

HCLS Lighthouse

Newsletter of the Harrison County Library System



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Why Libraries Matter

Since the first truly "public" American library was founded in Peterborough New Hampshire in 1836, until the present day, libraries have been an essential part of America's democratic heritage. Countless people have benefited from the self-education they were able to obtain in free public libraries.

In the nineteenth and twentieth century wealthy benefactors like Andrew Carnegie were so impressed with the possibilities of public libraries that they donated great amounts of money to build and establish libraries for the public good.

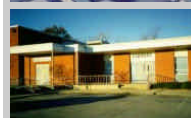
Democracy and libraries are intrinsically related to each other. It would be impossible to have a truly democratic society without free access to information. Democracy places supreme power in the hands of the people. Libraries make democracy work by providing access to the information required for citizens to make the decisions that are necessary for self government.

When you really think about it, the public library is the only institution in American society that has, as one of its chief functions, the responsibility to help guard against the twin tyrannies of ignorance and conformity. The public library's very existence indicates the extent to which our society values knowledge, truth, justice, books and culture.

Libraries help countless people break down the fences that culturally isolate them by providing opportunities to improve their ability to communicate and grow intellectually. From immigrants learning English to an underprivileged student learning how to use a computer, libraries are there to help.

Libraries help to level the competitive playing

HCLS



field by making their resources equally available to all members of the community, regardless of income, class or other factors. Once users have access to the library's materials, they have the opportunity to improve themselves at their own pace and level of ability. This is especially important as more information becomes available only electronically. The public library's role in providing access to this new form of information is absolutely paramount for large numbers of our citizens and has made a tremendous difference in their lives.

Libraries, as institutions, value the individual. Because of the way they are structured, they encourage independent thinking without prejudice. Library collections offer the historical, global, cultural, and political perspectives that are necessary to encourage a spirit of exploration, so necessary for challenging orthodoxy and mind-numbing prejudice.

Libraries nourish creativity, help to open children's minds to all the beauty and opportunities that should await them, and provide a very good return for the public monies spent to help support them. Libraries also offer sanctuary from the frenetic world of television and other

"immediate" media and provide the opportunity to enjoy the peace and quite of the average library's environment.

And finally, libraries preserve the past. As Vartan Gregorian, one time president of the New York Public Library once said: "Libraries keep the records on behalf of all humanity, the unique and the absurd, the wise and the not so wise." They also preserve the history of their local communities, and a community that does not understand its own past can very easily become mired in its own mistakes. As some philosopher once said, "libraries are truly the brain of civilization."

Robert Lipscomb Library Director

Coming Fall 2001 Teen Web Page Design Contest

Teens design your own website and win prizes too!

The Harrison County Library System will be sponsoring a teen contest. We will have two categories, one for graphic design and one for content. Teens will get to vote on the top five in design and content and pick the web page they like the best. This web page will be designed by teens for teens.

For further information please contact Gen Thompson at the Gulfport Public Library, (228) 863-6411 or email her at gen@harrison.lib.ms.us.

Gen Thompson, Outreach

Golden Book Award

The Friends of the Gulfport and Orange Grove Library were awarded the "Golden Book Award" by the Mississippi Library Association on January 29, 2001. This award was presented during the annual "Legislative Day" in Jackson. The award was given for: "Most Outstanding Volunteer Effort by an Individual or Group Deemed to Have Contributed Most to Library Awareness in the Past or Present". This hard-working group of library supporters was given the award specifically for their efforts in preventing the tearing down of the Gulfport Library to make way for the new federal courthouse. Because of their efforts (and the efforts of other concerned groups and citizens) the original plan to demolish the existing library was reconsidered and an alternate site for the new courthouse was chosen. The Mississippi Library Association thought, because of the key role they played, that the Friends were well deserving of the honor. Congratulations on a job well done!

