

MCLS PRESS

The biannual newsletter of the Madison County Library System



DISCOVER BRANCH NEWS:

Partnerships Bring
Something Magical
Together - Pg. 3

WE CREATED, YOU VOTED!

Written by Braley Reed -
Public & Marketing Specialist

We decided 2019 was going to be the year that we started a tradition that would surpass all Madison County Library System's traditions. This tradition would be followed, celebrated and carried into the coming years with a booming success. Our five branches exceeded those expectations by starting the Annual Holiday Display Contest with levels of creativity that will be hard to beat in years to come. You, as patrons of Madison County Library System, voted for your favorite display which deemed Camden Public Library as the winner by a landslide. The other branches tried their best and had beautifully crafted ideas but you had the final say. We would like to thank everyone who participated in our first Annual Holiday Display Contest so we are hosting a free Chick-fil-A breakfast in Camden on Thursday, February 6. Don't leave without getting some free goodies like a mouse-pad, lip balm, and more while supplies last!

CELEBRATING SUMMER READING IN JANUARY

Written by Dawn Collins -
Youth Services Director

With a theme like “A Universe of Stories” we couldn’t help but go space crazy at the library! Partnering with NASA and the Stennis Space Center, all five of our branches offered Nerd Camp: a combination of our successful winter program last year and AstroCamp. AstroCamp is a Stennis/NASA program offered throughout the south at select locations.

Winning a 2019 YALSA/Dollar General Summer Learning Resources Grant allowed us to make the most of our summer kid’s and teen’s programs. Nerd Camp was five days at each of our branches where the campers were able to perform from NASA’s and Stennis Space Center’s AstroCamp, as well as, a day of retro video gaming using Raspberry Pis, and monitors and controllers purchased with our grant. By partnering with Stennis Space Center, we were able to increase the learning opportunities for rural, under-served teens and youth which presented them with NASA created projects to pique interest in space-related learning. This exhibited how science and technology can pair with programming, computers and the use of the Pis to show what simple computing knowledge can achieve.

Engagement during camp was a wonderful success. The Madison branch saw a turnout of twenty children. This number was steady through all four days of our camp. At our Camden branch, a rural community that serves a population of 900, we saw 10 campers daily. During these days, we were able to have the youth design and fire rockets, learn about computer and gaming, and be exposed to STEM concepts in a fun and engaging way. Our community is an economically diverse one. Because many of our youth patrons get free lunches at school

during the year, we wanted to be able to offer that for the days of our camps. To do this, we partnered with various restaurants. During our time in the Canton branch we utilized the summer free lunch program that was offered through the school district to provide meals for the campers. Since the program lasted several hours each day, we partnered with restaurants in each town to provide lunch for the participants. Jimmy Johns, Little Caesars, Zaxby’s, McAlister’s, Wendy’s, and Buffalo Wild Wings brought meals for the kids and staff. One parent commented on their post-attendance form that having lunch provided took some of the stress off of her. Another parent commented that our summer program was more enjoyable for her son than the camp they paid for him to attend. Thank you to all of our sponsors of the 2019 Summer Reading Program!!! We couldn’t do it without you.

Our branches enjoyed success with programs like Cosmic Legos, Galaxy Playdough, Nebula in a Jar, DIY Jetpacks, a healthy food program brought to us by the MSU Extension Office, many different Slime programs, a program about flight and airplanes presented by and at the Madison Airport for teens and elementary-age students, a self-defense program for elementary-age students and one for teens presented by Gracie Jiu Jitsu Madison, and Advocates for Freedom (AFF) helped put on the Trafficking Awareness program. We also had performances by Dorian LaChance, Stormin’ Bob Swanson, and Tommy Terrific.

Fall programs have everyone flocking to the library too! Creative Painting for teens (Madison), Tabletop Teen (Ridgeland), Teen Writing Group (Canton), Wellers’ Writing Groups for 4th-6th grades and 7th-12th grades (Madison), Halloween Celebration (Camden), Kindness Club (Madison), Indigenous Peoples’ Day (Flora), Teen Tech: Podcasting (Ridgeland), Pizza & Pages Book Club (Canton), Boredom Busters (Ridgeland), African Games Day (Flora), our SUPER popular Homeschool programs (Madison & Canton), and AMAZING storytimes at ALL our branches!

With a theme like “A Universe of Stories” we couldn’t help but go space crazy at the library!

