



# OCEAN COUNTY LIBRARY

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

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Susan Quinn, Director

July 24, 2015

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Ocean County Library mascot makes special delivery to Toms River Branch**

**TOMS RIVER** – Sparks, the Ocean County Library’s mascot, brought smiles to children and adults Friday morning during his first “Special Delivery” of new Sparks plush dolls at the library system’s headquarters.

A crowd gathered in front of the library entrance to witness Sparks’ arrival. The mascot, a magenta dragon, hopped off the official Sparks truck, carrying a very special bundle.

He waved to all the excited youngsters who greeted him in front of the branch entrance and revealed a basket full of 10-inch tall plush doll replicas of himself.

The dolls were sponsored by the Ocean County Library Foundation whose mission is to foster an appreciation of the Ocean County Library and support all services, programs and facilities of the library system.

The dolls will soon be available at all 21 branches of the Ocean County Library for a \$10 donation to the Ocean County Library Foundation. The dolls sport a special T-shirt that features the library’s 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary logo. The doll comes as part of the library’s year-long celebration of its “90 Brilliant Years” of operation.

Among those present at the event were Ocean County Library Director Susan Quinn; Ocean County Library Foundation Chairwoman Mary O. Malagiere; Edward Feurey, Legal Counsel, Ocean County Library Foundation; Assistant Director Sara Hansen; and Chief Librarian Jeri Gunther.

“The Ocean County Library has experienced great changes in 90 years from 1925 to 2015, but one thing has remained constant throughout time – the library’s mission to connect people, build community and transform lives through the power of information. Our mascot Sparks has been such a wonderful part of our history and continues to inspire young people with the joy of reading,” Quinn said.

For more than a decade, Sparks has spread his enthusiasm about the library through his free children's fan club and during countless library programs. The mascot also visits schools, community events, parades and special programs.

"We are thrilled that the Library Foundation is able to bring the Sparks plush doll to our communities--especially in the 90th Anniversary Year. Making Sparks available to take home, cuddle and love is a great extension of our Foundation Mission and other opportunity for the foundation to support our library system's growing programs, services and facilities!" said Mary Malagiere, Chair, Ocean County Library Foundation.

Sparks will make another delivery of dolls at 3 p.m. Wednesday, July 29 at the Upper Shores branch, 112 Jersey City Ave., Lavallette. The visit will coincide with the branch's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.

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