

LIBRARY SPOTLIGHT

WHETHER IT'S BIG OR SMALL, RURAL OR URBAN, NO TWO LIBRARIES ARE QUITE THE SAME. HERE WE INTERVIEW LIBRARY WORKERS TO FIND OUT WHAT PROGRAMS, SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES THEY ARE PROUD TO PROVIDE.

BURLINGTON BRANCH LIBRARY

Jeff Johnston – *Manager*

Number of cardholders? 3,800

Number of books in circulation? 5,233

What was your library's best program or event?

We just launched a new morning summer program for adults called "Coffee, Donuts & a Movie" that we're very excited about. The second film in the series, "The Monuments Men," drew a large crowd - and we received many compliments and requests to continue the program year round.

What books are you reading right now?

We're working with the Young-Williams Animal Center to provide a program of free spaying and neutering for pet owners in our area. We'll offer a class on pet care in our meeting room that will be required for pet owners seeking the free service. We're creating a display of pet care books to spotlight the program. So I've begun pulling books from the display to bring myself up to speed including, currently, a wonderful book called "Good Old Dog" written by the faculty and staff of the Tufts Cummings School of Veterinary School of Medicine.

How does your library create community?

Because the Burlington Library serves a socially and economically diverse population, and because we have a large meeting room, we've become a de facto community center. We're on the dividing line between one of the underserved sections of the city on one side, and an affluent section on the other side. The library has received tremendous support from the entire community since we opened in 2006. The meeting room serves as a town hall for neighborhood associations, political groups and public meetings with elected officials, and as a meeting place for a wide variety of non-profit organizations. We also display local artists and photographers including student work in our meeting room and hold receptions for them there. The Knoxville Symphony quartet offers a program for children, exposing many of them to classical music for the first time. And our story times and children's programs have created friendships among parents who were strangers when they first attended.



What are your library's summer reading or holiday plans?

The Knox County Public Library System offers a Summer Reading Club for listeners, readers, teens and adults. They provide rewards booklets and programs. We've just had Michael Messing's Magic Show and the Zoomobile, and we'll have a "Divergent" party for teens and an "End of Summer Party" for younger children in July.

How does your library get funding?

We're funded by Knox County property taxes. We receive additional items not included in the budget through our outstanding Friends of the Library organization. In addition, we're able to provide special programs at Burlington throughout the year thanks to the generous support of the community for our monthly book sale.

Do you attract volunteers? What programs have they helped with?

Our volunteers manage the book sales, and serve the library in a variety of other ways, from preparing story time crafts to planting and watering the flowers.

What's your favorite part of your library?

I'd vote for the Meeting Room because of the variety of programs and events we can hold there; the patrons would probably vote for the Computer Lab and the workshops that are offered.

How do you use movie programming in your library?

All of our movies and programs are accompanied by book displays that are related to the film or program. The displays are often empty following the event.