



Administrative Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Date: April 12, 2021
Time: 10:00 am

Location: Attala County Library

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Mid-Mississippi Regional Library System Board of Trustees was held on Monday, April 12, 2021, at the Attala County Library. Trustees in attendance were: Rhonda Porter, Winston County (teleconference), Martha Ramzy, Leake County (teleconference), Flora Pilgrim, Holmes County (teleconference), Margaret Harris, Montgomery County (teleconference), and Terry Jones, Attala County (teleconference). Also in attendance were staff members: Nancy Cain, Carthage-Leake County Librarian; Tammy Bell, System Business Manager; and Josh Haidet, System Executive Director.

CALL TO ORDER...

Rhonda Porter, Board Chair, called the meeting to order.

SETTING THE AGENDA...

Mrs. Porter asked if there were any additions to the agenda. As there were none, the agenda was set.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES. . .

Mrs. Porter asked if there were any additions or revisions to the January 25, 2021 board meeting minutes. There were none. Terry Jones made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting as presented. Flora Pilgrim seconded, and all were in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENTS...

Mrs. Porter asked if there were any public comments. There were none.

REPORTS...

- A. Librarian's Report: Nancy Cain, Carthage-Leake County Librarian**
(See attached report)

- B. Financial Report - Tammy Bell, MMRLS Business Manager**

Martha Ramzy made a motion to approve the financial report, and Margaret Harris seconded. All were in favor.

- C. Director's Report – Josh Haidet, MMRLS Executive Director**
(See attached director's report)

DISCUSSION ITEMS...

- A. Security Gates**

Director Josh Haidet reported that the system's security gates were nearing the end of their functional life. The gate at the Durant Public Library had been removed recently because it has stopped working. Due to flooring work at the Attala County Library, a gate was removed at that location. It was the director's intention not to replace these gates and periodically remove other gates as needed or as requested by the librarian. Mr. Haidet mentioned that he didn't feel the gates were an effective means to prevent theft, that securing each new book cost a significant amount of money in staff time per year, and that they were generally eyesores and in the way. After the discussion, there were no objections to the director's plan of action.

NEW BUSINESS...

A. Board Attorney

Flora Pilgrim made a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss hiring a board attorney for the system. Martha Ramzy seconded, and all were in favor.

Upon returning from the executive session, Flora Pilgrim motioned to retain Carey R. Varnado of Montague, Pittman, and Varnado in Hattiesburg Mississippi as the system's board attorney at the hourly rate of \$225 and \$.50 per mile reimbursement for travel expenses. Martha Ramzy seconded, and all were in favor.

B. System Signage

The board next discussed the purchase of new outdoor signs for eight branch locations throughout the system to add signs or replace existing signs that were in poor condition, and which featured the old library logo. The system received three bids to complete the work. Flora Pilgrim motioned to accept the bid from Fast Signs located in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, for \$7,247.94. Martha Ramzy seconded, and all were in favor.

C. Carthage Furniture

The board next discussed new furniture for the Carthage-Leake County Library. Following a library reset, a new computer desk was needed, and Library Interiors suggested additional furniture. The total quote based on state contract pricing was \$36,363.97. Flora Pilgrim made a motion to set a total budget for the project at \$45,000.00, and Terry Jones seconded. All were in favor.

ADJOURNMENT...

Board Chair Rhonda Porter asked if there was any further discussion needed before the meeting was adjourned. As there was none, Terry Jones motioned to adjourn the meeting, and Martha Ramzy seconded. All were in favor.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING:

Monday, August 9, 2021, at the Attala County Library.



