

Library Connections

The MOBILE PUBLIC LIBRARY Newsletter

ISSUE 01
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The Great American Read Comes to Mobile

by Sara McCough

THE Mobile Public Library is one of 50 libraries from across the country selected to receive a community programming grant to support The Great American Read created by PBS.

The Great American Read is an eight-part television and online series designed to spark a national conversation about reading and books. The book list contains 100 titles or series that have the greatest influence on Americans today.

The Great American Read is interactive. By visiting pbs.org/greatamericanread, readers and viewers alike can vote for their favorite title. In the weeks leading up to the final reveal of America's top choice, people of all ages can vote online, by phone, or by text.

The Mobile Public Library will celebrate a specific title, *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett, during the following programs:

Film Showing and Discussion of *The Help*
Tuesday, September 18, 6 p.m.
West Regional Library

**Guest Speaker
Southern Cookbook Author
& *The Help* Consultant
Martha Foose**
Thursday, September 27
6 p.m. book signing/reception
7 p.m. program
Ben May Main Library

**Which Book Comes Out on Top?
Final Episode Book Reveal
Live Streaming Party**
Tuesday, October 23
6 p.m., reception,
7 p.m. broadcast
Ben May Main Library

And much more - including a reading challenge at every library location. Help us celebrate The Great American Read!



HomeworkAlabama.org Offers FREE Tutoring & More!

NEW clothes, backpacks, lunch accounts, supply lists, classroom "donations"... the cost of each new school year can quickly drain your wallet. Thankfully, we can help you save some money while also helping your kids save themselves from extra stress.

HomeworkAlabama.org powered by Tutor.com provides FREE on-demand, one-to-one tutoring in an online classroom for students kindergarten through college in over 60 academic subjects and test preparation areas, including the ACT and SAT. The Tutor.com Learning Suite also includes practice quizzes, skills drills, video lessons and The Princeton Review Essentials test preparation. Tutors are available every

day from 3 - 10 p.m. To access the service, students should visit mobilepubliclibrary.org and look under eResources and Online Tutoring.

HomeworkAlabama.org is a statewide effort brought to you by the Alabama Public Library Service through a Library Services and Technology Act grant administered by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

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The
Princeton
Review®

Toulminville Branch Library Has Fresh, New Look

SINCE opening its doors in February 2002, the Toulminville Branch Library has been a popular place for both residents of the neighborhood and people who work at or visit the University of South Alabama Medical Center. For 16 years, it has served the community well, so it was due a facelift.

The new, improved Toulminville Branch features a single service desk where staff can assist in checking out materials or answering questions. The computer lab now has double the computers, allowing more technology access especially during peak times. The meeting room will be receiving an audiovisual upgrade soon.

Storytimes and movies for kids are better than ever with upgrades to the children's area and teens can enjoy time in the new game room.

Study areas have also been improved with modular furniture replacing many tables and chairs. The skylight above the area where the reference desk was is now part of an open area that's a perfect place to catch up on a favorite book.

The entire building has been refreshed with new coats of paint and new flooring, so it really feels like a whole new building. Outside, landscaping work has started and will be continued as the seasons change.

The improvements would not have been possible without the assistance of several City of Mobile Departments.

The Mobile Public Library would like to thank Public Buildings (which includes painters and electricians), Architectural Engineering, and Parks and Recreation. We also express our gratitude to Cindy Klotz and Brad Christensen for their expertise which allowed the project to be completed in a timely manner.

If you haven't been to the Toulminville Branch, now is the perfect time to visit! Remember, materials borrowed from any library in our system do not have to be taken back to the home library, so make plans to return your items and find treasures at Toulminville soon.



Connecting Libraries and Play

by Carly Akers

MPL was recently awarded a \$10,000 grant to expand user services. The "Connecting Libraries and Play", or CLAP, grant is helping us provide a collection of toys and early learning musical instruments to be used in programs and checked out by customers. The CLAP grant was awarded by the Daniel Foundation of Alabama.

