

APLSeeds

Growing public libraries across Alabama

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July 1, 2016

Calendar

Administrators' Meeting 7/13/16

Snapshot Day 8/16/16

New Directors Orientation 8/17/16 - 8/18/16

Since 2002, the library has hosted exam breaks for area students, providing refreshments and extra study space throughout the week. This year, they expanded the program to include a session with therapy dogs to help decrease stress. The event was a hit for students and staff alike.

Therapy dogs have been used in libraries to help young readers practice reading aloud, and several universities use therapy dogs to ease students' stress. In a community that encourages high academic achievement and college preparatory work, giving students a canine stress break was a natural fit for Emmet O'Neal.

Emmet O' Neal Pups



On May 24th, Emmet O'Neal Public Library in Mountain Brook worked with Hand in Paw, a Birmingham organization that specializes in animal-assisted therapy, to bring three teams of therapy dogs to the library.



Library Honors

Four libraries were honored and presented with Standards of Achievement Awards during the Public Library Division (PLD) Tea at the 2016 Alabama Library Association Annual Convention in Gadsden: Bronze level - Tupper Lightfoot Memorial Library, Washington County Public Library; Silver level – Pinson Public Library; Gold level – Hoover Public Library.

Alabama Standards of Achievement Awards recognize superior planning and levels of excellence attained by exceptional public libraries in Alabama. At this time, the Gold Level Standard Award is the highest level of achievement attainable by a public library in Alabama, followed by the Silver Level and Bronze Level Awards. Public libraries that achieve Award Level standards serve as benchmarks of excellence for other libraries in the state.

The purpose of the Public Library Division (PLD) of the Alabama Library Association is to promote public library service and development throughout Alabama. The PLD evaluates public libraries each year and awards the best of the best with Alabama Standards of Achievement Awards.



Left to right: Carrie Steinmehl, Technology Coordinator at Hoover Public Library (HPL); Eloise Martens, HPL Trustee; Amanda Borden, HPL Assistant Director

Birmingham News

Birmingham Public Library's popular *Bards & Brews* poetry performance/beer tasting series, normally hosted downtown, is going on the road this summer. On June 3rd, *Bards & Brews* held an open mic performance at the Avondale Regional Library and on July 8th, spoken word artists will be able to participate in an open mic night at the Vestavia Hills Public Library.

The Avondale event on June 3rd featured free craft beer sampling courtesy of Avondale Brewing Company. The festivities also included live music from Josh Wheeler and light refreshments. Brian "Voice Porter" Hawkins served as host.

The event is made possible by grants from the Alabama State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts. Admission is free and open to the public; however, attendees must be at least 18 to enter and 21 to sample beer—ID is required.

Additionally, the library hosted a panel discussion addressing how to curb homicides in Birmingham on June 18th. The event featured a talk and book signing by victims' advocate and community activist Carolyn Johnson. Johnson, author of the book *When Your Child Is Murdered*, is involved in the Birmingham Violence Reduction Initiative. Since her oldest son was murdered in 2003, Johnson has worked tirelessly to help make Birmingham's streets safer.

Johnson's book details how she used her devastation and pain as a catalyst to actively fight to reduce youth violence. She is convinced that the problem of drugs, gangs, and violence can't be simply wished away. In 2004, she founded and organized the Parents Against Violence (PAV) Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization committed to educating youth and parents about the consequences of using violence and enforcing community awareness of unsolved homicides.

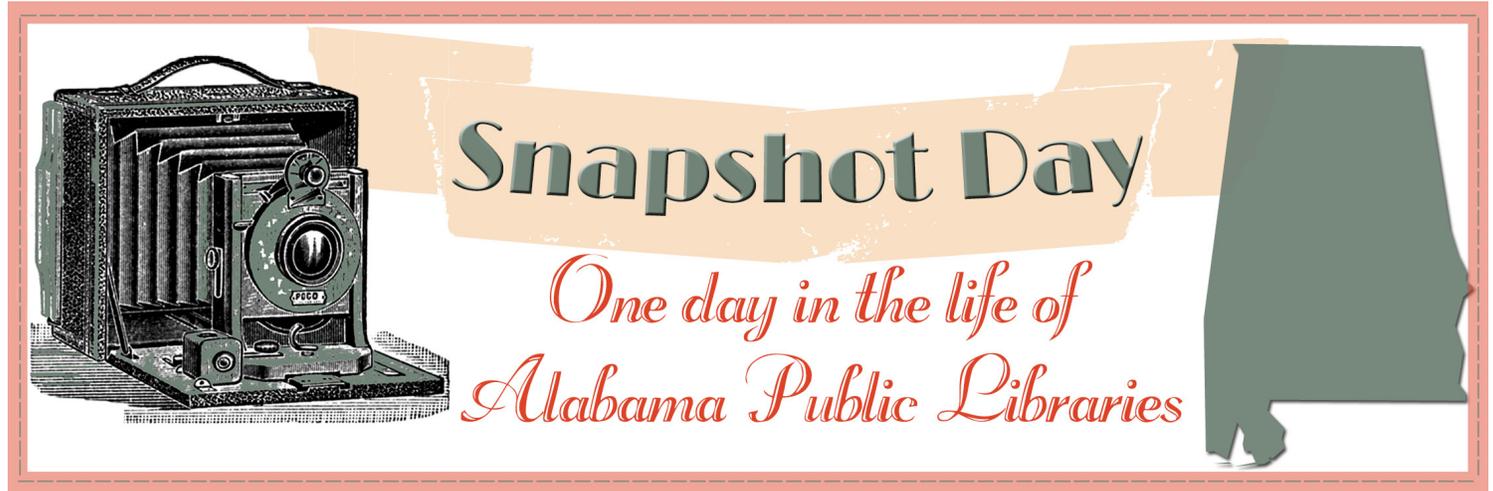
She also organized the Sisters Leadership Program to educate, mentor, and empower girls ages 12-18, enabling many of the girls to later achieve promising careers. She also formed the "Who Killed My Child" and the "It Ain't Snitching if it Happens to You" billboard campaign to bring awareness to unsolved homicides in 2006, a program that has helped police settle several unsolved cases.

