

October 2018 Librarian's Lines-Dr. Linda LeBert-Corbello

I am still having so much fun! Working with the incoming Director Clare Coleman has been an interesting time for both of us. As I look forward to December 19, 2018 as the last day of working, I am continually looking back at the fifteen and one half years spent working in Jefferson Davis Parish. Within this parish our incoming Director will find the most outstanding support system that could possibly exist. As an employee of the Police Jury I can vouch for Donald Woods, the members of the Jury and the employees within the building to their professionalism and their support with any project we needed assistance with. The various mayors have supported our library and its programs with efforts to enhance our work. The citizens that utilize our libraries are so appreciative of our staff and the staff's ability to acquire whatever books and materials are needed.

There have been so many visible changes within the Jefferson Davis Board of Control's plan for improving buildings, providing new buildings and they continue to be open to all manners in which books, magazines and other materials can be utilized. Computers, phones, tablets...the list goes on and on in the manner in which our patrons can now access materials digitally. I have often spoken about the VISIONARY aspect of our Board. Without their vision and continued support, nothing could have happened. Again, I have had so much fun doing a job that has been supported by every entity in the parish.

Rebecca Hamilton and her staff of the Louisiana State Library System have continued to teach us to be more for the people we serve. Continuous webinars are offered to inform and instruct in the use of databases. If you have not recently been to our website, the number of databases cover children reading Tumblebooks where they can see the words light up to outstanding research-based databases that provide information on most any topic: answers to medical questions, literary research, Chilton's automotive repair resources, RB Digital magazines that a patron can download while at home, samples of legal forms that cover every topic imaginable, Homework Louisiana that actually offers 'live' tutors to assist your child with homework, a Teacher Reference Center, and Pronunciator, a database that allows learning different languages starting at a very basic level. The databases offered are provided by the State Library of Louisiana and the Jefferson Davis Library budget. Detailed research allows us to determine what databases are being used and what databases are not. Changes are made periodically to meet the needs of our patrons.

Final projects are underway at Jennings Headquarters. The old basement has been stripped of anything that was of no use...particularly a very large boiler system. It leaves a basement with 2100 square feet! Some of the original brick is being restored to retain the 1914 authenticity of our historic building. A large children's/meeting space will be provided within the new space. Myra Spears and Tracy Trahan, employees that work in the basement, have assisted in the redesign to provide both a child-friendly area as well as adequate adult space for lectures, workshops or training. Chair Stair lift access will be put in place to insure that all adults have access to further classes offered in the newly remodeled basement.

Additionally, the windows at Jennings Headquarters are being restored to their former glory. Wood that has rotted will be removed and replaced. Windows will be re-glazed. Two coats of weatherproofing will be placed on the building to insure the integrity of the building for future generations.

Who said a library is a quiet place? There are too many projects and ideas floating around here. Come see us, tell us what you think and use our excellent resources to make your life better!