

# Library Connections

The MOBILE PUBLIC LIBRARY Newsletter

## Use Mobile Public Library this School Year

by Sara Hyder McGough, Ben May Main Library Manager

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Fall 2021

**M**OBILE Public Library is ready to serve students of every age throughout the school year. Free library cards give students and caregivers access to over 500,000 physical items from our 11 locations and access to over a million digital items that include books of all types and for all age levels.

Your library card grants free access to over 100 research databases that can aid students with assignments from elementary school to college-level curriculum. Databases include Britannica Library, NewsBank, Gale and Points of View. Tutor.com provides assistance from certified teachers for help with anything from math to editing research papers.

Other online tutoring resources such as Learning Express provide test preparation for nearly every standardized test, including the ACT and ASVAB. With a student's library card they have free access to learning a new language through a resource called Pronunciator and courses online with Universal Class.

Parents can take advantage of our book bundles selected based on the age and ability of the child. Our talented staff pick the books for

your convenience and are able to introduce children, including reluctant readers, to new stories. Book bundles are a great way to get reading-level books quickly and help prepare your elementary aged student for the Alabama Literacy Act requirements.

Finally, our staff at all locations have knowledge of and practice with Chromebooks. Library staff are prepared to assist students and caregivers in



understanding the technology to better access remote learning opportunities or requirements.

Library cards are available at all locations or online through our temporary card service. Success this fall begins at your library!



## New Partnership With Feeding the Gulf Coast

**T**HE Mobile Public Library is now an official partner with Feeding the Gulf Coast. Nonperishable food items are accepted at any of our 11 library locations. Collected donations are sent to the Feeding the Gulf Coast warehouse in Theodore. This partnership allows MPL patrons to give back to those in need while helping Feeding the Gulf Coast identify convenient locations around



Mobile County for donation drop-off.

Upcoming on November 1-13, MPL will feature The Kindness Project and heavily promote the opportunity to donate food items. The holiday season can be an especially difficult time for many, and knowing that meals are one less worry, makes a major difference in the lives of people in our local community. Visit your favorite library to contribute.

# Tails and Tales Summer Reading Celebration Recap

by Cherold Rhodes, Children and Youth Services

**T**HE theme for Summer 2021 at the Mobile Public Library was “Tails & Tales.” Throughout history, all kinds of animals have roamed the land and soared through the air. Many have both a Tail and a Tale. For this year's program, MPL was pleased to join with local nature groups to discover the diversity of animal life in the Mobile area, create fond memories, and share the joy of reading through a variety of virtual and in-person programs.

All across Mobile, MPL challenged people of all ages to read, learn new skills and try different activities through participating in the Tails & Tales Summer

Reading Celebration. The Alabama Gulf Coast Zoo provided us with 50 Family Passes to give as prizes to our participants.

The reading challenge was simple: Read 400 minutes to earn prizes. The more participants read, the more chances they had to win. For their 400-or-more minutes of reading, all ages were eligible to win a water bottle and a grand-prize drawing entry. The Grand Prizes included a Nintendo Switch Lite and an air fryer. A total of 2,765 people took the challenge.

Participants could also enjoy a Weekly Family Activity Challenge, a Teen Summer Activity Challenge,

and a Road Trip Trivia game -- each with chances to win unique prizes and featuring a variety of fun and engaging activities. As a bonus, all the activities encouraged continued learning and prevention of the dreaded summer slide.

Summer 2021 has



concluded, but plans are already starting for an inspiring Summer 2022. See you next summer at the library!



## Thinking Money for Kids Exhibit is Heading to Mobile

**W**EST Regional Library will host a traveling exhibit, Thinking Money for Kids, in December. The exhibit is designed to teach kids and their families about money. MPL's selection to host the exhibit is thanks to a competitive national grant from the American Library Association (ALA) and the FINRA Investor Education Foundation. West Regional is one of only 50 sites selected to

host Thinking Money for Kids on its two-year tour of the United States. Nearly 130 public libraries across the country applied for the opportunity, according to ALA. Thinking Money for Kids is a new multimedia experience for children ages 7 to 11, as well as their parents, caregivers and educators. The interactive exhibit uses games, activities and a fun storyline to help children understand what money is,

its function in society, money choices, and money values, such as fairness, responsibility and charitableness. The 1,000-square-foot exhibition will be on display for six weeks beginning on Monday, December 6. In addition to the display, the library will host a series of related special events for children, teens, adults and families. Be sure to watch MPL's website and social media pages for updates.