Attention New Directors!

If you are an Alabama public library director that has been in your position for five years or less, you should have received an email about the New Directors Orientation from APLS. Important information about the orientation being held on August 17th and 18th at APLS, including an agenda, registration information, and instructions for reimbursement are included. In order to be reimbursed, attendees must register with the State of Alabama Accounting and Resource System (STAARS). More information can be found on the APLS website:

http://webmini.apls.state.al.us/apls_web/apls/apls/?q=NDO

If you did not receive this email, please contact APLS Library Operations Manager Rhonda Napier immediately: 334-213-3951 or rnapierr@apls.state.al.us



Save the Date: August 16, 2016

Dear Public Librarians,

It is that time of year again – Snapshot Day Alabama is scheduled for August 16, 2016. This is an event purposed to capture a typical day in the life at your public library and the essential services you provide. On any given day, libraries offer materials and services that make their communities better. Snapshot Day Alabama is a way for all the public libraries in the state to band together and show their worth. APLS encourages you to join this initiative to help us show how libraries improve lives and bring communities together. These snapshots of our libraries are a great way to show patrons, boards, towns and the Legislature the importance of Alabama's public libraries.

All libraries are encouraged to participate by collecting photos, statistics, and patrons' comments on this day and to share your experience with APLS. It's easy because you are just showing a typical day in the life at your library. Because it may be difficult for some libraries to participate on that specific day, libraries may choose any day during that week to take part. A toolkit including a customizable press release, photo consent form, tally sheet, and tips sheet is attached.

Statistics gathered throughout the day include the number of patrons that you help with workforce recovery, number of reference questions answered, circulation data, number of program attendees, and number of patrons that come to the library. Libraries also have the opportunity to collect patron comments. All together, this project should help create a picture of how important public libraries are to our communities. We hope that you will share your photos, statistics, and comments with APLS! Submissions should be emailed to staylor@apls.state.al.us no later than September 1, 2016.

Let this be a chance to show your community how much they need you! If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie Taylor at 334-213-3943 or staylor@apls.state.al.us.

Read and Romp



Read and Romp – Tuscaloosa was an exciting, innovative, and free family literacy event on May 21st for children 3-5 years of age and their families.

At *Read and Romp – Tuscaloosa*, children were engaged in fun, learning-based activities centered around children's books. Stations staffed by child-focused organizations and businesses, including Tuscaloosa Public Library, were set up, providing families an opportunity to learn about activities that will enhance the development and education of their children. Hands-on activities were provided at each station. For example, children pressed buttons at the Tuscaloosa Public Library station and created a monster craft to take home based on the book *Don't Push the Button*. At the Bama Bounders station, children enjoyed a bounce house based on the book *5 Little Monkeys*. Face painting, character visits, a petting zoo, and live readings of the books were also featured. By associating fun activities with reading, parents can better engage with their child in early literacy skills, which will help increase their children's success in school.

Started by the national Reach Out and Read organization, *Read and Romp – Tuscaloosa* is unique in that it is a collaboration of organizations that have early childhood literacy and family engagement as priorities.



Woodville Grant

Woodville Public Library received a \$2,000 Dollar General Summer Reading Program grant. The funds will be used to enhance the programs for the children who attend this year's programs. Way to go, Woodville!

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Information Technology

Homewood Programs



The Homewood Public Library continued their quarterly cocktail classes with their most recent seminar, *Garden to Glass*. Bartender and writer Clair McLafferty showed patrons how to use herbs from their gardens to infuse and enhance their cocktails. Patrons were able to taste two cocktails: a Rosemary Gimlet and a Honeysuckle Vodka Collins.



Additionally, the library recently partnered with the Greater Birmingham Humane Society for a special event called *Read to Rover*. Children were able to practice their reading skills by reading to these adorable and adoptable dogs!



2 Resources, 1 Goal: Helping Alabama Succeed 

**LearningExpress Library &
HomeworkAlabama**

- Online Tutoring for Grades K-12
- College Placement Resources
- Help for all ages and all skill levels
- Certification Test/GED Preparation
- Career Resources

**Find both on the APLS
Resources and Research Links Page**