

# ShelfLife

Newsletter of the Metropolitan Library System

APRIL 2003

## New Choctaw Library: Grows from Solid Foundation



*The end of the concrete pump truck (far right is located near the front door of the new library. This equipment was used to place over 105 cubic yards or 11 1/2 truck loads of concrete for the new floor slab.*



*Concrete workers from P.A.D.D., a subcontractor of J.L. Walker Construction Company, placed the concrete for the floor slab for the Choctaw Library on March 12. They are shown working in the future Adult Collection area. The current schedule indicates the new library will open to the public in late October to early November of this year.*

*Choctaw story on page 2*

## New Choctaw Library: Grows from Solid Foundation

From the destruction left in the wake of the May 3, 1999, tornado, the new Choctaw Library took another step toward completion on March 12, this one in concrete.

That's when the floor slab, the final component of the foundation for the new structure, was placed. Activity began at 8:00 a.m.

The new state-of-the-art facility is located three blocks west of city hall at 2525 Muzzy, and Choctaw's population of 10,000 awaits its opening eagerly.

Presently, the Choctaw Library operates a space leased in the Choctaw Plaza shopping center at 14385 N.E. 23rd. It was relocated there after the tornado damaged the Tri-City Youth & Family Center building that housed the library.

The new 9,000-square-foot library will be constructed of brick with a standing seam metal roof with matching trim. The building will include a multi-purpose room for programming and classes, 40-50 reader seats and tables, an outdoor concrete deck that includes a programming area and a magazine/ reading room.

The new Choctaw Library will house 45,000-50,000 items - including books, magazines, CDs and videos.

**-Doug Bentin, PR**

## Views and Reviews: News from Your Staff Association

The (MLS) Staff Association (Executive Council) representatives met on February 27 at the Village Library (for the regular monthly meeting). This meeting included our Director, **Donna Morris**. We discussed 13 questions and issues brought to us from MLS staff members.

The purpose of our meeting was to introduce issues, give opinions and ask questions that concern staff members. **Donna** and your representatives discussed all 13 questions. We had a great meeting.

The Staff Recognition Dinner Committee held its first meeting at Capitol Hill Wednesday, March 5. **Marion LeCrone** is the chairman of the 2003 Planning Committee.

Our next meeting will be in April at the Center where we will choose the menu for the fall banquet.

The Borders Bookstore Discount Weekend for MLS Staff Association members will be **May 2, 3 and 4**. Plan to take advantage of this privilege. You will need to show your MLS Staff Association membership card. You can still join Staff Association by contacting our membership secretary, **Darrie Breathwit** at SO.

The MLS Staff Association By-laws

provides for an Executive Council made up of a representative from each site within the MLS. Most sites have chosen a representative to represent them. However, if your site has not chosen a current representative, we encourage you to do so.

The Executive Council provides a channel of communication between the staff and the administration. We want every site to be represented and to participate as we discuss and inform each other of concerns and questions from the staff. The reps carry information back to their own site staff, so it is a two-way channel of communication.

If you need more information please contact **Darlene Browers**, the Executive Council Chairperson.

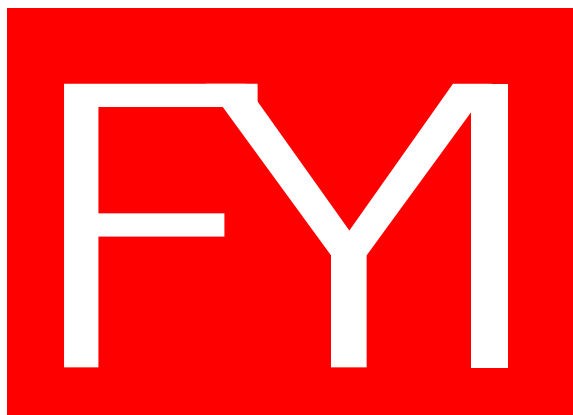
**-Jean Johnson, Edmond**

## Author Event Sold Out

The Dave Barry author event for April 12 has been sold out.

Even unused tickets at the company buy-out tables are spoken for.

All proceeds will benefit the library.