8/9/21

MMRLS Administrative Board Secretary

Approved Date

April 12, 2021

Carthage-Leake County Library

Librarian's Report, Nancy Cain

The library is now more open and inviting for visitors. During the month of January, headquarters staff came into the Carthage Library and worked very hard to give us a more open and inviting floorplan. The non-fiction shelves and books have been moved where the computers previously were. The computers are now closer to the back door that is adjacent to our parking lot. Due to these changes in the arrangement of the books and computers, the library is much more open and spacious. Guests are now able to browse the stacks for the books they want for the first time since last March when the pandemic started. Library staff continues to monitor the number of guests in the library to make sure that we don't have more than 12-15 in the library at one time. We currently will allow up to 3 people in the children's room to browse the children's collection. We allow 3 to 4 people to browse the adult non-fiction/ fiction area at a time. We continue to require a mask for anyone entering the library, and if someone wants to browse the books, we ask them to sanitize their hands. If a book is touched and not checked out, we ask the guest to place the book on a cart so that it can be sanitized.



The Carthage-Leake County Library Reset has made everything feel more spacious and open



February Programs

- Book Club
- Online Storytimes (twice a month)
- Reading Blackout
- Blind Date With a Book

For February, the Book club read “Fatal Grace” by Louise Penny. We met February 13th at 12:30 at Proverbs Coffee to discuss the book. During the month of February in recognition of Black History, we have received an Anti-Racist Reading Shelf Collection. This collection of books is financially assisted by Thomas M. Blake Charitable Fund #2 of the Community Foundation for Mississippi and the Mississippi Humanities Council. These books are on display and available for checkout. We are also highlighting books by and about African Americans throughout the month on our social media pages. The books that we spotlight, will be available for checkout. Each year in February we like to encourage our guests to not judge books by their covers. We call this Blind Date with A Book. We had Blind Date books available for checkout for all age ranges.



Photos above: Anti-Racism Reading Shelf Collection on display at the Carthage-Leake County Library.

Below left, is a social media post highlighting African American authors.

Lower right is a photo of our Blind Date books that were available for checkout.



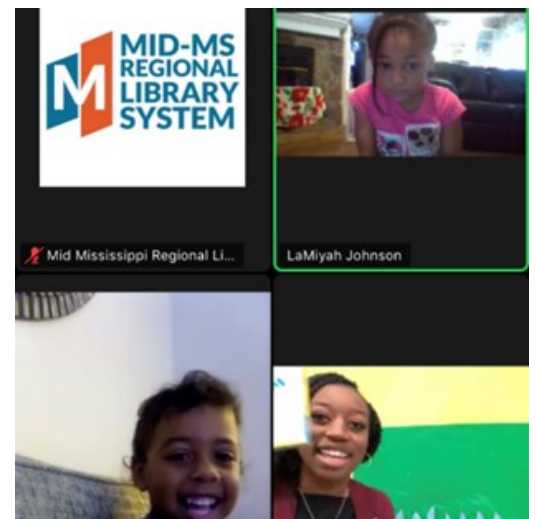
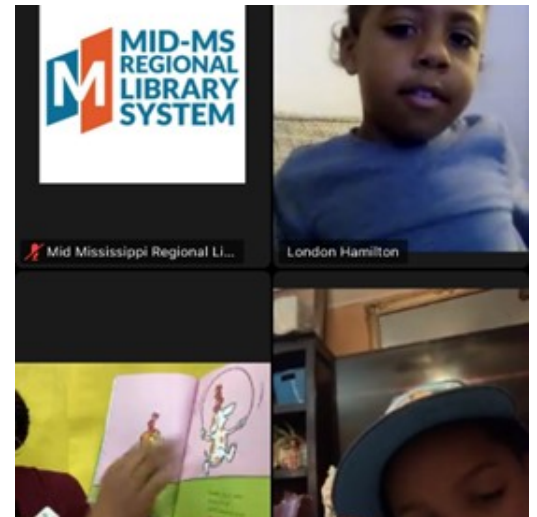
Blind Date with a book winners are pictured from left, Susan Harpole, Pamela Vowell. Gloria Alford not pictured.



