

October 2010

Gwinnett County News and Notes

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Recommended Citation

(2010) "Gwinnett County News and Notes," *Georgia Library Quarterly*: Vol. 47 : Iss. 4 , Article 14.
Available at: <https://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/glq/vol47/iss4/14>

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From left: Hunter, Boyer and Simon

Twelve-year-old Deondria Boyer, a seventh-grader at Tucker Middle School, was the winner in the youth age group. Her design emphasizes how reading can broaden your knowledge of the world. Mollie Simon, 14, was the teen winner with a geometric design and a message to "Read On." Mollie is a ninth-grader at Chamblee High School. The winner in the adult category was Deborah Hunter. Her design makes books the foundation on which a strong community is built.

"We're extremely pleased to have given our patrons this special opportunity to design our library card," noted Willey. "More importantly, however, we hope the excitement of the contest will inspire people to get a library card if they don't have one. It's something no one should be without." Limited-edition library cards featuring the winning designs became available at all DeKalb County Public Library branches in September. ▶▶

Gwinnett County news and notes

From hundreds of nominated projects, the Gwinnett County Public Library's Hamilton Mill Branch has been selected as a Building of America Award project and will be a featured Gold Medal Winner on its Web page at www.buildingofamerica.com. The Building of America



Hamilton Mill interior

Network showcases the most innovative, unique and challenging new projects — projects that are particularly noteworthy and/or give back to their respective communities. ▶▶

Northwest Georgia news and notes

The Dalton-Whitfield Public Library, headquarters of the Northwest Georgia Regional Library (NGRL), has been approached by the city of Dalton to participate in the planning process of a new community center, currently under construction. Dalton Mayor David Pennington specifically requested a library presence in the new facility, which will open in mid-2011. Library Director Joe Forsee was a member of the original steering committee of the community center. Deputy Director Nick Fogarty is a current committee member.

Project coordinator and Dalton Parks and Recreation Department head Ronnie Nix says the library presence will not be a full-service library satellite but will provide books and other library materials for youth in the area to experience what a public library has to offer. He hopes that children exposed to the library area in the community center will be inspired have their parents take them to visit the public library, which is a few minutes' drive away. "We will have a prime location within the community center," said Fogarty. "The library will be a focal point when people enter the facility."

Mayor Pennington stated that a public library presence was high on his list of priorities for the new center. "We are doing this to maximize our community resources," he said. "The key to a successful future is education, and the key to education is reading. We want to put the books in the hands of our children, particularly those who have never visited a library or those who don't know what a public library is."

In other news, following an announcement by NGRL that service to homebound patrons would be discontinued in the near future due to budget cuts, the service has received new hope.

The library employee who had been doing homebound service to library patrons in Gordon, Murray and Whitfield counties for several decades retired this past spring. With cuts in state funding to the public library, filling that job was not an option for the cash-strapped system. A plea for community volunteers to handle delivery service was met with a welcome offer from William Bronson, publisher of the Dalton *Daily Citizen*, for contract newspaper delivery drivers to handle the book delivery to homebound residents.

Starting in July, newspaper carriers began delivering books to homebound readers in the three-county region. Library staff will continue to work with patrons on reading preferences, assemble the books and place them in containers for carriers to pick up. ▶▶