Toys that focus on critical learning skills and creative learning experiences will help the library impact children's growth and education. Some of the grant funds have purchased toys approved for children with special needs. Developmentally appropriate special needs toys can be very costly to families and centers.

The toys are geared toward ages 0-10 with categories including baby and toddler, active play, learning skills, logic/spatial reasoning, literacy, and pretend play. Families with children are the most active library users in the Mobile area so this grant will be especially impactful. The children in our communities now have greater access to the most integral right of childhood: play.

The toys are available now at your local library branch. Please see library staff with any questions or if you need assistance locating the toys for check out. Have fun, play hard!



Rich History: For the Curious and the Serious

by Elizabeth Theris

THE Local History & Genealogy Library (LH&G) is a treasure trove of resources for anyone from the avidly curious to the serious researcher. Collections include Mobile City Directories starting from 1837, local newspapers on microfilm going back to 1819, local yearbooks, audiovisual and oral history interviews, church and county records, over 3050 clipping files on local topics and people, an ever growing Digital Archive, and so much more.

Our knowledgeable staff is always available to provide assistance, in person and remotely. Call us at 251.208.7093, email at mainlhg@mplonline.org, or come visit.

Upcoming programs:

Family Research
3rd Saturday each month
Local History & Genealogy
10 a.m - 1 p.m.

The Tristan DeLuna Chapter of the DAR partners with us to provide family research guidance. Join us on August 18 and September 15.

Researching Your African American Ancestors
Saturday, October 20
Ben May Main Library
10:45 a.m. - 2:45 p.m.

In partnership with the Marengo County History and Archives Museum, we will host a free genealogy conference in Bernheim Hall at the Ben May Main Library. Professional genealogist Mary Fitts-Jones will present two sessions: "Introduction to African American Research" and "Genealogy & Computers". Please call 251.208.7094 to register.

Restoring and Preserving Abandoned Cemeteries
Ben May Main Library and Oaklawn Cemetery
Saturday, November 3
10 a.m. - 2 p.m. (lunch break 12-12:30)

This two-part program about cemetery care is applicable to cemeteries in general, but a significant portion of the program will focus on the Oaklawn Cemetery in Mobile. Emily Ford, owner of the Oak & Laurel Cemetery Preservation, LLC, and an expert on cemetery restoration, will provide an introduction to cemetery care, including preservation guidelines, ethics, and best practices. Other speakers include Eddie Irby, President of the 92nd Division Buffalo Soldiers of WWII, Tracy Neely, President of the Mobile Creole Cultural and Historical Preservation Society, and Lorenzo Martin, City of Prichard Councilman. There is no attendance limit for this program.

The second part of the program is a hands-on workshop at Oaklawn Cemetery, where Emily Ford will lead participants in a workshop on restoring neglected gravesites, including re-setting headstones, proper headstone cleaning, and landscape maintenance. All materials will be provided. Attendance for this portion is limited to 25 participants. Please call 251.208.7094 to register.



Making Alabama: A Bicentennial Traveling Exhibit

Toulminville Branch September 8 - 29

Presented by the Alabama Humanities Foundation, this fascinating exhibit displays 200 years of Alabama history and beyond.

This impressive display blends artistic collages, interactive computer tablets and an audio medley of song and spoken word to tell the story of Alabama – from becoming a territory to achieving statehood.

The Alabama Humanities Foundation mission is to foster learning, understanding and appreciation of our people, communities and cultures. As the independent, state partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities, the AHF supports and offers programs that will enhance the minds and enrich the lives of Alabamians. The exhibit is open to the public during regular library hours. For more information, please call 251.438.7075.

Making Alabama is presented by the Alabama Humanities Foundation in partnership with the Alabama Department of Archives and History and the Alabama Bicentennial Commission. To learn more about this statewide exhibit and scheduling, go to: MakingAlabama.org.