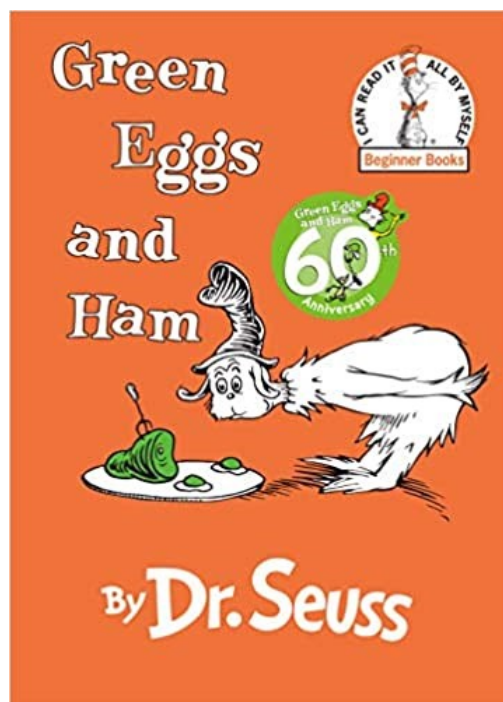
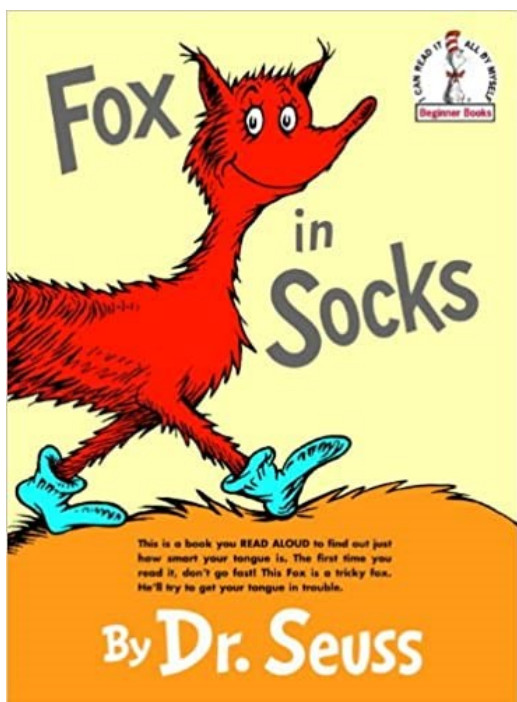
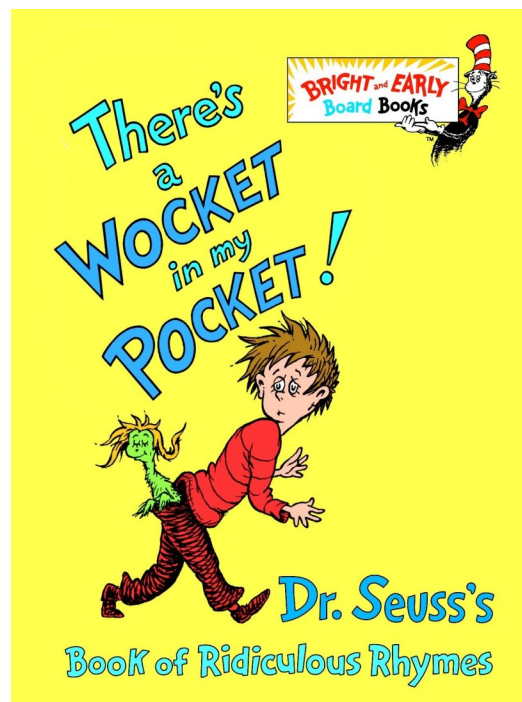
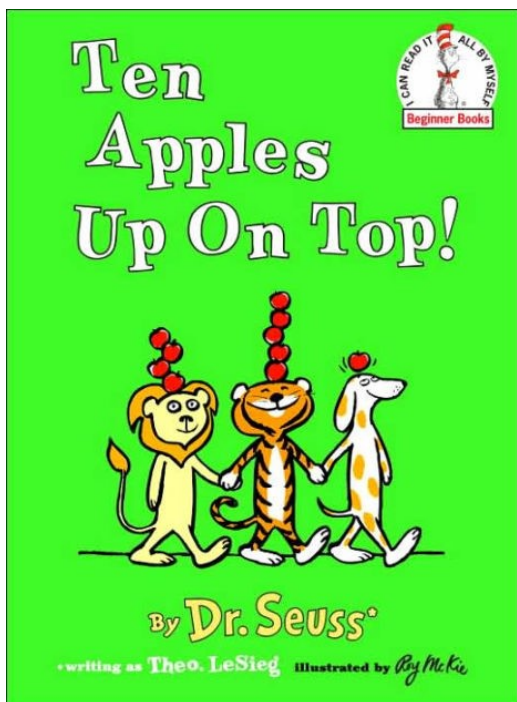
Winners were chosen by a random drawing and each received a box of chocolates.