Robert Lipscomb, Director

Best of the Best

What do the Gulfport Public Library, Taco Bell, Lowe's, Funtime USA, and Kat Bergeron have in common? They were all chosen the "Best of the Best" in the latest Marquee poll. Close to 200 readers cast votes for the best in the categories of Eats & Drinks, Shopping, Casinos, Entertainment, Locations (this was the Libraries category), and People. Thanks to all who voted for the Gulfport branch of the HCLS. For complete results, see the December 29, 2000-January 4, 2001 MARQUEE.

Celia Barrett, Head Librarian



Joyeux Noel at Biloxi Library

This is the 4th year the community business, clubs, and agencies have decorated trees for the holiday season at the Biloxi Public Library. This year over 528 attended the Library's open house with over 6,990 viewers during the month. Notable among the decorated trees was a net and shell tree from the Seafood Industry Museum.

Charline Longino, Head Librarian



Many Thanks...

Many thanks go to Morella & Carlos Del Real for their efforts in translating the Harrison County Library System Internet Policy from English into Spanish. As always, their concern was the library system's need. When asked if they would be willing to work on this translation, the immediate response was "Yes, of course! When do you need it?" A beautifully prepared translation was returned several days later. Morella, Carlos, and their four children (Adriana, Elias, Moises, and Sara) use the library several times a week. They have, on many occasions, added to the cultural richness of this community by using their talents in the schools and various organizations in the area.

Gwen Farned, Branch Head

Congratulations Staff

Deborah Lundy **West Biloxi Library**

Deborah Lundy, the branch head of the West Biloxi Library, has been nominated to run for Secretary of the Mississippi Library Association. Deborah started with HCLS 17 years ago as a Circulation Clerk. During this time she has gone on to obtain a Masters Degree in Business Administration and is working towards a Masters Degree in Library Science. Congratulations Deborah.

Bill Sumrall **Computer Department**

Many outstanding compliments, tons of encouragement, and lots of thanks have come from his hard work in upgrading the public computers in each library. Bill is one of three staff members of the Computer Department, and is the Computer Technician for the library system.

Spring is a Busy Season

Tax Season

Tax Forms

Monday, April 16th is the deadline this year for Federal Tax returns. Libraries are the pick up points for Federal and State tax return forms. Each of our member libraries have forms you can pick up for free. Also available are reproducible forms you can copy for a minimal fee and online forms that can be printed.



Local Offices:

Internal Revenue Service/TPS
15521 Oak Lane
Gulfport, MS 39503
www.irs.gov

Mississippi Tax Commission
1141 Bayview Avenue
Biloxi, MS 39530
(228) 436-0554
www.mstc.state.ms.us

Tax Assistance

Tax Assistance is available by many local groups. Several of our libraries have assistance available at their location.

Margaret S. Sherry Library
AARP Tax Assistance
Fridays, Starting February 9th
10:00 AM—2:00 PM

Orange Grove Library
Mondays, 9:00 AM—1:00 PM
Saturdays, 9:00 AM—1:00 PM

West Biloxi Library
Wednesdays, 9:00 AM—2:30 PM

Coast History Week

February 12th—16th



You'll find reconstructed 18th

Century French shelters, authentic costumes, demonstrations of camp life, cooking, gunsmithing and other trades at the Maritime and Seafood Industry Museum. The Biloxi Public Library has replica models of early French buildings and also several dolls dressed authentically for the French 1690's. Local school children will participate in a poster contest on coast history with the winners displayed at the Biloxi Library.

Black History Month

Black History Month is in honor of the past achievements and ongoing contributions African-Americans and people of African descent have made. Throughout the month of February, Black History Month is celebrated at our libraries with posters and book displays. Several of the libraries have special events.



The Gulfport Public Library is hosting an evening of "Black History Celebration". The featured speaker will be Dr. John R. Kelly, Deputy Director of Family Services at the Navy CB Base and National Director of the American Cancer Society. This event will be held Tuesday, February 20th, at 6:00 PM. Along with refreshments, there will be copies of Beaches, Blood and Ballots, by Dr. Gilbert Mason available for purchase.

