In the Spotlight: Morgan County Library

Written by: Colby Hunter, Morgan County Library Manager

When the Morgan County Library temporarily shuttered its doors in March of 2020 due to the pandemic, library staff immediately shifted from providing in-library service to providing those services remotely, offering 24/7 access to free wifi from the library parking lot, assisting patrons with downloading eBooks, eAudio, and digital magazines, and connecting them to the library’s web page and online assistance resources. Many e-services were added to the library’s repertoire, including virtual chat, an online personal book selector service, and an automated help form. As of March 2021, the library is still functioning with limited hours and services but stacks are open for browsing and patrons may visit the library in person during afternoon hours to pick up holds, check out materials, or utilize copying, scanning, proctoring, and notary services. Patrons in need of a computer are able to check out a Chromebook with a PINES library card or make an appointment to use one of the library’s designated workstations. Children are also able to utilize AWE Early Literacy Learning Stations that are internet-free computers loaded with hundreds of interactive and educationally based games and programs. Curbside service, which began as a temporary service during most of last year, has been added to the library’s permanent service offerings since it was, and remains, quite popular among patrons of all ages.

Library programming shifted to the virtual stage as well, with popular programs such as Preschool Storytime and Chair Yoga continuing in an online environment, and staff offering a Baby Reads program which focused on early literacy activities for babies and toddlers. Library staff are looking forward to engaging families again in person in safe, outdoor spaces, and plans are set to host Stories in the Garden in April. This special event will consist of a storyline and craft in the adjacent Laughin’ Place Garden, which currently displays a self-guided story book walk.
The Morgan County Library is also excited about a newly minted partnership with the Morgan County Charter School System. The Azalea Regional Library System, of which Morgan County Library is a member, and the Georgia Public Library Service (GPLS) are providing students with a digital PINES card called PLAY (PINES Library Access for Youth). The PLAY card launched on February 8th and provides every student enrolled in the Morgan County Charter School System with free access to the library’s e-resources, such as Tutor.com for live tutoring and homework help and thousands of eBooks via OverDrive’s Libby app.

Students may also check out physical materials with no fines accrued. March plans are for every elementary grade class in the MCCSS to be given a tour of the library and the opportunity to use their PINES student PLAY card. The Morgan County Library is proud to offer every child in Morgan County the ability to succeed in school and beyond by eliminating barriers to library materials and resources. Keep reading!

For more information about the Morgan County Library located in Madison, Georgia, follow us on social media or visit our webpage at:

http://www.azalealibraries.org/member-libraries/morgan-county-library/

**Featured Online Resource**

**Beanstack: Librarian Recommended Books and Apps (for Kids)**

Get better results from your summer and school-year reading challenges. Drive Measurable Results. Better Results Year-round. Fitbit for Reading. Unique Features. 24/7 Support. Beanstack helps you or your child create, manage, and measure reading challenges. Using a customized website and an easy-to-use mobile app, Beanstack makes keeping track of your reader’s progress easy and effortless. Join AZRLS for our Summer Reading Program Challenges in Beanstack, which starts May 17th. Visit our website for updates and more information.

http://www.azalealibraries.org
COVID-19 Precautions

PLEASE remember to bring and wear your face masks or face coverings while visiting our libraries. We appreciate your support and cooperation. Contact your local library or check the AZRLS website at www.azalealibraries.org for the most current information. Thank you!

TCOB - “Taking Care of Business”

“Taking Care Of Business” (TCOB) in-library service allows patrons to conduct business such as holds pick-up, drop-in computer use, access to materials for all ages, staff assisted printing, copying, scanning, and faxing services, voter & PINES card registration, notary and proctoring services, basic reference help, and genealogy room appointments. Hours may vary by library. Contact your local library for details.

Updated Library Service Hours: Call Ahead

Service hours may vary by location - Contact your local library for updated information.

Please note that several libraries in Azalea Regional Library System are returning to Pre-COVID-19 hours on May 3rd.

Remember to contact your local library for more information on TCOB, Curbside, and library operating hours.

Imagine. Create. Learn. Discover. Explore the possibilities @ YOUR library!

Check the AZRLS website at www.azalealibraries.org for the most current information, or follow our social media accounts. @AZALEARLS

Summer Reading Programs 2021

Join your home library’s Summer Reading Program for summer 2021! Encourage your readers to participate in challenges and log their books read this summer through the Beanstack app. Summer Reading registration via Beanstack opens May 17th! Visit our website for more information about your local library’s fun-filled summer reading program at: www.azalealibraries.org
AZRLS January - March 2021
Member Library Highlights

Eatonton-Putnam County Library

New DVDs | Facebook Story time | New Fiction and Nonfiction Book Arrivals | Updated Library Blog | DIY Crafts for All Ages | Curbside Service | Computer Service | Technology Lending Program | Library Story Coloring Sheet | Notary service

Greene County Library

Sip and Read | Ms. Mag Story time | Book Donations to Senior Center and Greene County Middle and High Schools | Time Capsule | