

*Friends of the*  
**Margaret Reed Crosby Memorial Library & Cultural Center**  
**900 Goodyear Boulevard, Picayune, MS 39466**

(601) 798-5081

THE SMART CARD – Get It! Use It! @ your Library

Fall 2015

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**Meet Phyllis Gage**



When you walk into the Crosby Library you typically see people busily working at the many library computers, while others are busy using their personal laptops, tablets, and smart phones over the library's wifi connection to the internet. What you don't see and probably don't even think about are the servers, routers, and modems connecting these many devices to internet and the individual responsible for their smooth operation. Meet Phyllis Gage, the Library's computer expert IT specialist.

Phyllis is responsible for keeping all the electronics at the Crosby library and the Poplarville Library running smoothly and that includes all the staff computers, their software, and the digital card catalog data base. If Phyllis were to disappear, it would not take long for the library to lose most of its modern capability and be forced to return to pencil and paper.

So how did Phyllis become such a key member of the library staff and how did she become a computer expert and IT specialist? It all started many years ago. Phyllis was born in California, but soon moved to Mississippi as a little girl. She is a graduate of Picayune Memorial High School and except for a short period of time living away has been a Picayune resident ever since returning. She started her work career in retail but after a few years she felt the urge to try something different. A lover of reading and learning new things, she decided to apply for an opening at Crosby Memorial Library as a circulation clerk. She soon advanced to cataloging and then Head of Cataloging. When the Head of Technology left, Phyllis was asked to take her place. Although she initially had help in keeping all the computers and electronics, smoothly, she now does it all on her own. And how big a job is it? Well, try keeping 28 desktops, 2 laptops, 4 servers, 2 wifi routers, and suite of audio/visual equipment going when a third of the computers are being used by patrons! And you thought you had a challenge with your home based system.

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