

is month.
 headquartered at Gloucester College on Tanyard Road in Gloucester, the Community Services will be collecting the room 425 of the Instructional Center from 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Monday through Friday.
 For more information, call 978-686-1742.

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ries, photos and calendar on the Courier-Post's Thursday and Sunday of Our Towns for Camden and Gloucester counties at stoneline.com/ourtowns.

programs and I really do get to teach what I want to share with the students."

Sybil Cohen

Since its founding, the consortium has established introductory seminars for teachers in 46 states.

Cohen's husband, Mike Burns, a retired Haadonfield High School teacher, tipped her off about the program.

"I thought it would broaden my knowledge base of China and all of East Asia," she said.

Cohen attended several seminars at Princeton University last year and attended her final seminar in November. The Cherry Hill resident presented to the New Jersey consortium several lesson plans she designed based on Chinese ceramics and paintings.

At Princeton, she heard renowned world experts lec-

Cohen has been working at Washington Township for 16 years.

She is planning a project comparing Japanese and Chinese tea pots and their fabrication.

Following her participation in the national consortium, Cohen was awarded a \$300 stipend for the purchase of instructional materials focusing on East Asian studies for Washington Township's Instructional Media Center. She also received a collection of books and educational materials on East Asian topics, including a set of lesson plans and DVDs outlining all of the disciplines of China.

Cohen, 52, who attended the Tyler School of Art at Temple University and the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, wants to return to China.

"Last year, we (she and her daughter) went back and volunteered to help build a preschool orphanage," Cohen said. "I have a special place in my heart for China. I owe a lot to the country. They gave me my daughter."

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Library-by-mail service connects with patrons

By GEORGE MAST
 Courier-Post Staff

Patrons are cashing in on Gloucester County's library services — all from the comfort of their homes.

Since MailIt, the library-by-mail service initiated by the Gloucester County Library System, was launched on June 16, more than 2,500 items have been delivered to library users via U.S. Mail.

"I think it has been going quite well," said Bob Wetherall, director of the county's library system.

About 400 patrons have taken advantage of the free service.

Funded with a grant from the South Jersey Regional Li-

brary Cooperative, the service is available to holders of cards from GCLS branches and the affiliated libraries in East Greenwich and Newfield.

The mail program works much like the popular Netflix movie distribution company, where customers request videos online and have them mailed to their homes.

The difference, GCLS patrons don't have to pay any fees and they can check out as much as they want, Wetherall said.

"This is just another way the customers can use our library," he said.

Patrons can reserve the items they want shipped by calling or visiting a library branch or through the online catalog system available at www.gcls.org.

Wetherall said items on the shelves at the library system's five branches in Mullica Hill, Glassboro, Greenwich Township, Logan Township or Swedesboro are mailed to the customer by the end of the next business day after the hold has been placed.

It has been taking about two days for the items to be delivered after they are mailed, he said.

Hundreds take advantage of free program

The wait will likely be longer for items that are best sellers or ones that already have a waiting list, Wetherall said.

It has been costing about \$1.73 in postage to send out each item, he said.

Wetherall said the initial \$50,000 grant should last until the end of 2009 or early the following year.

He hopes additional funding will then be provided to continue the service.

In a prepared release, Freeholder Director Stephen Sweeney praised the new service.

"This new program is a great convenience to many

residents. Libraries are very important to our residents and with the time constraints many families are facing they are able to make their selections online and receive and return them via the mail," said Sweeney.

Wetherall said library visits and reference requests have risen about 10 to 15 percent in the last several years as more people are turning to the free resources.

"With the economy downturn there is no question that people use libraries more," he said.

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Courier-Post 12/9/08