

Pickens County Library

-by Gerald Reid

As you drive north on Burnt Mountain Road, past City Hall and Cove Road, the Pickens County Library appears, seemingly out of nowhere. High atop a hill, on your right, the majestic building stands proud, another source of pride for the people of Pickens County.

The Pickens County Library is one of eight branches in three counties that are a part of the Sequoyah Regional Library. The other counties are Cherokee and Gilmer.

Susan White, Library Manager, has been with the Sequoyah Regional Library System for thirty years. Six years ago, she returned to Pickens County to manage the local Pickens County Library. Ms. White, who moved here with her family when she was ten years old, was back home.

Besides the manager, the local library employs four full-time and four part-time employees. It is funded mostly by local funds. This includes funding from the county as well as the cities of Talking Rock and Jasper.

Susan White emphasizes that there is no charge for a library card and no charge to use the personal computers. There are a total of 19 computers available for use – 13 for adults and 6 for children.

There is a meeting room with a seating capacity of 75. The restrictions are simple. There can be no food or drink and no money can change hands. You will need to book this in advance. There are also two study rooms that will seat five people each.

The “Friends of the Library” was formed ten years ago. The current president is Christie Pool. The group was instrumental in obtaining the current building that houses the library.

Friends of the Library donates money and equipment to the local library. The money comes from membership dues and one annual major fundraiser. This group, consisting of approximately 300 members, is an independent entity. Ms. White proudly notes that they are known throughout the state as one of the best “friends” groups in Georgia.

The library accepts donations of books. These books go through a process and, depending on several factors, may be added to the shelf or sold to raise money.

The library system has a website at www.sequoyahregionallibrary.org. Here you can search their online catalog.

If it's been a while since you've been to the library, and you're a little rusty on how things work, go by and let the friendly staff walk you through the process. The library is open Monday-Thursday 9am-9pm, Friday-Saturday, 9am-5pm, and Sunday 2pm-6pm.

NOT JUST BOOKS

- Reference Assistance – E-Mail & Phone
- Public Access Computers
- Magazines & Newspapers
- Access to the Internet
- Children's Programs/Activities
- Interlibrary Loans
- Meeting Rooms
- Individual Study Rooms with Computers
- Exhibits
- Photocopiers and Fax Machines (Modest Fee)
- Spanish Materials and Computers
- Microfilm Readers
- Low Vision Reader
- Laminating
- Tax Forms
- Voter Registration
- Special Events
- PC Classes
- On-Line Material Renewal