



# ap|seeds

June 2023


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**ALL  
TOGETHER  
NOW**





# Let's cook together!

This summer, the Boaz Public Library is hosting cultural culinary program series called "Let's Cook Together." Each program highlights a different country and how to prepare authentic cuisine popular with each culture. This month, library patron Aidee Aragon demonstrated how to make guacamole and Pico de Gallo. She talked about her family, how they grow their own vegetables, and different Mexican customs and traditions. Everyone in attendance had the opportunity to ask questions and enjoy the food that was prepared. Door prizes were given away to program attendees, including mortar and pestle sets and food kits with the featured ingredients. 




Boaz PL patron Aidee Aragon leads a summer cooking class at the library

# Let's learn together!

The Phenix City-Russell County Library recently partnered with Chattahoochee Valley Community College (CVCC) to offer GED classes to library patrons. Brian Peeler is the first GED recipient through this community partnership.


Under the partnership, CVCC provides academic and career readiness classes to assist residents in Russell and Lee Counties obtain entry-level skills required for employment with businesses and industries in the area. The library provides a classroom and materials — including computers and internet access — for students and instructors.

The Phenix City-Russell County Library's adult education classes meet Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2 to 5 p.m. ET. 



Brian Peeler received his GED at the Phenix City-Russell County Library

# Let's have fun together!

Tupper Lightfoot Memorial Library in Brundidge kicked off their Summer Library Program with a fun foam party on June 1. 





# Alabama Regional Library participates in SLP for first time

This year, for the very first time, the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled (NLS) will be participating in the Summer Library Program. Special online events will be hosted by NLS at the national level, and staff at the Alabama Regional Library are also preparing items to connect their patrons to the fun.

The Alabama Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Disabled, a division of APLS, is located in Montgomery. In partnership with NLS, the regional library provides books and magazines in braille and audio formats to residents in the state who cannot use standard print materials as a result of a temporary or permanent visual or physical disability.


Recent changes to the NLS program now makes the service available to residents with a reading disability—primarily dyslexia without specifically



Alabama Regional Library staff are excited to be participating in this year's Summer Library Program


needing a doctor's evaluation.

Library patrons who qualify for the service can contact the Alabama Regional Library at 334-213-3906 for an application and more information.

Once an individual qualifies for this service, materials are mailed directly to the home address—just in time for summer reading fun. 

## Foley PL 'slides' into summer

The Foley Public Library held its Summer Reading Kickoff event, "Slide Into Summer," at Heritage Park on June 1. Hundreds attended the event which included water slides, bouncy houses, face painting, dancing, food trucks, prize giveaways and more. Free snow cones were provided by the local Kiwanis Club and free water was provided by the Friends of the Foley Library. The Foley Fire Department was on hand giving away free helmets and giving tours of their fire truck. The Goodwill HIPPY program also had representatives to register children up for their preschool education program.

Information on this year's many summer reading programs and reading logs were given out at the event. 





Fairhope PL making the best of a Monday

Every Monday is Maker Monday at the Fairhope Public Library. In May, attendees learned paper quilling and made fairy houses. Upcoming programs this summer will include windchimes, paracord bracelets, and a dice tower, with plans for a Haunted Dollhouse Build in September. Fairhope PL's Maker Monday program meets at 6pm every Monday and is geared for teens and adults.



Maker Mondays at Fairhope PL give patrons an opportunity to make a variety of interesting crafts



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- Online tutoring for grades K-12
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- Certification testing and GED preparation
- Career resources



# Marshall County Coop holds professional development workshop for member libraries

The Marshall County Cooperative Library hosted a professional development workshop for its member libraries on May 25 at the Boaz Public Library. Representatives from Albertville, Arab, Boaz, Grant, and Guntersville libraries were in attendance. The purpose of this meeting was to gain tips, strategies, and book selection ideas to use during Storytime and other children's programs. Leading the workshop were Tommie Childress, a PreK coach with the Alabama Department of Early Childhood Education (ADECE), and Jenny Copeland, a retired regional director for PreK with ADECE. Both have a combined 60 years of teaching experience.