March Programs

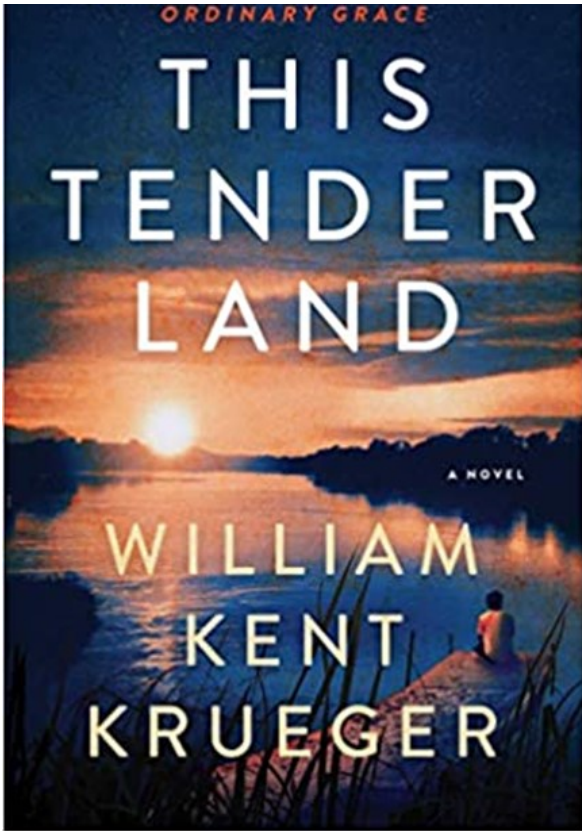
March 4th – Virtual Storytime with Headstart. Kenshelsa read several Dr. Seuss books and presented One Fish Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish using a felt storyboard. The children loved it!



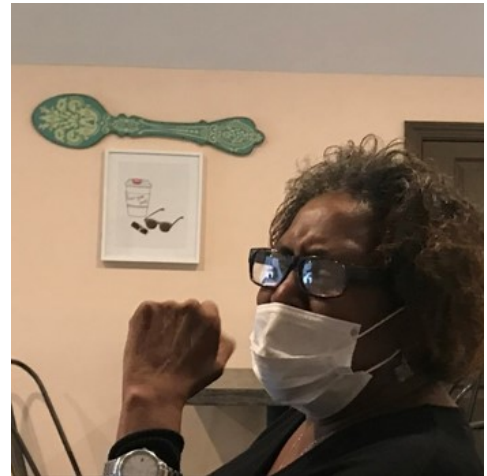
For National Read Across America Day on March 2, we passed out goodie bags containing a Dr. Seuss book along with pencils, notepads, stickers and other treats. These books were passed out during the week of March 1—March 5. The books that were given out are pictured below.



