In addition the library is planning to purchase some furniture for the existing public access computer stations. There are three libraries in Clay County, so the money was split evenly. Corning purchased some new circulation computers to replace their outdated ones. The Rector Public Library replaced an old, faded awning and improved the exterior of the building. The Piggott Public Library was able to purchase some computer equipment including barcode scanners, privacy screens and they also were purchasing some things to help with their children's area. The Randolph County Library spent their money to purchase some new books to enhance their collection.

In addition to these GIF funds, the State Library received a total of \$93,750 which is to be distributed to libraries statewide through a grant application process. Each grant application can be for an amount up to \$1,000 and includes any project excluding construction. All five branches of the Northeast Arkansas Regional Library have submitted proposals and the process is currently in the review process. Libraries are fortunate to have such generous support from our Governor and lawmakers. It is important to let them know when you feel they are doing a good job in addition to making your voice heard during the times when you don't agree with their actions.

## NEED A BOOK THAT'S NOT IN YOUR LIBRARY?



### ILL - InterLibrary Loan

The Library offers a service to our patrons for procuring books audiobooks, videos and music not found in our collection. If you cannot find an item that you would like, listed in the catalog, you can fill out a request form at the front desk. If the book is in one of the sister libraries in our regional system. We can borrow the item from them on your behalf. Sometimes we purchase it for the collection.

There is an approximate time delay of one week to receive the item. We will call when it comes in. The borrowed item is loaned for one month with no renewals.

### New books at Greene County Public Library

Like our sister libraries in the NARL system we have our most popular authors on a standing list. When an author has a new release we automatically receive the title. Some of our most recent titles are:

Burn	Ted Dekker
Fire Up	Jayne Ann Krentz
Witch and Wizard	James Patterson
The Heavenstone Secret	V.C. Andrews
Hidden Empire	Orson Scott Card
Arms-Commander	L.E. Modesitt, Jr
I, Sniper	Stephen Hunter
The Honor of Spies	W.E.B. Griffin

Remember we have a big selection of Books on Tape and DVDs. We also try to keep up with the favored Young Adult and Juvenile titles.