Branch News

FLORA BRANCH



November and December were very active months in Flora! We started our new community outreach programs with Americorp and it has been a total success! Local Americorp representative, Jack Blackmon, has done an amazing job helping solve community problems. Jack maintains the library food pantry, GED sign-up and tutoring, life skills training and job search assistance. Jack has also had a Saturday children's reading hour in which a local policeman or fire fighter comes to the library and reads to the children. We are definitely looking forward to our continued partnership with Americorp and serving our community in the new year!

Other programs at Flora Library included a ballet story time and performance by Jana Bennett's daughters, performers with Ballet Mississippi, and a weaving presentation with Alma Ellis, a member of the local Mississippi Weavers' Guild. We had a small winter book sale which will be on-going throughout December. There was also a small bake sale at the Flora Car Show on November 9, and a well-attended Christmas Parade on December 9. Both events had over 200 people.

MADISON BRANCH

We all love watching our patrons, young and old, enjoying our library programs and checking out books they love to read. When I hear someone say that libraries are a thing of the past, I always smile and invite them to our library. Anyone who walks through the doors, especially during summer reading and the holidays, understands immediately that our libraries are still going strong!

Our friends continue to be very supportive of our branch and of our library system. They had another successful book sale at the end of August and agree that this was the absolute best sale ever! Currently our friends are getting ready for their upcoming book sale in February. Friends members come together to

organize, setup, and work at our book sales. Our friends group donated \$5,000 to our bookmobile project. They also gave \$1,000 toward the support of our youth summer reading program again this year. In the coming months, the friends will also lend support to several projects here at Madison. I so appreciate everything that our friends group does for our branch!

The Madison County Master Gardeners have continued working very hard on the library grounds and we all have enjoyed the beautiful blooms this spring and summer. They have regular "clean up" days at the library and work together to make our grounds beautiful. We really appreciate all of their hard work and dedication to this project.

We have had a varied selection of adult programs in the past months. In September, we had our first "50-Plus Bingo" here at Madison and it was a big hit with our seniors. We had good food, lots of laughs, and a few prizes for our winners too. We have since had our "50-Plus Bingo" every month and it is still going strong. Our patrons love the free sewing classes and we already have a waiting list for our next class in the spring. In October, we had an informative program on the "Dangers of Vaping and Tobacco Use". This was presented by the partnership for a Healthy Mississippi and the Mississippi Tobacco Free Coalition of Madison County. In November we welcomed our seniors to come learn about their Medicare choices from AARP and what was best for them. Our long running programs, the Madison Avenue Book Club and HigBee Hive Quilters group are very popular here and will continue this year here at Madison. We will also continue our new "50-Plus" Bingo once each month. Each month we will have a new theme and great prizes! Our new Kindness Club has been a success. The children have reached out to nursing homes, children's hospitals, and other places in the community with cards, blankets, art, homemade placemats, etc.

--Full News Article on Page 5

WE LOVE OUR PATRONS

Watching them enjoy the Library and Library programs!

Branch News

CAMDEN BRANCH

"Somewhere, something incredible is waiting to be known". –Sharon Begley

Staff Development was held at the Camden branch in October. Great food and a learning experience for all. Can't wait for the next one in May!

The Halloween party for Camden was a huge success. Everyone had fun roasting hotdogs and s'mores on the campfire while enjoying chips and drinks.

At the Winterfest Holiday Party there were cookies, cupcakes, candy, a reindeer headband craft, holiday Pictionary game, and DIY instant snow activities set up on Saturday, December 21st.

UPCOMING:

January 2020 – Magnolia Training

February 2020 – Appreciation Luncheon

CANTON BRANCH

The Canton Branch was alive and busy reaching the needs of our patrons last year. The Mississippi Film Office, the Mississippi Library Commission, the Madison County Library System and Canton Tourism partnered to screen, Christmas in Mississippi. This Lifetime film produced by Daniel Lewis, was hosted on Canton's Historic Courthouse on the Square, and it set the perfect holiday mood. The movie was followed by a lively discussion about what makes your hometown holiday special. Then, attendees enjoyed some holiday applause with Door Prizes and Light Refreshments! Many movie-goers expressed their appreciation, as one gentleman stated, "he was just blown away by the event."

For many of our patrons and library users who are longing to connect with fellow readers, the Canton branch book club is a fun option. We offer a variety of books from nonfiction to fiction and for readers of all types. On Thursday, December 12, 2019, the Canton Book Club finished the year with a fabulous Christmas Party! As part of the Madison County Library's mission to provide lifelong learning, we

provide proctoring service to our patrons to facilitate their ability to take examinations for their online or distance education courses.