# September Campaign: Library Card Sign-up Month

**A**NNUALLY, September is Library Card Sign-up Month, a time when the MPL joins the American Library Association (ALA) and libraries nationwide to remind parents, caregivers



and students that signing up for a library card is the first step on the path to academic achievement and lifelong learning.

Marley Dias, author, executive producer, founder of #1000BlackGirlBooks and 2021's honorary chair, promoted the power of a library card this past September.

There is nothing more empowering than signing up for your own library card. Through access to technology, media resources and educational

programs, a library card gives students the tools to succeed in the classroom and provides people of all ages opportunities to pursue their dreams and passions.

MPL offers everything from early literacy programs to virtual homework help and computer classes, helping transform lives through education. We continue to adapt and expand services to meet the evolving needs of our community.

In a special campaign for 2021, over 15 local businesses are offering a discount to MPL card holders. To enjoy the savings, all customers need to do is show their library card while visiting any of the participating

businesses.

To sign up for a library card or to learn more about the library's resources and programs, please visit [mobilepubliclibrary.org](http://mobilepubliclibrary.org). Visit our website and social media for the latest information to take advantage of the special discounts from local businesses available through October 31!

**September is**  
**LIBRARY CARD**  
**SIGN-UP MONTH**

**"A library card provides opportunity for discovery and access to a rich and diverse world. It empowers you to make change and experience new stories."**

**MARLEY DIAS**  
Library Card Sign-Up Month  
Honorary Chair

ALA American Library Association  
LIBRARIES TRANSFORM  
Library Champions  
OverDrive

## The Connection Center is Ready to Support Job Seekers in Mobile

**A**RE you looking for a job or thinking about a career change? Our Connection Center can help. The Connection Center, located on the second floor of the Ben May Main Library, is a dedicated space for job seeking and small business work.

Job seekers can use our public computers and printers to create their resumes. Use our templates and learn from resume samples to make an effective and eye-catching resume. We can also assist you with searching for a job

and preparing for the interview. Librarians are ready to hold mock interviews in person or via Zoom.

Job seekers can find news about new opportunities and hiring events on our social media pages and on the dedicated information tables inside Ben May Main Library. Our newly improved Job Seeker page on [mobilepubliclibrary.org](http://mobilepubliclibrary.org) walks Mobilians through the job seeking process.

We provide digital access to brush up on the skills you need to

get the job you want through our online resource, Universal Class. Browse the topics that apply to your career interests.

We partner with local agencies to share information with the community. Our partner agencies include the Small Business Development Center of Alabama, the Southwest Alabama Partnership for Training and Employment, and more. Talk to one of our Connection Center staff members today to take charge of your career.

# Expanding Our Partnerships in the Community

by Sara Hyder McGough, Manager at Ben May Main Library

The Mobile Public Library is now an official partner with the new Barton Academy for Advanced World Studies, which opened its door to new students in August of 2021. We are excited to partner with Barton in a variety of ways.

We hosted a successful library card drive during Barton's "Meet the Teacher" event, are currently working with teachers who have Cricut vinyl cutting requests through our Maker Lab, and have scheduled information literacy, research and entrepreneurial discussions with a number of classes. Students recently took a walking field trip to the

Ben May Main Library to conduct historical research. Their close proximity to the Main Library means many more future visits.

Speaking of partnering with schools: In late July, the Parkway Branch collaborated with the Mobile County Public School System to host a School Supply Giveaway. This event served local students to ensure they returned to school prepared.

We handed out 74 bags full of supplies, provided snacks and summer reading books.

As a countywide library system, we welcome new partnerships that help us further our mission

to connect our community and support literacy. These recent examples showcase the impact we can make through partnerships. If your organization, school or business is looking to get more involved in supporting the community through partnering with us, then please contact MPL's Public Relations Officer via email at [vlonga@mplonline.org](mailto:vlonga@mplonline.org) or via phone at 251-545-3366.

We look forward to discovering new and inventive ways to grow our new partnership with Barton Academy and the Mobile County Public School System.