The teachers discussed many tools to use during preschool programming to create a fun and successful event. They taught how manipulatives, music, and nursery rhymes serve as important learning components. We discussed how books with predictable text, rhyme and rhythm are important, as well




**The Marshall County Cooperative Library held a professional development workshop to develop effective children's programming strategies**

as having interactive stories that allow children to get involved. The teachers demonstrated some of their favorite props, stories, and songs. Each library received valuable resources, including handouts of nursery rhymes, rhyming chants,

poems, songs, and fingerplays. Also discussed at the workshop were ways to actively involve parents and how to encourage them to participate alongside their child during programs. Having them model the proper way to sit and listen will help as the children get older and begin school.

Along with the educators, parents and preschoolers were invited to attend the workshop. The teachers used this time to recreate a Storytime program to show how to implement the ideas we discussed. The parents asked questions and were able to learn skills they can use at home.

Everyone in attendance received a wealth of information that we hope to implement in our respective libraries. Special thanks to Debra Slaton with the Marshall County Cooperative Library for sponsoring this event. 



**Participating in the workshop were staff from Albertville, Arab, Boaz, Grant, and Guntersville public libraries**





APLSeeds will regularly highlight a single service or component of our agency you might not know much about. This month, APLS is shining a spotlight on **Book Club kits** the agency offers.

In the past year, the popularity of APLS' Book Club kits has increased significantly. For libraries who are not familiar, APLS has a growing list of titles available for public libraries to check out in kits of ten copies each for use with their book clubs. We currently have several dozen titles to choose from and will soon have more than 100.

Searching and requesting our Book Club kits is very simple. A current list of titles owned by APLS appears on the [Book Club Libguide](#). We will check out the kit to your library and mail it by USPS.

To check on availability you can use our [catalog](#), or contact us by phone (334-312-3900) or email ([reference@apls.state.al.us](mailto:reference@apls.state.al.us)). A few pointers:

- A title appearing on the list **is not necessarily available** as it may currently be on loan to another



library.

- It is better to have alternate titles selected in case your first choice is unavailable.
- Kits are checked out to the library itself, not to the book club or to an individual patron
- Each kit contains every available copy of the book (typically ten, though there are a few exceptions due to lost or damaged copies).
- Kits are checked out to the library for two months.
- Kits are available on a first-come, first-served basis; we are unable to reserve kits for future dates as there are too many variables out of our control to guarantee future availability.

Once you've selected an available title, let us know by phone or email and we will send them to you by USPS as soon as possible (usually within a day of the request). If you are a first-time user of our Book Club Kits, please let us know where/how you learned about the program.

We use many methods in assembling our Club kit collection including selections from nationally popular book clubs (Oprah, Reese, Jenna) and various reader advisory sources. The method we most welcome, however, is input from the libraries we serve. If there are any titles that you would like for us to add to our Book Club, please let us know and we will do our best to do so. 🐦

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# Children's library in Alex City kicks off summer program

Mamie's Place Children's Library in Alexander City entertained and educated approximately 170 attendees at their summer reading kick-off event that featured birds of prey from the Auburn Raptor Center.

A division of Auburn University's College of Veterinary Medicine, the Raptor Center is a rehabilitation and education facility that has provided critical education, rehabilitation, and conservation efforts for birds of prey for more than 50 years.

Mamie's Place Children's Library provides six weeks of free educational activities and events throughout the summer to keep children of all ages engaged and reading. 




Approximately 170 children attended Mamie's Place Children's Library summer kick-off featuring birds from the Auburn University Raptor Center



## Library adds book drop to West Homewood

The Homewood Public Library recently installed a book drop at the Homewood Senior Center.