March 27th – Book Club met at Proverbs Coffee to discuss “This Tender Land” by William Kent Krueger



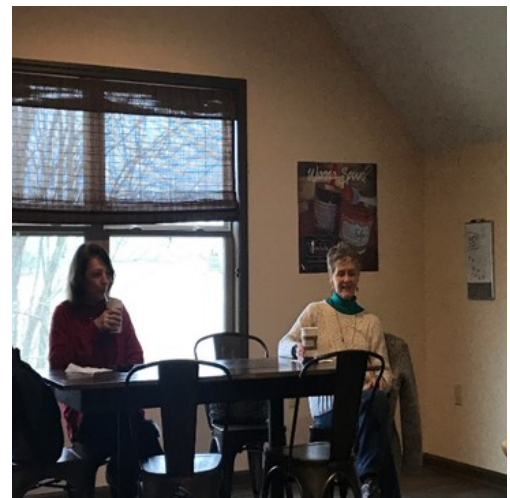
Melissa and Alesha Odom



Tilda Overstreet



Jean Settlemir



Susan Harpole and Evelyn McGivney

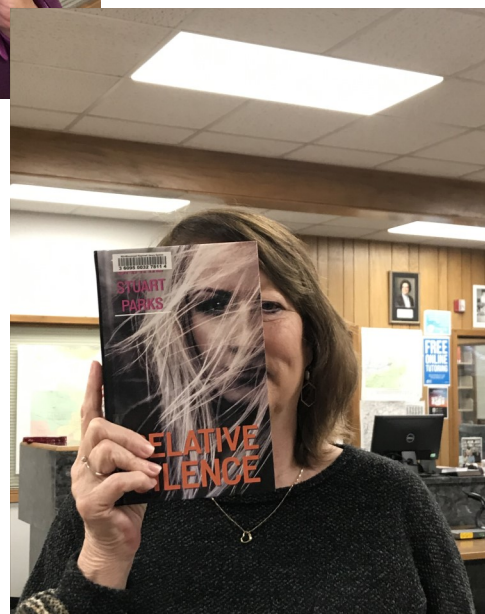
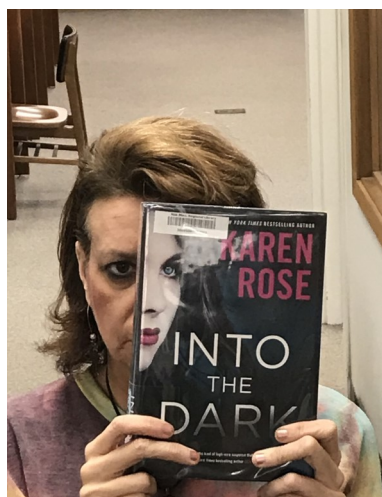
April Programs

