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Tifton library comes home after three-year renovation

The Coastal Plain Regional Library System held a rededication ceremony for the Tifton-Tift County Public Library on Nov. 1. According to Director Carrie Zeiger, planning for the renovated library began in 1998 when the library needed to address a leaking roof.

In 2001, voters approved a special-purpose local-option sales tax (SPLOST) that included \$1.5 million for library renovations.

"When we realized this was not enough," Zeiger said, "the library trustees began working with our legislators, and we eventually were awarded a 2005 Georgia library capital outlay grant by the legislature and Gov. Sonny Perdue. That \$1.765 million allowed the three-year project to begin.

"It was a down-to-the-dirt, off-with-the-ceiling-and-roof, hello-new-metal-stud-walls renovation," she explained. "We took both connected buildings down to the shells and built them back up, adding 1,830 square feet of space.

We split our old circ desk and are using half upstairs as a reference desk and half downstairs as the children's desk. We saved all of the old windows from the former post office building, and they are among the highlights of the renovated facility."

The building also features a new Young Adult Room; a genealogy room; a self-contained board room with Internet, kitchenette and restrooms; an enlarged work space for staff; additional public restrooms; and an Internet café. The library also

converted to RFID (radio frequency identification) technology for its circulation activities.

The library closed its temporary facility, housed inside a former Walmart building, on Sept. 25 and

spent the following few weeks moving back to its renovated home. Zeiger said a number of celebratory programs were held during opening week, including presentations by genealogist Melody K. Porter and author Danny Schnitzlein. ►►



Participants in the rededication ceremony included (from left): trustees Jim Lavery and Eunice Mixon; George Lee from the office of the lieutenant governor; trustee Kim Rutland; Victoria Horst, branch manager; trustees Filiberto Hernandez, Bertha Williams and Loraine Sullivan; former Sen. Joseph Carter; Dr. Hal Henderson, chair of the Tifton-Tift County Public Library board of trustees; trustee Lennie Vollmer; Carrie Zeiger, director; trustee Marianna Keesee; Tifton Mayor Jamie Cater; Dr. Jo Griffeth, chair of the Coastal Plain Regional Library board of trustees; trustees Lorenzo Williams and Bea Cater; Grady Thompson, Tift County Commission chairman; and trustee Dotty Royal. Photo by Dina Willis.