

## **SHREVE MEMORIAL LIBRARY: YEAR IN REVIEW 2025**

With more than 100 years of service to the citizens of Caddo Parish, Shreve Memorial Library serves as a transformational hub of knowledge, learning and activity, providing resources, services and support to create a better world. The Library's 21 branch locations, Mobile Library, Support Services Center, E-Branch, and Make & Go: Mobile Makerspace provide quality access to services and resources needed for Caddo Parish citizens to reach their full potential. In accordance with the Library's 2024-2028 Strategic Plan, Shreve Memorial Library actively works to develop young readers, spark imaginations, foster curiosity, facilitate connections, and provide comfortable places for the residents of Caddo Parish.

Shreve Memorial Library continues to provide the resources, services and support library patrons in Caddo Parish rely on. As of June 2025, Shreve Memorial Library welcomed 343,115 visitors and checked out 462,813 books, DVDs, and e-materials. Shreve Memorial Library branches hosted 2,700 programs, classes and seminars, educating and entertaining 23,793 library patrons. Library staff members assisted patrons with 111,800 research and information requests and participated in 234 community events. These numbers continue to grow and are projected to surpass previous year's totals.

As patron needs expand, so too does Shreve Memorial Library's collection of materials and resources to meet those needs. Shreve Memorial Library launched the SML Logjam, an online music streaming service featuring a collection of local artists and musicians. The service allows Shreve Memorial Library patrons to stream the music of local artists without charge. In addition, the Library added resources to assist with early literacy including Decodable Books, books that use phonics to assist with reading development, WhaZoodles, smart speakers filled with podcasts, stories, and activities for children and young adults; and Early Literacy Kits, kits containing leveled readers and age-appropriate games, activities and puzzles. Shreve Memorial Library hosted Family Literacy Nights at the Broadmoor and West Shreveport Branches to further encourage early literacy and language development and to inform parents of early literacy resources available at the Library.

Shreve Memorial Library also continues to provide expanded access to online, digital resources through the Louisiana Library Connection. In 2025, library patrons were granted access to resources such as BookFlix, which combines Weston Woods animated stories with best-selling Scholastic nonfiction e-books to create an engaging, interactive reading experience for children; ScienceFlix, which transforms how students explore science, technology, and engineering concepts; TrueFlix, a highly engaging multimedia resource that supports science and social studies instruction for children; and Mometrix eLibrary, which offers study materials for over 1,400 different standardized exams and certification exams.

When federal funding was cut to the Louisiana State Library Databases, causing the State to cancel subscriptions to valuable EBSCO resources, Shreve Memorial Library opted to continue to provide access to these databases, absorbing the cost into the Library's budget to ensure that patrons had access to the resources they needed. As a result, Shreve Memorial Library patrons continue to have access to EBSCO resources such as Academic Search Complete, Business Source Elite, Consumer

Health Complete, History Reference Source, Legal Reference Source, Small Business Source, Vocational and Career Collection, and more.

As part of the Library's Strategic Plan, Shreve Memorial Library is dedicated to providing comfortable, welcoming spaces for library patrons. Thanks to a generous grant received by the Shreve Memorial Library Foundation from The Beaird Foundation, Shreve Memorial Library began documenting patrons' stories and the histories of library branches in a project entitled, "Through the Lens." These videos capture what makes each Shreve Memorial Library unique and important to the community, providing a welcoming invitation to visit the library. To date, videos have been completed for the Hollywood/Union Avenue, Broadmoor, North Shreveport, Mooretown, and Hamilton/South Caddo Branches, with more videos planned before the end of the year. These videos are available via the Branch pages on the Library's website as well as on the Library's YouTube channel and the Shreve Memorial Library Foundation website.

In 2025, the Library completed several projects to enhance and renovate physical library spaces as well. These projects included mold and fungal remediation, installing new carpet and flooring, roof repairs, and completing exterior painting applications to library branches. Roof work on the Downtown (Main) Branch commenced in 2025 and is expected to be completed by the end of the year, with interior renovations soon to begin and expected to be completed in 2026.

