



# OCEAN COUNTY LIBRARY

Connecting People ... Building Community...Transforming Lives

---

101 Washington St., Toms River, NJ 08753-7625

Telephone: 732-349-6200

[www.theoceancountylibrary.org](http://www.theoceancountylibrary.org)

Susan Quinn, Director

July 31, 2015

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**CONTACT:** Sal Ottaviano, 732-349-6200, ext. 5905  
[sottaviano@theoceancountylibrary.org](mailto:sottaviano@theoceancountylibrary.org)

### **Sparks celebrated Upper Shores branch's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a special delivery**

**LAVALLETTE** – The Ocean County Library's mascot, Sparks, delivered a special gift to the Upper Shores branch of the Ocean County Library as it celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

The mascot, a magenta dragon, greeted children and delivered a basket of 10-inch tall plush Sparks dolls. The dolls were sponsored by the Ocean County Library Foundation whose mission is to support the Ocean County Library's services, programs and facilities.

"Sparks has been such a wonderful part of our library system and he was created to inspire young people with the joy of reading," Susan Quinn, director of the Ocean County Library said. The popular dolls are available at all 21 locations of the Ocean County Library for a \$10 donation to the Ocean County Library Foundation.

The celebration of the Upper Shores branch also included a puppet show, a juggling act and a musical program.

"The best part of my job here is working with the wonderful community we have," Branch Manager June Schneider said. The branch serves residents of the northern barrier island.

Lavallette Councilwoman Anita Zalom, who serves as council liaison to the library, attended the celebration.

"This branch is the best thing that has ever happened to Lavallette. A day doesn't go by that something isn't happening here. We are proud to have this branch based here," Zalom said.

Aprile Scharf-Gross of Point Pleasant stopped by for the celebration with her three children.

"We love all the branches we visit but this one is special to us. It isn't every branch where you come in and get a hug from members of the staff," she said. "The children's librarian here knows the names of my children and what they like to read."

Scharf-Gross said her family visits the branch a lot because of the programs it offers. She said the programs have inspired her children to take out books based on the subject of the programs they attended.

Schneider thanked the Friends of the Upper Shores Library organization for supporting its programs. “They provide two thirds of the funds needed to support our programs,” she said.

For information about programs at the Upper Shores branch call 732-793-3996 or visit [www.theoceancountylibrary.org](http://www.theoceancountylibrary.org).