Mardi Gras

Fat Tuesday, February 27th.

It's the Tuesday that is 46 days before Easter, always the day before Ash Wednesday, the start of Lent. Carnival season begins, January 6th, or Twelfth Night. Local krewes present 23 carnival parades over the 3 to 4 weeks preceding Fat Tuesday.

Parades are free and open to the public. All libraries will be closed Tuesday, February 27th, for Mardi Gras. Several libraries are in key locations for several of the parades. Check the local newspaper for more information. For more information about Mardi Gras, visit www.mardigras.com.



St. Patrick's Day



In addition to the parades along the coast and book displays at the library, the Biloxi Library will have a special collection of posters. These posters were donated by the Hibernia Society. The artist used local faces to illustrate her "wee folk" and Irish peasants.

National Library Week



April 1-7

National Library Week — a time of celebration for libraries since 1958 — is an especially significant occasion for libraries in 2001, as it will mark the launch of The Campaign for America's Libraries.

During this week, several libraries will hold different functions for the public to attend. The Friends of the Library will host Wine & Cheese receptions at several of the libraries. Morning Coffee, Breakfast, and displays are just a few of the events planned. Visit your library for more information.



Book Sale

April 28th

A book sale, hosted by each libraries' Friends of the Library, will be held at Edgewater Mall.

Harrison County Library System

Administrative Offices
1300 21st Avenue
Gulfport, MS 39501

Phone: 228-868-1383
Fax: 228-863-7433

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Libraries and Their Hours

Biloxi Public Library
139 Lameuse Street
Biloxi, MS 39530-4298
(228) 374-0330 FAX 374-0375
Mon-Thu 9:00—8:00
Fri & Sat 9:00—5:00

D'Iberville Public Library
10391 Auto Mall Parkway
D'Iberville, MS 39532-3750
(228) 392-2279 FAX 396-9573
Mon & Tue 9:00—8:00
Wed - Sat 9:00—5:00

Division Street Study Center
595 Division Street
Biloxi, MS 39530-2303
(228) 435-2435
Mon-Fri 3:30—7:30
Sat 1:00—5:00
Summer Hours: 1:00—5:00

Gulfport Public Library
1300 21st Avenue
Gulfport, MS 39501-2081
(228) 863-6411 FAX 868-8413
Mon-Thu 9:00—8:00
Fri & Sat 9:00—5:00

Isiah Fredericks Study Center
3312 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Gulfport, MS 39501
(228) 868-1268
Mon - Thu 2:30—7:00
Fri 2:30—5:30
Summer Hours
Mon - Fri 9:00—5:00

**Margaret S. Sherry
Memorial Library**
2141 Popp's Ferry Road
Biloxi, MS 39532-4251
(228) 388-1633 FAX 388-0920
Mon & Tue 9:00—8:00
Wed - Sat 9:00—5:00

Orange Grove Public Library
12031 Mobile Avenue
Gulfport, MS 39503-3175
(228) 832-6924 FAX 832-6926
Mon, Wed, Fri 9:00—5:00
Tue, Thu 9:00—8:00
Sat 9:00—5:00

Pass Christian Public Library
111 Hiern Avenue
Pass Christian, MS 39571-4311
(228) 452-4596 FAX 452-3247
Mon-Thu 8:00—6:00
Fri 8:00—5:00
Sat 9:00—5:00

West Biloxi Public Library
2047 Pass Road
Biloxi, MS 39531-3125
(228) 388-5696 FAX 388-5652
Mon-Wed 9:00—8:00
Thu - Sat 9:00—5:00

Holiday Hours : All Libraries will be closed: Tuesday, February 27th for Mardi Gras
Wednesday, March 7th, 9AM-1PM for System Meeting, Monday, April 23rd for Confederate Memorial Day