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." (Martin Luther King Jr). This year, the Canton branch will celebrate Black History Month with style! We will start off the month with a display highlighting the contributions of African American musicians, artists, scientists, and inventors. Patrons and library users will enjoy story times, making crafts and listening to engaging speakers. Everyone is encouraged to take advantage of our wealth of online resources that will help to enrich their understanding of Black History and their own personal history.

Nov. 1, 2019 marked the beginning of the six-week enrollment period for health insurance coverage under the Affordable Care Act (ACA), and the Canton branch partnered with representatives from various insurance agencies who worked tirelessly to promote health insurance enrollment. This workshop provided important information about healthcare benefits and how it can help individuals achieve overall well-being and save money on premiums and medical expenses. The primary goal was to promote enrollment in the health insurance marketplace during the Open Enrollment period of the Affordable Care Act. Representatives distributed quality materials, educated, and encouraged the community to enroll in the health insurance Marketplace during the Open Enrollment period.

Managing your diabetes just got easier. The Canton branch has partnered with Merit Health of Canton to provide a series of free diabetes classes at the Canton library which will equip and empower patrons with the tools they need to live full and worry-free lives. Ms. Shelia Spann, Pharmacist/Diabetes Educator at Merit Health Hospital, offers workshops that cover a variety of topics – including diabetic food and nutrition cooking classes and free kidney screening. In February, we are hosting a free exercise class for our senior adults which is designed to help individuals manage and take control of their own health.

Don't stop with just the Diabetes exercise class but join us each month for free Yoga. Put it in your calendar by visiting our page at_

<http://www.mclsms.org/calendar.php>

Branch News

MADISON BRANCH

The Madison Library also hosted AFF (the Advocates for Freedom) and had over 150 adults and children attending presentations explaining how children and teens can keep themselves from becoming victims of human trafficking. Finally, we had one of our most popular programs of the year, “A Magical Holiday” at the Madison Library on Thursday, December 12. Santa and magician Dorian LaChance were together again for this special program here at the Madison Library. We also had WLBT’s Barbie Bassett come to speak about self-confidence and share public speaking tips on Thursday, January 9.

Our Sensory programming continues to be a wonderful addition to what we offer our community. Currently here at Madison we offer sensory storytime, sensory gaming, and LEGO building. Evanne Flanders, our Special Needs Programming/Outreach Specialist, continues to do an excellent job with all of our sensory programs.

RIDGELAND BRANCH

Here at the Ridgeland Branch we had to start our new year off by saying good bye to our faithful Branch Manager, Antoinette Giamalva, who left us in December. She will be greatly missed and the search is on for a replacement.

RidCon was one of our biggest events which hosted local artist, vendors, authors, and more this past September with at least 500 in attendance. We couldn’t have made it such a huge success without the help of our Ridgeland Library Friends group. We want to thank them for their continued support for programs and projects over the years!

Other adult programs that our wonderful staff has hosted this past year are: Roll with Ridgeland, Tech Day, Mugs and Movie, Word After Word Writers Group, Chapter One Adventure Group and many more. In October, we added the “Everyone Welcome” theme to our library system. To celebrate, Ridgeland hosted a Religion Round table which

brought religious leaders from seven different faiths to talk about what their religion is. They mentioned that they would love to do this quarterly. The youth programs at the Ridgeland Library have been going strong over the past few months. Youth Services have tried a lot of events and they have been very successful! They are currently building their next couple of months of programming and listening to what our patrons want!

Our storytime programs are growing to numbers we haven’t seen in a while. We are doing more outreach and connecting with others. Storybook Con was a success where we had people from Magically Perfect come as real Disney princess and we had stations of special crafts for the kids.

Throughout the year we had glass displays with an array of subjects, a display case with staff picks such as; Far Away Places, Transport through Time, MS Bookfest and more. We also had a book display for our patrons with Cool Reads: Book Lover’s Day, RidCon, Coffee Day, Cozy Reads and several other option that were sure you spike some interest. We always look for more and more ways to serve our patrons’ needs and accommodate their interest. Check out our calendar on our website at

www.mclsms.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

**THE JACKSON IRISH
DANCERS IN MARCH**

**MARDI GRAS MURDER
MYSTERY IN FEBRUARY**

**ADULT AND TEEN
ARCHERY TAG IN MARCH**

**FOR NATIONAL LIBRARY
WEEK: A LIBRARY
“EPOCH” PROGRAM AND
OPEN HOUSE**

WELCOME

New Staff

[Robin Owens](#) joined us in September 2019 and is our newest staff member here at the Madison Library. She comes to us with two and a half years of school library experience from St. Anthony School Library in Madison. She received her Masters Degree in Education from Penn State University. She moved here five years ago from Connecticut with her family, but has lived a nomadic life since marrying and following her hubby's career. She is married to her husband Tom, and is the proud mama of twin 16-year old daughters. They are juniors at rivalry high schools. She is also mom to three rescue dogs and two horses. She holds officer positions in the local section of the United States Pony Club.