## West Regional Library Celebrates 20 Years of Service

FIRST Lady Laura Bush provided the opening address for the West Regional Library on Oct. 16, 2002, and the 59,297-square-foot facility

officially opened to the public on Nov. 2, 2002.

Since then, West has served over 7,225,000 people. A recent renovation to the Fiction

Room now provides a stunning 1,008-square-foot glass-enclosed area dedicated to Teen Services. A fall celebration is being planned for the 20 year milestone.



# Free Access to Computers and Internet

by Lisa Barnes, Adult Services Librarians

**S**O much of modern life revolves around the internet - getting a job, learning something new, and even just keeping in touch with loved ones - but it's not always available. Our library locations have free public computers and open Wi-Fi available for all to use, whether you just need to quickly check your email or write your next research paper. **What can you do with Mobile Public Library's computers?**



## Write a resume or a cover letter

MS Word and Google Docs are available on all public computers. Need help getting your resume perfect? Get help at the Connection Center.



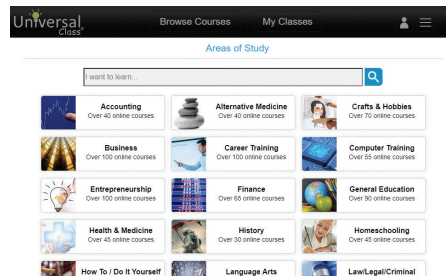
## Get a job

Most jobs are advertised and applied for solely online.



## Create a presentation for work or school

Powerpoint and Google Slides are available on all public computers, and our librarians are here to help you research.



## Take a class with Universal Class

With a library card you can take any of over 500 online courses. Bring a pair of headphones and learn a new skill the next time you visit the library.



## Watch a film or TV show on Hoopla or Kanopy

These two library apps have movies and TV shows available to stream.

What else can you do with Mobile Public Library's computers?

- Access Social Media
- Make a vaccine appointment
- Do your taxes
- Register kids for school
- Register to vote
- Renew your driver's license
- Check email
- Print and scan

And so much more. Visit your favorite library location for more information today.

# Grants & Awards

**T**HE Alabama Library Association annually hosts an awards ceremony to recognize the outstanding efforts of libraries across the state. At the 2021 virtual conference, the Citizens For A Better Grand Bay received the Merit Award, and the Mobile County Commission received the Public Servant Award for their joint efforts to open the new Grand Bay Library. The Grand Bay Library opened in November 2020 and is the newest library location in the Mobile Public Library system, bringing the total number of library locations across Mobile County to 11.

Mobile Public Library is also pleased to announce that we are a recipient of a \$238,000 grant from the Alabama Public Library Service (APLS). The funds are a part of the American Rescue Plan Act, which are federal funds distributed through APLS. The grant will be used to purchase 156 new desktop computers plus the software that goes with them. We're excited to make these computers available to the public across our library system!



Ancestry.com  
Home Access  
Available for a  
Limited Time

**D**ID you know that you can access Ancestry.com at home for free? Due to the closures and limited access in many Alabama libraries caused by the coronavirus pandemic, the Alabama Public Library Service has been supplying free, at-home access to Ancestry.com Library Edition.

The extended access is scheduled to expire on Dec. 31, 2021. Call Local History & Genealogy at 251-494-2190 with any questions about how to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity.



# Mobile Public Library: **120** Years of Service

## 1901

An act of the Legislature allowed for the establishment of a public library. By February, the Mobile Public Library Association opened a reading room in the old Krebs home on Conti and Hamilton streets known as the "Little Library."



## 1951

The first Bookmobile for the Mobile Public Library was presented by the Red Cross, and library services were extended countywide.



## 1925-1928

The City of Mobile issued a bond of \$250,000 to start the construction of the main library building. The facility was built in classical Greek style, and the Ben May Main Library opened officially in September of 1928.

## 1961

The Mobile Public Library became the first library in the state of Alabama to integrate.

## 2020

Grand Bay Library opened in November to reach more citizens of Mobile County, thanks to a decade-long effort of fundraising through the Citizens for a Better Grand Bay and the Mobile County Commission.

## 2002

Two new libraries were opened: West Regional Library on Grelot Rd. and the Toulminville Branch Library on Stanton Rd.

INFORM

ENTERTAIN

INSPIRE

**Our mission is to support literacy and connect our community.**

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mobilepubliclibrary.org  
251-340-1458

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