Librarians Report

April 22,2025

It seems like forever since we met!

Upcoming Happenings at the Library:

* A-List Book Club and BYOB Book Club 2nd and 4th Monday
* Crochet Club every Monday
* Third Tuesday for Teens-3rd Tues 4-5
* Lego Club-2nd and 4th Tuesday
* Pre-school Story starts back Sept 4th
* Thinking Money for Kids Financial Literacy Series for Kids-Month of April
* Adult Finance Classes by Alabama Extension April 26 and May 3.

I am in the process of weeding the juvenile section of books that have not been checked out in 5 years or more. I completed the YA section.

The city cashed out the book CD in the amount of $2,051.74. These funds will be used for updating the children’s’ department materials.

I attended the ALLA conference at the Guntersville State Park April 9-12. There were many great sessions that I was able to attend.

The city is breaking ground today on the new Rec Center which is an $11 million project for the city. We have been asked to keep our spending to essential needs only. And if major spending needs to be done, the city clerk and mayor will approve if necessary.

I have finally gotten a quote to replace the toilet in the patron bathroom. The water department replaced our water meter. This may not completely fix the issue but Denise said we would start there and if more work needs to be done, we will address it at that time.

The Marshall county libraries attended a county wide workshop at the Boaz Public Library on February 26th. We learned about customer service from Chick-fil-a; got answers regarding copyright and other library related legal issues from an Albertville attorney, received half a day of training for our Integrated Library System, Atrium., and received Narcan training from Mountain Lakes Behavioral health. Overall it was a very informative day and a wonderful experience for our staff. They were able to meet other like-minded professionals and tour a beautiful library.

At the last APLS board meeting held March 20, the board terminated Nancy Pack and appointed Kelyn Ralya as Interim Director. They also defunded Fairhope Public Library for not being in physical compliance with the policy. They had no warning.

We had an administrative meeting held virtually on April 17th. It was a well-organized meeting with useful information shared. Mrs. Ralya stated that the APLS budget which provides state aid was level funded for the new FY so we should not receive any cuts in our state aid. All federal grants have been halted including all LSTA grants. Rhonda Napier, Regional Librarian, discussed the Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Disabled and shared the qualifications for Alabama residents. Melinda Smith, reference librarian, share the new kits that are available for check out. Uma Srivastava, Executive Director of Kulture City, a non-profit company out of Birmingham, offer support to libraries and other organizations for training to assist people with neurodivergence.

Update from APLS Board Chair, John Wahl:

At the last APLS board meeting held March 20, the board terminated Nancy Pack and also defunded Fairhope Public Library for not being in physical compliance with the policy. They had no warning.

He stressed that transparency is key so they will be making board meetings available to the public.

Regarding federal funding, they are working to bridge the gap. They are not sure what will be available for FY 25.

Letters are being sent out to directors regarding the trump executive orders and how they will affect the libraries. He wants us to follow the executive orders.

He also reminded us that letters were sent out with definitions that were to assist with policy compliance.

He recommends that we move all books from the minor sections, YA down, that full under “sexually explicit” in order to be in compliance with our policies.

1st Qtr. 2025 Stats:

Circulation-12005

New Patrons-152

Computer Use-598

Materials Added-425

Programs Held-42

Attendance-879