DID YOU KNOW?

You can check out movies, television shows, and documentaries to stream for FREE from anywhere with an active Mobile Public Library card.

Hoopla digital provides us an enormous selection of digital video (movies and TV shows), music, audiobooks, ebooks and comics. They have a unique model that allows patrons to borrow content immediately, maximizing the power of digital content and Internet distribution.

Kanopy specializes in offering cinema, documentaries, and indie films, providing thoughtful entertainment with no fees and no commercials. Everyone from film scholars to casual viewers can discover remarkable and enriching films on Kanopy. New, diverse titles are added to the catalog each month.

To start using Hoopla Digital or Kanopy, visit mobilepubliclibrary.org, click on eResources and visit our eMovies and TV page.

Learn Something New Today

by Mary Kuipers

DID you know that your local Mobile Public Library location offers free classes? Whether you want to brush up on your basic computer skills, take your small business or personal finances to the next level, or just have fun learning something new, we've got a class for you.

If you want to become more tech-savvy, check out our computer classes. We cover the basics--how to use a computer, surf the internet, use email, and even how to shop online.

Already mastered the basics? Try our classes on Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint to create documents, spreadsheets and presentations. Then take it a step further with our "Got Google?" class to learn how to use some of Google's free features and services including Google Drive.

Thinking about starting a small business? We offer a two-day workshop to help you start a small business from scratch. Then join us for our "You Can with Canva!" class to learn how to make flyers, brochures and more to better advertise your business.

Take control of your credit score with our credit repair class or learn how to find and finance your first house in our home buying class.

Feeling crafty? We offer knitting, crocheting and sewing classes. Interested in family history? Try our genealogy class. And when it's time to relax, come join our Qigong classes to learn breathing, movement, and meditation techniques.

Find these classes and locations on our online calendar by visiting mobilepubliclibrary.org and clicking on the Calendar tab.



1,000 Books Before Kindergarten Reading Challenge

by Emmie Powell

1,000 Books Before Kindergarten is a self-paced, early literacy initiative designed to encourage parents to read to their babies and toddlers. Children and their parents will work towards the goal of reading 1,000 books before the child enters kindergarten. All that reading will help your child gain skills to get them ready to read, instill a love of books, and be an enjoyable bonding experience for your family!

Reading 1,000 books may seem like a daunting task, but titles will add up quickly! Any books, including books already read, count toward the thousand. Books read at home, school, and at MPL storytime all count! Even reading a favorite book repeatedly counts every time the book is read!

To keep your children motivated along the way, the library will give a certificate and sticker for every 100 books read. When your child reaches 1,000 books, they will receive a special medal! To keep up with all the books being read, the library offers access to Beanstack, a free literacy tracking app. Beanstack allows you to log all the book titles from your phone! Paper logs are also available at your favorite library.

To get started, simply sign up at mobilepubliclibrary.beanstack.org and download the Beanstack app on your phone or device. If you'd prefer to track your reading with a paper log, visit the children's department of your library to sign up. Get ready, set, read!

Summer Reading Celebration Fun for All

by Sara McGough

LIBRARIES around Mobile rocked in June and July during our Summer Reading celebration. Magic, music, juggling, puppets, and more entertained 28,014 children and teens during 823 programs.

Kids learned the history of Mardi Gras music with the world famous Excelsior Band, helped The Pied Picker find the town of Hamlin with puppeteer David Stephens, built with Legos, experimented in our maker labs, and explored their creative side with arts and crafts galore.

Nearly 12,000 children signed up for our Summer Reading Celebration as we challenged them to avoid the summer slide by reading as many books as they could to win prizes. Teens were tasked with reading pages over the summer and to be entered for a chance to win an iPad. In total, more than 228,000 pages were read.

Adults were not left out of the celebration. Over 2,000 adults entered our reading contest for a chance to win a gift basket filled with fun at each location.