National Library Week

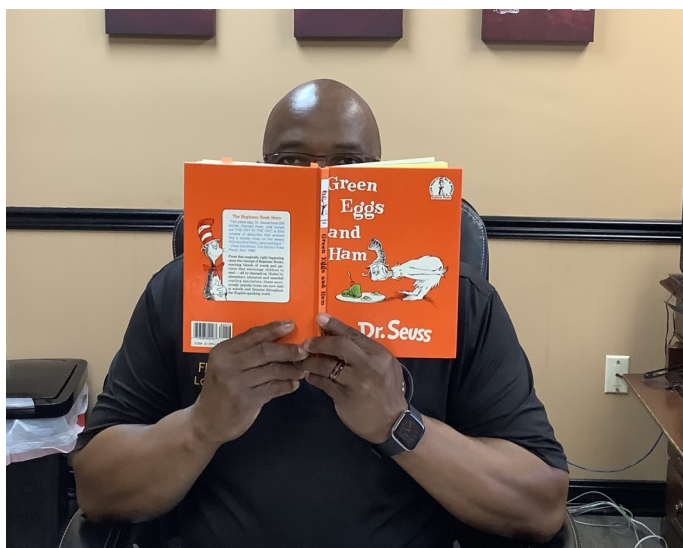
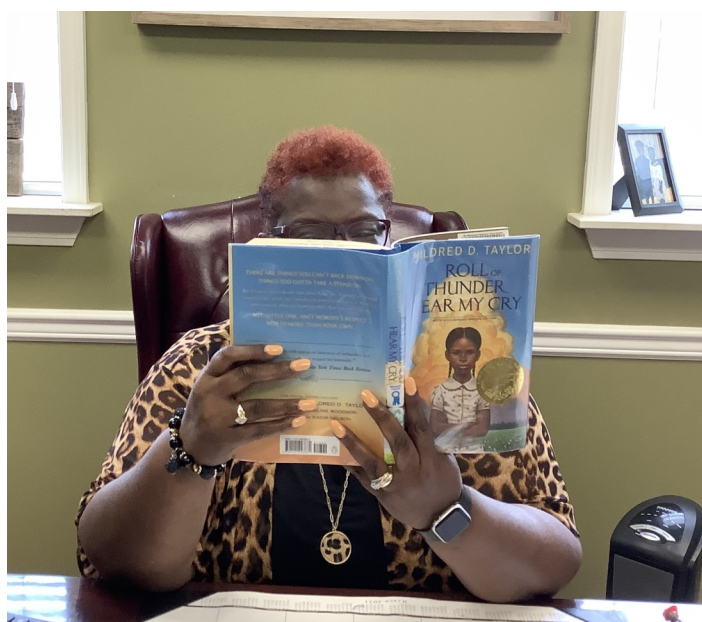
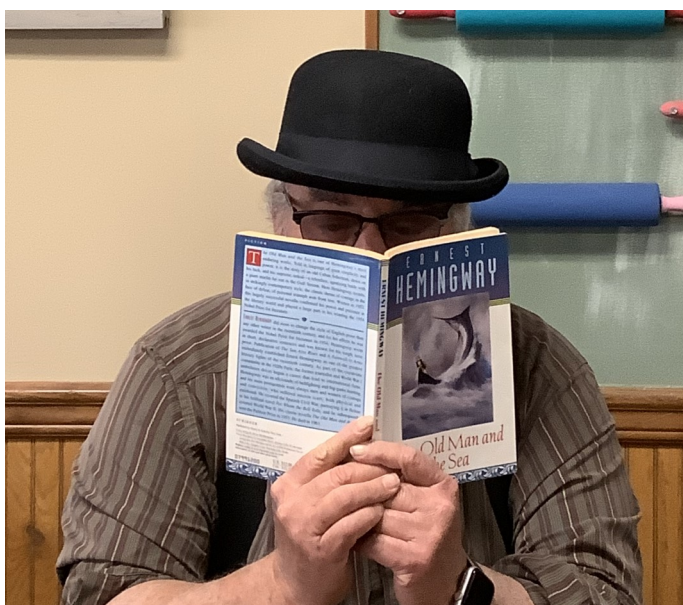
- April 6 @ 3:30, Teen Virtual Games via Zoom
- April 8 @ 9:00 , Virtual Storytime with Head Start via Zoom
- Show Me Your Book Face
- Lego Count Challenge
- Book Club plans to meet on April 24th at the Sudduth House. The Dancing Rabbit Genealogical Society owns the house. We have a close relationship with the Genealogy group, and they have agreed to let us use the house as a meeting place for our book club.

May Programs

- SLP Registration
- Get Caught Reading



May is Get Caught Reading Month. We are soliciting the help from several people in the community. Each person is allowing us to take a picture of them with their favorite book held up in front of their face. Everyone will have an opportunity to see if they can guess who the secret guests are. Below are a few samples of our Get Caught Reading Promotion:





Administrative Board of Trustees Director's Report

Date: April 12, 2021
Time: 10:00 am

Location: Attala County Library

Star Library FY2019

- MMRLS has been named a FY2019 Mississippi Star Library by the Mississippi Library Commission.
- This is the first time the system has received this award.
- The Mississippi Star Library award is given to libraries with outstanding statistical performance in a several categories, including the number of registered users, items circulated, program attendance, public computer and internet usage, database use, books lent throughout the state, and items withdrawn.