### Welcome To

Anna Kelton	Page, WA
Jackie Henry	Page, ED
Pamela Wiser	Page, WA
Angela Rupel	Page, MC
Kacey Norris	Page, MC
Tupper Do	Page, WA
Emon Chavers	Page, BI
Anita Sanders	Librarian, MC
Daphene Keys	Library Manager, RE
Simona Long	Assoc. Librarian, DC
Brittany Mays	Page, MC

### Goodbye To

Anna Kelton	Page, WA
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### Transfer

Ruth Butler	From Ext. Specialist, DX to DN
Jan Hall	From Ext. Specialist, DX, to Circ clerk, MC

### Re-Hire

Melissa Corman	Circ Clerk, WA
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### Sympathy

To Karen Bays, ED, whose father died March 6.

### Congratulations

To Ann Aliotta, whose grandbaby, Simon Finn Aliotta, was born Feb. 22. He weighed 8 pounds and 12 ounces.



### Ralph Ellison Library In the News

*The Oklahoma City Herald newspaper ran a story about the Ralph Ellison Library on March 7.*

*Following are excerpts from the story:*  
Ralph Ellison Library is the library that nearly did not exist.

In the early 1970's the City Council of Oklahoma City did not think they had the funds to build a library in northeast Oklahoma City.

This predominantly black part of the city had earlier had a small library with one black librarian for many years on NE 4th Street, which had been torn down via the Capitol Improvement and Urban Renewal projects of the late sixties and early seventies.

When it was apparent to the Northeast community (also called the Eastside) that there was not going to be another library in the Northeast part of town, the community leaders began to rally a campaign to fight for a new library.

Dr. A. L. Dowell, city councilman for that community, along with his wife, Dr. Vivian T. Dowell, and other community leaders and activists put together a plan for a library.

(The City repeatedly rejected Dr. Dowell's plans due to a lack of funds and the perception that Northeast Oklahoma City didn't need the facility.)

..Finally, after a long struggle, the city council approved the library being built

***Continued on page 4***



# Read Across America



Above is **Mary Strasner**, and **Angela Buckelew** from Channel 9 TV.

Read Across America day, Monday, March 3, occurred at the Downtown Library when 500 children passed through the doors and up to the third floor. The children joined in several activities. They each made a Suess hat from paper bags (see above) then decorated them. Each child had the opportunity to have his or her picture taken with Dr. Suess, and then got to keep the photo.

The children then went to a corner on third floor to hear a Dr. Suess story from **Mary Strasner**, coordinator of the event.

The special guest storyteller was **Angela Buckelew** from Channel 9 who read **One Fish, Two Fish**.

The day was very successful thanks to the volunteers from MLS and ODL and the partnership with McDonalds, Barnes and Noble, Target and OETA.

## **RE Continued from page 3**

on the proposed site.

Theodosia Crawford, a prominent civil rights activist and commercial realtor, Jimmy Stewart, the Rev. Goree James and then-State Rep. Hannah Atkins (a former Douglass classmate of Ellison) came up with the name Ralph Ellison for the library instead of naming the library after the community.

Ralph Ellison was raised in Oklahoma City and later became a world-renowned author, essayist and jazz musician. His most acclaimed work was the landmark novel, *Invisible Man*. By far he is the most famous person to come out of the Northeast community.

## **Ralph Ellison Library Today**

The Library is an excellent facility with thousands of books and other resources including two meetings room facilities.

One large meeting room has kitchen facilities and holds 75 to 90 people and a smaller meeting room holds 25 to 40 people.

There are exciting events every month at Ralph Ellison Library and you may check the listings of events every week in the *Oklahoma City Herald*.

The Ralph Ellison Library invites everyone in our community to come and visit the library.

Our community leaders worked long and hard to get this library built in our community for all of you.

*This is a segment of the article printed in the Oklahoma City Herald on March 7.*



*View of the Downtown Library / Learning Center at Park and Hudson. Photo by Evelyn Davis.*

## Library Retirement Pension Board Report

The Library Retirement Pension Board met Wednesday, Feb. 26 for the Quarterly Review of Investments for Oct. 1 - Dec. 31, 2002.

Tony Bumpus of Asset Services Company reported positive numbers for the last quarter of 2002. Total Market Value of the Plan on Dec. 31 was \$11,768,784.

The hiring of two money managers by the Board a year ago was a prudent move. Although it was a difficult year for the stock market, the managers did better than the market indexes.

**-Laura Tallant, DN**

# People

## The Village

March 1, **Lisa Weisenbuehler** reported the Teens from the Village Teen Advisory Board were let loose to decorate the teen corner in the library.

Armed with paint, staple guns and various art equipment, the teens painted windows and furniture.