The Ben May Main Library hosted its first Libraries Rock

summer concert series “Tuesdays in Bernheim” with local talents that included Lauren Murphy, Abe Partridge, Lisa Mills, Shelby Brown, Mike Turner, and Leland Clay.

Planning for our 2019 Summer Reading Celebration “A Universe of Stories” is already underway. See you next summer at the library!



WILD THINGS ARE COMING TO THE LIBRARY

February 10 - March 27, 2019, the Ben May Main Library will host an exhibit honoring the work of popular children's author Maurice Sendak.

The exhibit primarily features original works from Sendak's most well-known work, *Where the Wild Things Are*.

Titled “*Maurice Sendak: 50 Years, 50 Works, 50 Reasons*”, it celebrates the 50th anniversary of this wildly popular children's book.

In addition to the exhibit, a special children's play area and programs are being designed especially for the event.

To schedule a school field trip for the exhibit, call 251.208.7074.

This very special event is made possible thanks to generous support from the Friends of the Mobile Public Library.

Bookmobile - A Library on the Move

SINCE 1946, the Mobile Public Library Bookmobile has served areas of the city and county that are the furthest from library locations. Currently, the bookmobile stops at 60 locations on three routes during a 3 week rotation.

Ms. Elaine and Ms. Tamika travel to daycares, senior centers, recreation centers, smaller private schools and make stops at various community events throughout the year. They offer storytimes to 11 recreation centers, 3 head starts, 4 childcare centers, 3 schools, and the Goodwill Easter Seals Child Development Center.

At other stops, bookmobile staff help people of all ages pick out books, audiobooks, DVDs, and music to enjoy until they visit again in 3 weeks. The routes change 3 times a year due to school calendars and seasonal changes. Last year, the bookmobile checked out nearly 8,000 items to eager library users.

The next time you see the Bookmobile, stop by to check out our library on wheels!



DID YOU KNOW?

The Mobile Public Library has a variety of book clubs. Here's a list. Visit the events page on our website for complete details, including dates and title selections.

Extravagant Readers

Fiction & Nonfiction
Toulminville Branch

A Page in Time

Historical Fiction
West Regional Library

Ebony Moments

African American Authors
West Regional Library

Reader's Choice

Popular Fiction
West Regional Library

Heart & Soul

Inspirational
West Regional Library

Bayside Book Club

Fiction & Nonfiction
Parkway Branch

Out of This World

Fantasy & Science Fiction
Skype Session

Classics Revisited

Classics
Ben May Main Library

Join the Friends of the Mobile Public Library

THE Friends of the Mobile Public Library is a non-profit, volunteer organization, formed in 1983, which is dedicated to supporting the Mobile Public Library system in a variety of ways. There are thousands of similar organizations all over the country.

For the benefit of the library and the community, the Friends provided funding for the Summer Reading Program, reference databases, special purchases of materials and more. The Friends even matched the grant funding needed to purchase the new Bookmobile.

Each spring, they sponsor a used book sale, featuring thousands of volumes and audio-visual materials that are donated by individuals and discarded from the library collections. Over 4,500 people attended the sale held in the 20,000 sq. ft. of the Abba Shrine Center last spring.

Joining the Friends of the Mobile Public Library is a great way to support the Library. Memberships range from \$30 for an Individual/Family to \$500 for a Partner. Since the Friends is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, memberships are tax deductible.

As a contributor, you will be recognized as a member and receive the following benefits:

- Subscription to the FOL newsletter
- Admission to our Annual Meeting, where a Southern author speaks to members, signs books, and visits during an informal reception
- Opportunity to preview our annual used book sale, including pre-sale privileges
- Advance notices of other special FOL events
- Opportunities to explore special interests, meet authors and plan programs.

For more information on becoming a Friend, call 251.208.7902.



Mobile Public Library
700 Government Street
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Our Mission is to Support Literacy and Connect Our Community

INFORM

ENTERTAIN

INSPIRE