Overdue Fine Update

- MMRLS officially eliminated the collection of overdue fines at the end of January 2021.
- All previous overdue fines were waived soon thereafter by Anita Winger at Mississippi State.
- All necessary policy changes are being completed to bring them up to date.
- The staff and public reaction have been positive. The official public announcement of this change was made at the beginning of April to coincide with National Library Week.

Staffing Changes

- Duck Hill Librarian Jessie Mann retired in early December after 11 years of service to MMRLS. Former Winona Assistant Librarian Dina Kilburn took over the role, with Winona Clerk Blair Caldwell taking over the Winona Assistant Librarian position.
- Pickens Librarian Maureen Thompson resigned her position effective February 12th. Tiffany Washington, a library user and resident of Pickens with a background in early childhood education, has been hired to fill the position.
- Walnut Grove Saturday Librarian/Substitute Librarian Brandi Ingle is resigning her position effective April 17th. Current Walnut Grove Substitute Candice Grayson will be taking over beginning April 24th.
- Tchula and West Librarian Ann Polk has informed us she will be retiring in June. The search for her replacement will begin in May.

Employee Handbook Work Progressing

- I am working on a complete revision of the MMRLS Employee Handbook to bring the system up to date with current employment law. I plan to have a draft of the handbook before the board for its review at the August or October meeting, depending on the agendas for those meetings, and the progress on the handbook.

Time Clocks

- MMRLS recently purchased a time clock for the Attala County Library and Headquarters personnel. We'll be testing the functionality of the time clock for use throughout the system.
- We have been informed by MLC that all employees, even those who are salaried employees, should complete a time sheet. This appears to be the easiest way to accomplish this goal.

Branch Updates

- All branch locations are now "fully open" for browsing to the public. All libraries will resume their normal hours of operation no later than May 1st. A few libraries may have slightly different hours of operation if the potential for better staff usage is present, as I feel now would be a good time to make those changes if necessary.

Attala County

- The leaks continue at the Attala County Library, and specifically in the new children's area. The most recent thing we have been told is that the county is preparing to coat the roof with a rubber sealant in the hopes that this will temporarily stop leaks.
- Termites are still present in the building and have started to swarm since the warm weather has returned. Exterminators have been on-site but tell us there isn't much they can do since the pests are living in the roof.
- Attala County Board of Supervisor Chairperson Tim Pinkard has been updated on the status of the roof several times this year already. He does recognize that a new roof is required, but due to the significant financial cost involved, a time frame for this to occur is uncertain.
- The order for the library's new shelving and end caps has been placed. The order for the children's area canopy tops has been put on hold due to the aforementioned leaks.
- Work on the new computer lab has been slow due to several factors but is finally progressing. The Attala County Friends of the Library have agreed to replace the worn-out carpeting in the lab with a new vinyl planking floor. Work should begin on April 12th.
- Our IT Coordinator Michael Davide has recently completed the network cable wiring for the computers, and county workers completed the necessary electrical work in February.
- The library was able to pay a contractor to have the room painted, and that work was below our capitol improvement threshold. A new circulation desk for the area has been ordered.
- We are targeting an opening of May 1st for the new computer lab.

Holmes County

- Roof leaks continue at Durant and Tchula. I was able to speak to a maintenance man for the City of Durant in late March, and he said he was working on getting a roofer to come and fix the leak.

Leake County

- The Walnut Grove Public Library is in need of some new shelving. After projects are completed at Attala and Carthage, we'll be exploring options to order shelving for this library.

Montgomery County

- The Duck Hill Public Library's hours were recently changed. The change allows for the library to be open 4 more hours during the week on Wednesday afternoon, and eliminates Saturday hours.
- A new DVD shelf was recently installed in Duck Hill (see picture below).
- A reset of the Winona-Montgomery County Library children's area has recently been completed. The reset allows for a more open space at the front of the library, and for staff to be able to easily view the entire area from the circulation desk.
- Work has also begun on the clean out of the library, and the organization of their genealogy collection.
- The Winona-Montgomery is in need of new end panels similar to what was ordered for the Attala County Library. We'll be exploring this option in the future.



