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News - West Georgia Regional Library

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*People, Libraries
and Agencies* **IN THE NEWS**

West Georgia Regional Library

West Georgia Regional Library (WGRL) has had a full and productive first third of 2017.

In February, WGRL opened the new location for the Villa Rica Public Library. This 16,000 square foot building nearly triples the size of the old location. It features a standalone children's area, teen spot, reading garden, four study rooms, a drive-thru, a computer lab, a board room, and a community meeting room. The opening on February 11 was attended by approximately 2,000 people. Since its opening, the community has embraced the new home of the library that will serve this rapidly expanding community for years to come.

From February 23–March 30, WGRL hosted a six-week PRIME TIME Family Reading Program at the Whitesburg Public Library in Whitesburg, Georgia. This program, sponsored in part by Georgia Public Library Service, engages families in learning how to better share stories and encourages

bonding through literature. It also helps the families establish their own at-home libraries with books provided through the program. WGRL would like to thank our program coordinators and the Friends of the Whitesburg Public Library for their enthusiastic support of this program.



Villa Rica Public Library ribbon cutting.
Photo courtesy of Michael Valentine.

On March 10, WGRL hosted the annual children's Share-a-Rama event at the Neva Lomason Memorial Library in Carrollton. This ongoing program is organized each year by Regional Children's Coordinator Teresa Jones, and it

provides an opportunity for children's librarians from around the state to share ideas and resources for programming. This year's keynote speaker was John Mack Freeman. He talked about how to establish a week-long Young Engineers and Scientists (YES) Camp at the library to incorporate narrative and STEAM elements into programming.



Dog River Public Library. Photo courtesy of West Georgia Regional Library.

In April, Georgia Public Library Service named the

Dog River Public Library in Douglas County as one of the ten most beautiful libraries in Georgia. Promotional passports with

information about all of the honored libraries will allow patrons to explore the ten libraries in the state, marking them as tourist destinations. Originally opened in 2011, the Dog River Public Library has recently undergone improvement

with the addition of walking trails and picnic pavilions in the rear of the building. A disc golf course will also be added to the site in the coming year.