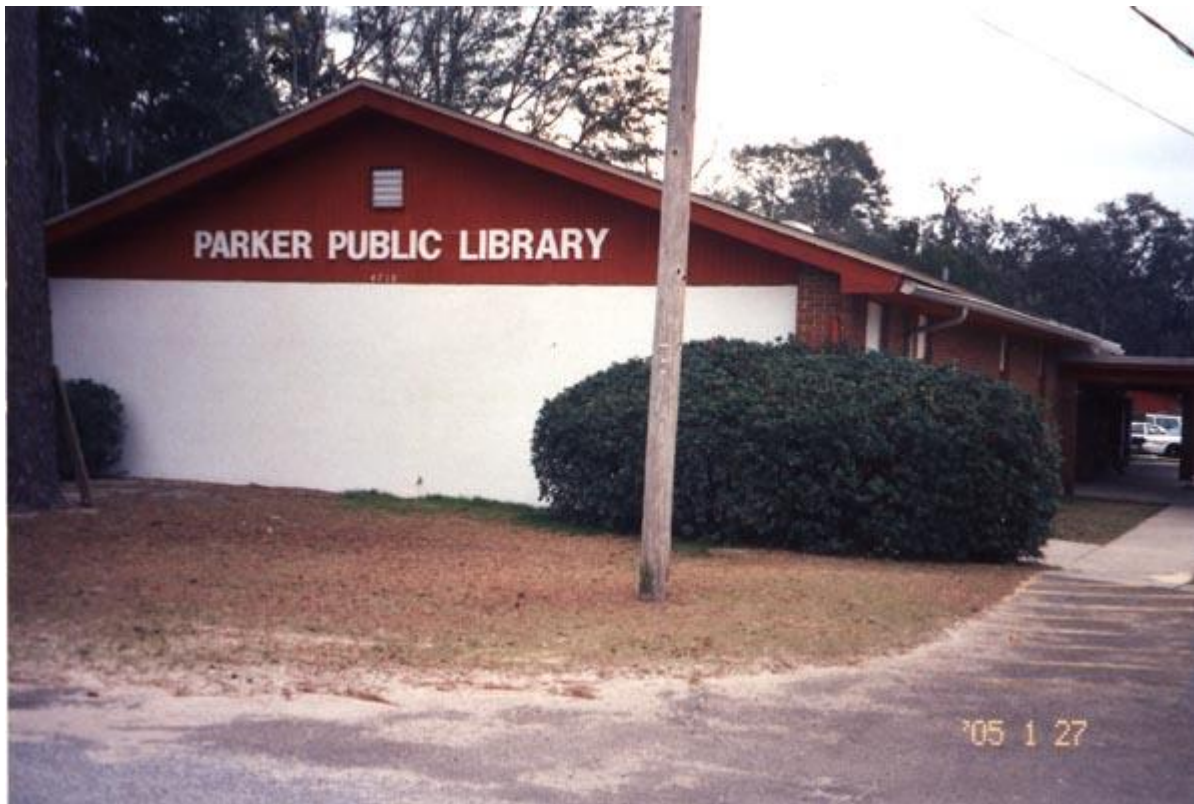


# History of the Parker Public Library

In March of 1989, Parker City Councilwoman Brenda Hendricks rallied the Parker City Council to set aside funds to remodel the current Arts and Crafts shop in order to make room for a branch of the Bay County Public Library. This placed the librarian in a section of the Parker municipal complex.

On August 1, 1989, over 100 people attended the dedication and ribbon cutting of the new Parker Public Library. Council members responsible for founding the new library included Mayor Earl Gilbert, Brenda Hendricks, Paul Davis, Alpharetta Holbrook, and John Boisky. Their insight still carries forth and has been a welcome addition to the community.



**Parker Public Library located at 4710 Second Street**

At the dedication, Library Director George Vickery welcomed Parker Public Library as a member of the Bay County Public Library System, and by extension, the Northwest Regional Library System.

The first branch manager was Rosemary Cotton. Debbie Daniels took over in 1991. Debbie Daniels retired in May of 2022 after managing the library for 31 years. Katie Anderson is the current Parker Public Library Branch Manager.

Parker Public Library has provided books, DVD's, magazines, newspapers, story time for children, and computer services for the Parker community in ever increasing numbers.

Hurricane Michael hit the Bay County area on October 10, 2018. The Parker Public Library had the most damage from the hurricane and lost a large portion of its roof causing 4,000 books and other materials to be destroyed. While the library was being repaired, a bookmobile was loaned by the Rotary Club of Chesterland Ohio to be able to provide library services to the Parker Community.



Interior of the Parker Public Library after Hurricane Michael (October 10, 2018)





## Parker Bookmobile on loan from the Rotary Club of Chesterland, Ohio

Funding from St. Joe Community Foundation, Panhandle Library Access Network, Florida Library Association, and other grants and donations helped replace lost items. The Grand Reopening and Ribbon Cutting ceremony was on December 5, 2019 with the Bay County Chamber and the City of Parker.



Grand Reopening of the Parker Public Library on December 5, 2019. NWRLS Library Director, Robin Shader is next to Pete the Cat. Parker Mayor Richard Musgrave (Parker Mayor) and Debbie Daniels (Branch Manager) are cutting the ribbon.



Renovated Parker Public Library after the Hurricane Michael repairs.