Attala County Library
March 12 at 10:49 AM · 🌐

On Thursday, 54 bags of popcorn were given to patrons who stopped by the Attala County Library to celebrate National Popcorn Lover's Day. #beyondbooks

A collage of four photographs showing children and staff members at the library. In the top left, a staff member in a white t-shirt and mask holds a bag of popcorn. In the top right, a staff member in a grey t-shirt and mask holds a bag of popcorn while a child in a pink shirt looks on. In the bottom left, a staff member in a grey t-shirt and mask holds a bag of popcorn. In the bottom right, a group of four children, two girls and two boys, are holding their popcorn bags and smiling. The background shows the library's interior with bookshelves.

👍❤️ 9 2 Shares

Duck Hill Public Library
March 12 at 4:22 PM · 🌐

I've fixed up a new display area for the new books and the DVD's have new shelving.

Two side-by-side photographs of bookshelves. The left photo shows a close-up of a bookshelf with several new books displayed prominently, including titles by Michael Schmitz, Michael Connelly, and Patricia Cornelli. The right photo shows a long row of bookshelves with a new black metal shelving unit installed at the end, filled with DVD cases.

👍 6 1 Comment 1 Share

Durant Public Library
February 12 · 🌐

Congratulations, Katrina Banks, the winner of our Valentine Day Drawing! Thank you so much for participating.

A photograph of Katrina Banks, a woman with a grey headwrap and a grey t-shirt, smiling and holding a large, heart-shaped sign that says "Winner" in blue letters. The sign is decorated with red and white floral patterns. She is also holding a red mug with a floral design. The background shows bookshelves in a library.

👍❤️ 11

Kilmichael Public Library
March 29 at 4:13 PM · 🌐

Don't forget that March Book Bingo is due tomorrow! Anyone else struggling to read this month? I don't know about y'all but I've been super busy so when I get home I tend to want to MINDLESSLY SCROLL through Facebook instead of picking up my book. Do you catch yourself wasting time on social media? Book Bingo is a great way to focus more on your reading goals! Plus you could win a prize! April Book Bingo is available to pick up at the library now.

A Book Set in Ireland	A Book about Crafts	A Book by Nevada Barr	Poetry	A Book about a Dog
Takes Place in the Spring			A Book of Short Stories	
A Picture Book	Listen to an AudioBook		A Book with a Two Word Title	A Fantasy
Set in a Place You'd Like to Visit	Librarian's Choice	Book with a Family Tree	A Legal Thriller	A Book about Gardening
A Book by Lois Lowry	A Book about Starting Over	A Book by Dr. Seuss	Teenager is the Main Character	Borrow a DVD

March Book Bingo!

PIC•COLLAGE

👍 2 3 Shares

Winston County Library
22h · 🌐

Library Patron Rebecca Carson is so happy the Winston County Library's book stacks are back open to the public.

👍 31 8 Comments

👍 Like 💬 Comment ➦ Share

Most Relevant ▾

Write a comment...
Press Enter to post.

Tammy Shepperd Sanders
Is the entire library open now? Can you actually go in and pick out a book?

Pickens Public Library
Yesterday at 10:13 AM · 🌐

Come by and see us!

👍 2 1 Share

Winston County

- As part of our plan to again allow patrons to browse all library collections, the Winston County Library now has a staff workstation between the children's and fiction areas. Staff can check out books at this location and provide more immediate assistance to patrons browsing the stacks in the rear of the library building.

Important Dates

- February: MMRLS Advisory Board Meetings
- February 16 – 20: MMRLS closed for snow and ice
- March 17 & 25: MMRLS closed for half a day each for level 5 weather threat
- April 2: MMRLS closed (Good Friday)
- April 4 – 10: National Library Week
- June: MMRLS Advisory Board Meetings

A Few Other Things...

- In-Person Board Meetings?
- Personal Update