[Ivy Smith](#) joined our staff in December 2018. Her favorite color is rose gold. She loves horror movies and reading. She is currently a junior at Tougaloo College, double majoring in both Mathematics and Computer Science. After graduating from Tougaloo, she plans on attending graduate school at University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson. She plans to obtain her Masters and PhD in Biostatistics and Data Science.



(Ivy Smith on left and Robin Owens on right)

[Jill Berry](#) is the Youth Services Librarian at the Ridgeland Library. Jill joined the Ridgeland Library staff in November of 2018 as a Circulation Librarian, and transitioned over to Youth Services in November of 2019. Jill was raised in Madison, MS, attended Madison Central High School, and graduated in 2012. She attended undergrad at the University of Southern Mississippi. In her free time, Jill likes playing with her dogs (Ritzy, Jackson, and Toby), reading

mystery and suspense novels, and watching BuzzFeed Unsolved for hours on end. Jill's favorite thing to do is spend time with her family, her boyfriend Alan, and her best friends Katelyn and Kim. Jill is an avid lover of animals, crawfish, and the Bachelor.

[Jennifer Heath](#) joined the team at the Ridgeland Library in February 2019. She is a graduate of Belhaven University with a degree in Social Services. After a 25-year career working in the field of Children and Family Ministry, she is now following the advice of her hero, Mr. Rogers, to be a community helper in her neighborhood. Jennifer has lived in Madison County for 24 years with her husband Jeff, her two daughters and rescue dog Oliver.

[Kayla Downs](#) joined us in November of 2019 after recently moving back to her hometown of Brandon, MS from Starkville, MS. She received her Associates Degree from Hinds Community College in 2017 and is continuing to further her education. She is in the process of buying her first home with her husband Andrew. Together they have two cats and a rabbit.

[William Lewis](#) is a Librarian at the Ridgeland Public Library. William likes to travel to new places and live through new experiences. He came from Tacoma, Washington and moved down to Mississippi to be closer to a close friend and his family. William has a Bachelor's Degree in History from Saint Martin's University. William is also a Veteran who served honorably for eight years of service in the U.S. Army. William's upcoming goal in life is to get his master's in History with an emphasis on Ancient Celtic Studies. William lives in Jackson, Mississippi.



TECH NEWS

Young Filmmakers'
Workshop, Soundbooth,
Faster Networks through
Cabling, & More - pg 8

BOOKMOBILE OR SANTA'S SLEIGH?

Written by Evanne
Flanders - Sensory Needs
and Programming
Specialist

The bookmobile has been active this holiday season. On Halloween, the bookmobile was at Ridgeland's Trunk-or-Treat. Despite the sudden cold snap on Halloween, staff members handed out candy to hundreds of children!

In December, the bookmobile drove in the Christmas Parades in Canton, Flora, Madison, and Ridgeland decorated as Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer. Several of the parade goers were also bookmobile patrons. It was a real treat to see some familiar faces in the crowds!

In addition to holiday festivities, the bookmobile recently added a new stop to its route: The Madison County Pre-School. The Madison County Pre-School, located at the central office for Madison County Schools, is for children with special needs. At this stop, the students have a small storytime and then get to check out a book. The students and their teachers have really enjoyed the bookmobile's visit. The bookmobile's schedule can be found at:

<http://www.mcls.ms/Bookmobile/Schedule.pdf>

Technology

We were sad to see our Technology Programming Specialist, David Jackson, leave in December of this past year. We are looking for a charismatic, upbeat technician to replace David but we know many of our patrons will feel that is impossible to do.

Technical and media programs abound in the Canton Library's Digital Innovation Lab. The space located on the second floor of the Canton Library is home to numerous programs and technologies. This last July, the space, as well as, the town of Canton hosted the Canton Young Filmmakers' Workshop. The program was two weeks divided between a child and teen camp. During the camp, the students worked to complete a three to five-minute short film while getting instruction from film experts.

Also the digital lab has created programs to teach how to make iPhone apps, how to create 3D models for printing, and classes on the Adobe Creative Suite including Photoshop. The lab's sound booth can be used by local authors to create audio books for distribution or for local musicians to record music. To discover what new programs the digital lab has to offer, visit the MCLS calendar or Facebook page.

