

Whodunit writing tips offered

By David Burch

Marietta Daily Journal Staff Writer

SMYRNA — The Smyrna City Library plans to host a forum of local mystery writers who will share some clues on how they piece together the perfect whodunit.

At 7 p.m. Thursday, the Friends of Smyrna Library will host the forum, allowing locals to not only to interact with a collection of local writers but also to learn the mechanics of how a mystery novel is pieced together — the inspiration for the crimes they explore in their writing, how they drop clues throughout their stories, the ins-and-outs of creating a puzzle for readers to work through.

As part of the forum, Smyrna resident and writer Patricia Sprinkle will read from her new book "Who Left that Body in the Rain?" as well as hold a book signing.

A native of North Carolina who graduated from Vassar College, Ms. Sprinkle has used many familiar Atlanta-area locales like Peachtree Street, Buckhead and Dunwoody as settings for her books.

Her first novel, "Murder at Markham," was published in 2001 and took 13 years to complete.

Atlanta author Phillip DePoy will also read from his novel "The Devil's Hearth." The author of six published books, two published plays and 37 theater pieces, DePoy has seen his work pro-

duced in New York and other venues throughout the United States. The Horizon Theater in Atlanta has recently developed his first novel "Easy" into a play.

Walter Sorrells, an Atlanta-based writer of legal thrillers, will also join Thursday's forum. A 1999 winner of the Edgar Award, Sorrells also bases his work in the Atlanta area. He is a former member of the board of directors for The Mystery Writers of America and is current vice-president of the Atlanta chapter of Sisters in Crime.

The forum will be in the conference room of the Smyrna Library, located at 100 Village Green Circle next to the Community Center.

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Cobb Close-Up

Author speaks tonight

The author of "Who Left that Body in the Rain?" will speak at a mystery writers' forum 7-9 p.m. tonight. Patricia Sprinkle will join fellow mystery writers Walter Sorrell, Gwen Hunter and Phillip DePoy at the Smyrna Public Library in downtown Smyrna.

The free combination book signing and question-and-answer session is sponsored by the Friends of the Smyrna Library. The meeting is open to the public.

Sprinkle, a Smyrna resident, is also the author of "Who Invited the Dead Man?" and "Murder at Markham." DePoy's Dell mystery novels, featuring Atlanta character Flap Tucker, are considered among the top regional detective fiction on the market.

The meeting will be in the first floor meeting room at the library, 100 Village Green Circle, off Atlanta Road.

Information: 770-431-2860.