Library board member Dr. Keya Kraft said she was excited to see this book drop added for residents of West Homewood.

The Homewood Chamber of Commerce held an official ribbon cutting for the new book drop on May 23. 




**What's going on in your library?**  
**Send in your story ideas today!**

Contact Ryan Godfrey  
[rgodfrey@apls.state.al.us](mailto:rgodfrey@apls.state.al.us)  
or  
334-213-3909



## Montgomery City-County Public Library kicks off SLP with pop artist

Juliette Hampton Morgan  
Memorial Library, E. L. Lowder  
Regional Library and Pike Road  
Branch Library Summer Library  
Kickoff was a blast for all ages with  
Pop Artist Michael Albert. Michael  
is a master of "cerealism," which  
involves making collage works from  
cereal boxes and other forms of  
colorful packaging.

Albert shared how he came to be an artist and then guided attendees through the collage process. Kids and adults had a great time making their own collages. 



## Michael Albert, a pop artist, talks about different collages he created

## Montgomery holds local author expo

*What better way to kick off National Library Week than by hosting a local author expo? The Montgomery City-County Public Library presented the expo on April 22, and more than 20 local authors participated. More than 100 attendees enjoyed meeting the authors who discussed their latest works, and signed copies of their books.*






## Special 'Bards & Brews' event pays tribute to late host

The spirit of the late Brian "Voice Porter" Hawkins filled the Greenhouse on 19th Street Ensley Friday night during Bards & Brews tribute to the longtime former host of BPL's monthly craft beer/poetry event. Porter died unexpectedly at age 42 in August 2021. The June 2 event took place a day after what would have been Voice Porter's 44th birthday.

One of the participants, Bettina Byrd Giles of Ensley Alive, said it was fitting that the tribute took place in downtown Ensley as Voice dedicated much of his life to uplifting Ensley. The Greenhouse, 602 19th Street Ensley, is a new venue for the arts co-owned by Jahman Hill and Eric Marable, founders of Flourish Alabama, a non-profit dedicated to helping young poets bloom.

Among attendees was Voice's father, Duane Porter, and the longtime love of his life, Deidre Clark. Duane Porter even stepped on stage and read a poem in tribute to his son - as did Deidre. BPL Librarian Haruyo Miyagawa, who came up with the idea for Bards & Brews over a decade ago and recruited Voice Porter to serve as host, also attended. 




Voice Porter's father pays tribute to his son at the June 2023 'Bards & Brews'



Local artists perform at the June 2023 'Bards & Brews' event in Birmingham

## New seed library sprouts in Arab PL

The Arab Public Library opened its first seed library on May 8 with the help of seed donations from different organizations and local patrons. The library reports that this latest venture is off to a great start. There are many different varieties of fruits, vegetables, flowers and herbs available for patrons to "check out." 





# Winfield Public Library receives Pilcrow Foundation grant

The Winfield Public Library recently received a Children's Book Project grant award from the Pilcrow Foundation.

The Pilcrow Foundation's mission is to provide new, quality, hardcover children's books to rural public libraries across the U.S. Winfield PL received 114 children's books with a retail value of \$1990.73 which was made possible by the following donors: Drs. Bill Strawbridge and Meg Wallhagen of Calif., Delta Kappa Gamma, Shout Mouse Press, Mr. Hal Berenson and Mrs. Laura Ackerman of Colo., and the community of Winfield.

The Winfield Public Library applied for this grant using matching funds raised through book sales and patron donations totaling \$400. The library has benefited from this grant for nearly




The Winfield Public Library held a 'school book fair' to feature book titles that were added to their library with a grant from the Pilcrow Foundation

20 years, which wouldn't be possible without support from their patrons and community.

To celebrate receiving the grant,

the library held a book "checkout" fair inspired by school book fairs held by schools. Winfield PL displayed all books received through The Pilcrow Foundation's Children's Book Project grant and offered a table with free trinkets including pencils, erasers, scratch and sniff bookmarks.

