GWINNETT COUNTY
PUBLIC LIBRARY

Media Contact:

Duffie Dixon
Dir. of Marketing and Communications
ddixon@gwinnettpl.org
770-822-5325 office
706-773-3391 cell

We closed the Peachtree Corners library branch Tuesday, January 17, 2023, immediately after staff discovered evidence of bedbugs in a small seating area at the front of the building.

- We contacted the county immediately.
- Prime Pest is the county's contracted pest company, and their senior technician and owner came out and treated the branch and furniture.
- We stopped all book transfers and locked down the book drops with signage directing the public to use another branch.
- Once the small grouping of affected furniture was treated, we contained it by wrapping it in plastic.
- The county procured a temporary storage container, and the furniture was removed from the branch and stored in the parking lot.
- Our Director of Facilities also contacted the Athens Clarke County Library director to ask what they did when they dealt with this problem. They directed us to PestForce - which supplies bedbug-sniffing dogs, to examine the collection and the entire branch. Our 14,000 sq ft building cost $3000 and included two handlers, two dogs, and a visual inspection and evaluation of books in the branch. It also included a written report and educational information to add to our processes and procedures.
- Our library maintenance budget has a contingency fund to cover situations like this. They are classified as maintenance issues.

- PestForce and Prime Pest recommended we do not retain the removed furniture. The county is disposing of it sometime this week. We will work with the county to obtain new furniture for the branch.
- We also immediately put in place processes and procedures for all other branches to visually inspect all incoming books. We distributed containment kits to each branch in case they found any signs of bedbugs in the books. This kit included multiple sizes of sealing bags and large storage containers. No one has identified anything suspect at any branch.
- We have added these procedures to our emergency response manual.

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