Outside of the Digital Innovation Lab, Ray Myers and Braley Reed, have been busy keeping all the public computers, software, Opaqs, printers, and networks up to date in the system. All five branches had a recabling project finish, from CAT5 to CAT6, that will help utilize the most out of our bandwidth speeds. Get ready staff and public because we are updating Canton and Ridgeland public computers to Windows 10 machines!

-written by David Jackson, Braley Reed, & Ray Myers

The



LIBRARY

Is More than Just BOOKS!

What if you knew where there was a wealth of free resources but no one else knew about it? What if you were the only one who knew where some buried treasure was that had gifts specific to certain people in your community? Well, that is your local library system because we are "More than Just Books!" We give our patrons, community, businesses, neighborhoods, families, and individuals FREE resources and services to help them be their best self. Individuals searching for employment are able to browse the internet for jobs, type up and print out résumés, and apply for jobs online. If someone needs to work on their job skills, we offer an amazing and life changing resource for our patrons called the Learning Express Job and Career Accelerator.

Find conversations to help you land that impeccable job, explore occupations, search for jobs and internships, build a cover letter and résumé, or match the perfect job with your skills and interest through free high speed bandwidth. We have made it easy for the patron to print from an Apple or Android device by using our mobile printing which is only .20 for B&W copies, .50 for color copies, or you can print directly from the public computers at the same price.

For students, the Learning Express Library offers training and practice tests for a variety of standardized tests including the GRE, ACT, SAT and GED. There are also practice tests to help with Middle School and High School skills such as Reading, Math, Writing, and Spanish. Students also have access to our MAGNOLIA database, which is a priceless, unfathomable gift of knowledge for the patron, given through federal

funding by the Mississippi Library Commission. The MAGNOLIA database provides a large source of journals, newspapers, magazines and books to gather information on almost any subject for school projects. MAGNOLIA serves as a great resource for non-students as well. NovelList is a wonderful reader's advisory service that provides recommendations and book discussion guides. The Database also provides users with full text of many periodicals including newspapers and magazines.

For people interested in learning another language, the library offers online language courses through Rocket Languages. There are 14 available languages including Spanish, Italian, Japanese and Sign Language. Classes include language lessons, culture lessons, games and tests. If patrons are interested in a training program on how to use Magnolia, please let us know. If there is a huge enough response, we will put a class together! We have a wide array of programming adapted around adults' and youths' interests, needs, and level of learning!

For those interested in genealogy research, the library offers two resources. HeritageQuest is available in the library and by remote access through a link on the Madison County Library System's website. Ancestry Library is available inside the library only. Both are great sources for anyone interested in family history research.

These are just a few of the many great resources the Madison County Library System offers the public for free! For most of your job, education, or informational needs, the Madison County Library System is the place you need to visit sooner rather than later!!!

super duper OUTREACH

All of the branches of the Madison County Library System try to affect their community in their own special way.

The Canton branch donates packages of books to those who are incarcerated at the Madison County Community Work Center (CWC) and the MS Women's Correctional Facility in Flowood. We are assisting those who are incarcerated not only to improve their literacy, but also aiding them in overcoming their educational and informational difficulties. So far, among our popular donated books are paperback general fiction, fantasy, science fiction, horror, historical fiction, thrillers, action adventure, young adult, biographies, mystery, and suspense.

The Madison Library continues its nursing home outreach to Home Place, thanks to our community volunteer, Mary Jo Hasson. As

our primary volunteer, she selects the books from our collection to bring for the residents of Home Place to pick through and check out. Since some of the residents are unable to come down and make their own selections for various reasons, Ms. Hasson delivers those books to their rooms. We appreciate the hard work and dedication that she has shown the residents.

John Shorkey of St. Catherine's Village and long-time library patron, volunteers his time to pick up and deliver books to the residents of St. Catherine's. Along with the assistance of Grace McMillan, the librarian at St. Catherine's Village Library, residents can enjoy their favorite books even if they are unable to physically come to the library. This is such a valuable service! We appreciate all of the time and dedication of these volunteers.



Madison County
LIBRARY SYSTEM
Knowledge • Community • Imagination



**Camden
Library**

(662)-468-0309

**Flora
Library**

(601)-879-8835

**Ridgeland
Library**

(601)-856-4536

**Canton
Library**

(601)-859-3203

**Madison
Library**

(601)-856-2749

www.mclsms.org