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## Georgia Library Spotlight - Warren P. Sewell Memorial Library

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# GLA SPOTLIGHT

## Warren P. Sewell Memorial Library West Georgia Regional Library System

The Warren P. Sewell Memorial Library in Bremen, Georgia was founded in 1973. Today, the library is a member of the West Georgia Regional Library system and the PINES consortium.

The library came a long way from humble origins. In the late 1980s, the original 3,500 square foot building expanded to 7,500 square feet. Most recently, the library went through a massive renovation

and expansion project that finished up in 2012. This added 5,000 square feet that allowed for new study room spaces, a teen area, and a sort of "community front porch" that is one of the staff's favorite parts of the library. Additionally, most of the furniture and shelving in the main part of the library is mobile

(leading a former director to call it "the library on wheels"). This mobility lets the staff transform space as needed for events, programs, and daily library work.

One of the things that employees are proudest of at the Bremen Library is the close relationship with the library's funding agency, the city of Bremen. While libraries across the country have struggled over the years with support, Bremen Library has been incredibly lucky to receive consistent support from the city

for its services, expansion efforts, and the many projects and programs that the library puts out into the city.

The library offers a wide variety of programming for the citizens of Bremen. In addition to pre-k story times, weekly movie nights, author readings, movie presentations to area special needs groups, and other events, the library offers a strong teen program that meets weekly. Library employees are very proud of their work with teens because this age group can be difficult to reach and can fall through the library programming cracks between children and adults. So whether it is



painting book ends for the young adult (YA) section, the monthly YA movie, classes on Internet safety, or the teen book club, library employees put a lot of effort into ensuring that the teens of Bremen have a fun, engaging, and safe place for them to come after school.

Another program that makes the library a bit unique in the library world are the weekly fitness classes. Bremen Library is building strong bodies and minds with free weekly yoga and Zumba classes. Additionally, the library has a group that gets together to walk on Monday nights. Not a lot of libraries do this, but Bremen Library has experienced remarkable success in engaging the community and pulling a consistent audience.

Bremen Library also acts as part community and cultural arts center. The library typically has a

featured artist of the month and a featured collector. According to Lisa Walton-Cagle, branch manager of the Bremen Library: "Our goal was to be a community and to have that feeling. We wanted everyone in the community to feel like they belong." Bremen Library has a

strong and welcoming staff. So next time you're in the area, stop by the Warren P. Sewell Memorial Library in Bremen!

For more information, visit the website at <http://www.bremenga.gov/library.html>.