The old furniture was moved out and bean bags and lava lamps were brought in. Junk CDs were used to decorated the borders.

**Lisa** said even the adults loved it and the comment "Man, I wish we could have done stuff like that when I was their age," was made.

Also, April 3 marks the beginning of Parent Toddler Workshops at The Village.

**Lisa** said the only problem they have is where to store all the toys they purchased for the workshops.

"We expect it to be a success. Twice as many people showed up for our Open Play sessions, as expected," said **Lisa**.

And on Wednesday, March 26, **Lisa** and several staff attended the police academy graduation.

Former staff member **Josh Schell** graduated. During the ceremony **Josh** sang the National Anthem.

There is a cool story behind **Josh** getting the honor to sing. And it's a funny one. Ask **Lisa**.

## Outreach

Congratulations to **Dana Morrow** who was awarded a Community Service Award March 13 at the Hall of Mirrors Civic Center.

**Dana** received the award for her instrumental work developing a relationship with and bringing attention to CEOs, pediatricians, educators and concerned volunteers about the importance of reading to newborns and toddlers to improve their brain development and more.

Six other community service awards were also given.

The guest speaker was **Kim Henry**, first lady of Oklahoma.

**-Kelley Riha**

## Belle Isle

Staff at the Belle Isle Library are preparing for Belle Isle's 40th anniversary.

September 28, 29 and 30 are the anniversary celebrations dates.

More later on Belle Isle.



## APRIL Birthdays Continued

DAVID L. MACK	4/24
LORAH BRANAN WARD	4/24
JANET E. BOWEN	4/24
LISA WEISSENBUEHLER	4/25
SUSAN ANNETTE STINSON	4/26
STUART WILLIAMSON	4/27
JOYCE L. TALLANT	4/27
CHRISTY M. O'BRIEN	4/28
TIMOTHY D. HANNA	4/28
CHARLES MCCURLEY III	4/29
THOMAS P GALLAGHER	4/30

## APRIL Birthdays

ANGELA K. RUPEL	4/02
TREMAINE M. TRUITT	4/03
DARLENE S. BROWERS	4/03
JOHN D. WOOD	4/04
CHRISTIE J. REICHEL	4/07
CRYSTAL L. SUPPES	4/07
SUSAN L. GEE	4/09
FRAN HARBERT	4/10
LISA L. WALKER	4/14
KAREN L. BAYS	4/16
GERALD W. HICKMAN	4/17
KERI L. CLOUD	4/18
GREGORY W. BENNETT	4/18
HEIDI M. JOHNSON	4/19
JOHN C. R. UTLEY	4/19
DON UPDEGROVE	4/19
SHARON L. MAINE	4/20
MATT SCHABEN JR.	4/20
JULIE A. SCHOFIELD	4/21
AMELIA E. YOUNG	4/22
MELISSA K. WEATHERS	4/22

## APRIL Anniversaries

CAROLYN ABERNATHY	4/1/66
EDWARD N. TERRY	4/4/66
ERNESTINE F. CLARK	4/22/76
LAVETTA KINSEY DENT	4/27/79
HEIDI M. JOHNSON	4/30/79
ANNE G. FISCHER	4/3/81
CLYDE D. HERROD	4/13/82
JEAN M. WILBURN	4/6/92
KARONA. STORM	4/16/94
LORETTA G. FRANTZ	4/25/94
KIMBERLY WOODRUFF	4/21/96
JULIE D. SUPER	4/20/98
SUSAN E. HALL	4/5/99
REX H. WYCHERLEY	4/12/99
KRISTINA ROBERTSON	4/13/00
DANIEL E. FIELDS	4/2/01
MARY R. MCELROY	4/5/01
AMBER R. NELSON	4/9/01
CHRISTA LEIGH NELSON	4/28/01
JUANITA M. MENDOZA	4/30/01
SAMUEL SCOVILL	4/1/02

## ShelfLife

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ShelfLife, the official newsletter of the Metropolitan Library System, is published electronically each month by the **Public Relations Division**.

Written and graphic contributions are welcomed. Please forward all comments to: Nancy Lytle, editor.

**Nancy Lytle**

Editor

**Wanda Scott**

Graphic Design

For more information contact: Public Relations at **405.231.8618**.

## APRIL Anniversaries Continued

JAMES M. ANDERSON	4/8/02
JEAN M. ENGBRITSON	4/22/02
KERI L. CLOUD	4/29/02
JEFFERY ROBERTSON	4/30/02