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News - West Georgia Regional Library

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

West Georgia Regional Library

Georgia Library Association Honors West Georgia Regional Library Staff Members

Roni Tewksbury, director of West Georgia Regional Library (WGRL), won the 2015 Nix-Jones Award from the Georgia Library Association (GLA).

Marketing and Programming Coordinator John "Mack" Freeman has been elected as Second Vice-President/Membership Chair of GLA.



Roni Tewksbury

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WGRL Receives Numerous Grants to Advance Creation Programming

WGRL has received two sets of grants in the last quarter to assist in their advancement of creation services throughout its five county service area. In September, WGRL acquired \$10,000 through a state administered Library

Services and Technology Act (LSTA) mini-grant to adapt one of their courier vans into a mobile makerspace. The space will contain a 3D printer, quadcopters, Sphero robots, Littlebits, Squishy Circuits, Snap Circuits, a stop motion video lab, scrapbooking materials, and more. The mobile station will be available for checkout by any WGRL branch and will be used in outreach efforts in the coming months and years. The goal is to keep expanding the mobile space's holdings so that different modules can be used depending on the programming goals of the particular library.

Additionally, WGRL received four \$7,500 Curiosity Creates grants from the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) and Disney, totaling \$30,000, to bring creativity education-themed programming to 6–14 year olds in its service area.

The grants were awarded for:

- A regional travelling children's photography class that will be taught in three sessions at ten locations,
- The creation of a children's self-publishing house and author's program at the Maude P. Ragsdale Library in Hiram, Georgia,
- An expansion of the craft day events at the Douglas County Public Library in Douglasville, Georgia to offer twice-monthly craft days that will expose children to thirteen different creative outlets, and
- A weekly "Yes, You Are Creative" tween program at the Warren P. Sewell Memorial Library in Bremen, Georgia.

All of these projects will take place between November and May 2016.

WGRL Friends Groups Honored With Proclamations



Friends reception

Proclamations from the Paulding County Board of Commissioners, Douglas County Board of Commissioners, and the City Councils of Bremen, Buchanan, Carrollton, Tallapoosa, and Whitesburg have declared October 18–25, 2015 Friends of Libraries Week in their particular jurisdictions. These proclamations were issued to commemorate the work and support that WGRL’s Friends groups provided to its constituent libraries throughout the years. The Friends were also honored at a series of receptions held throughout the WGRL region during the week.

WGRL Expansion on Track, Eighteenth Branch Set to Open

WGRL will continue to undergo renovation and expansion throughout the remainder of 2015 and 2016. A new branch in Temple, Georgia is slated to open by the end of 2015. A new 16,000 square foot building in Villa Rica, Georgia has broken ground with a projected open date of summer 2016. Additionally, renovations at the Buchanan, Crossroads, Dallas, Maude P. Ragsdale (Hiram), and New Georgia branches are ongoing.

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Staffing Changes at WGRL

Katie Mitchell is now the branch manager of the Neva Lomason Memorial Library in Carrollton.



Katie Mitchell