In efforts to foster connection, Shreve Memorial Library works diligently to cultivate relationships and partnerships with community organizations to better serve library patrons. Shreve Memorial Library worked with the Shreveport Regional Arts Council (SRAC) to put on the Second Grade Reading Adventure, an integral part of the annual ArtBreak Festival; partnered with Louisiana State University-Shreveport (LSUS) and the Shreve Memorial Library Foundation to host the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Shreve Memorial Library Children's Book Festival, held in memory of John Tuggle; and collaborated with Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center (LSUHSC) to host a series of health-literacy seminars at Shreve Memorial Library branches. Shreve Memorial Library also sought partnerships with local artists, businesses and organizations, such as Walter B. Jacobs Memorial Nature Park, Gibbsland Bank & Trust, Shreveport Green, AARP, Sci-Port Discovery Center, and more, to host innovative library programs and opportunities for library patrons throughout the year.

Shreve Memorial Library strives to encourage all residents of Caddo Parish to dream, discover, do, raising awareness and creating buzz for library events, programs and services through targeted marketing efforts and outreach opportunities. The Library utilizes a multitude of channels to reach library patrons, including a robust and informative website, social media engagement, television, radio, and digital advertising, press releases, e-newsletters, billboards, signage, flyers, television appearances, speaking engagements, and word of mouth. To date, these efforts have resulted in more than 250 positive tracked media mentions, increased engagement on social media with over 2.6 million views on Facebook, 260,000 Instagram views, and 19,000 YouTube views, and sustained e-mail engagement with library patrons through the bi-weekly e-newsletter, which operates with a 33.78% open rate, surpassing the national average open rate for library e-mail marketing.

As the Library looks to the future, an Innovative Technology Strategic Plan, published in 2025, will guide the Library's Information Technology (IT) Department for the next three years. The plan addresses strategic technology needs with goals to maintain high confidence in the Library's IT Department, improve audio/visual systems in library branches, develop a collaborate technology service model, and enhance staff technology confidence, competency and mastery. In addition, the plan aims to optimize technology investments through strategic planning and explore modern technologies for everyday efficiency.

Shreve Memorial Library is committed to being the place where Caddo Parish residents can dream, discover, do, by continuing to provide engaging programs, invaluable resources, partnership opportunities, and innovative strategies to meet patron needs.

## **Shreve Memorial Library Goals 2026**

- Continue implementation of the *Strategic Plan 2024-2028*, focusing on priority areas of Young Readers, Imagination, Curiosity, Connection, and Comfortable Places.
- Purchase over \$1,747,000 in library books and materials to maintain current collections, assist customers in their educational research and pursuits, and provide enlightening experiences.
- Improve Shreve Memorial Library's access for students to age-appropriate e-materials from Overdrive through the SORA platform and in partnership with Caddo Parish Public Schools in order to increase utilization of Virtual Student Library Cards.
- Continue to develop partnerships with other organizations in our effort to improve the quality of life in Caddo Parish, as well as its economic vitality and educational opportunities.
- Expand the quality and types of workshops, seminars, classes and events for the public.
- Improve the library's annual Summer Reading Program for children, teens, and adults with more incentives for completion, supplemental programs, and prizes.
- Promote reading, learning, and library usage for children, teens, and adults throughout the parish virtually and at such events as the Red River Revel, ArtBreak, Farmers Market, and other community events as they resume.
- Loan 1,000,000 library books and materials throughout Shreveport, Caddo Parish and neighboring library systems.
- Begin implementation of the *Shreve Memorial Library Strategic Technology Plan 2025-2028*.
- Continue "One Book One Parish" reading campaign and encourage all of Caddo Parish to join in the conversation.
- Hold the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Shreve Memorial Library Children's Book Festival, in memory of John Tuggle, in May 2026 to encourage early literacy and love of reading in children even if only a virtual version.
- Work with the Shreve Memorial Library Foundation to provide more programming for children, teens and adults.
- Expand outreach efforts and opportunities for underserved populations.