The community was invited to come check out books, fill their own goody bags and book bags, and enter their name in a drawing for a prize.

"We wanted to do something special to recognize how awesome it is that we received this grant," said Winfield Public Library Programs Director Hannah Birdsong. "We were able to add so many books to our collection, thanks to the Pilcrow Foundation." 



Patrons peruse the new books and fill goody bags with various takeaways



## Scottsboro PL changes several policies to increase usage for summer

Scottsboro Public Library is kicking off its Summer Library Program with policy changes designed to bring more patrons through the doors.

"The Board of Trustees and the staff want to make this library as easy as possible to use," says Jared Dovers, director. "The beginning of summer was a great opportunity to look at our policy manual for opportunities to better serve our community."

The library will stop charging late fees until September, expand its service hours, double the amount of items that can be checked out, introduce automatic renewals, and remove special checkout limits for certain materials among other changes.


"I hope this sends a strong signal to our community that we're listening and we're committed to making this building as patron-friendly as possible," says Dovers. 



# Mobile Public Library celebrates SLP start

Mobile Public Library kicked off their Summer Library Celebration on June 3 with a variety of local organizations offering all kinds of fun activities for families. There was a mini touch-a-truck event, game room, music, arts and crafts, and even the storm troopers and droids attended as part of the Delta Squad of the 501st Legion Alabama Garrison. Individuals registered for the Summer Library Celebration and set their reading goals.

For the 2023 reading challenge, the library partnered with a local bike shop, Adventure Earth. One lucky child, teen, and adult will win a new bike. All participants that read 400 minutes will be entered into the grand prize drawing.

Mobile Public Library has set a goal of registering 9,000 people for this year's Summer Library Celebration. With great attendance for the kickoff, they're optimistic about increasing participation and connecting more people with their local library. 



## Wild west exhibit travels to Satsuma PL


Satsuma Public Library was excited to have the Wild Bill Hickok traveling exhibit all the way from Deadwood, S.D. The six-panel exhibit was on display at the library for eight weeks and showcased the lives of Wild Bill and his family told through archival documents. In 2006, the Deadwood Historical Preservation Commission purchased one of the largest, privately held collections of Wild Bill Hickok memorabilia in the U.S. The collection consists of original photographs, personal correspondence and centers on the lives of the Hickok family.

How cool is it for this history  
May 2023



collection to visit Satsuma? Patrons really enjoyed this experience, and



the library was thrilled to see many new visitors enjoy the exhibit. 




# Award-winning author visits Opelika PL

The Opelika Public Library welcomed Newbery Medal winning author Jerry Craft on May 19.

Craft spoke to more than 1,000 Opelika Middle School students about his life story and lessons on never giving up. The author also demonstrated his illustration talents.

Craft led a second talk for the community at Opelika Public Library, where he also signed copies of his books.

The Opelika Public Library was honored to host Jerry Craft and have this opportunity to share his story and award-winning books with the community. 



Opelika Public Library welcomed author/illustrator Jerry Craft in May

## Collinsville Public Library hosts mental health first aid workshop


Collinsville Public Library hosted a Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) workshop that was led by the National Council for Mental Wellbeing in May.

MHFA teaches you how to identify, understand, and respond to signs of mental health and substance use challenges among adults. The training helps participants build skills and confidence needed to reach out and provide initial support to people



who are struggling.

There was no cost to attend and the crowd included firefighters,

a local physician and her staff, educators, library staff, and community members. 

## Opp Public Library holds book signing

*Author Nivaprye A. Yesil made a visit to the Opp Public Library on May 26 to autograph and promote her new book, Mom, Help Me. *







*APLSeeds received tons of great summer photos this month. Here are just a few that were sent in from Albert L. Scott (Alabaster), Elba, Oneonta, and Talladega Armstrong-Osborne Public Libraries.*

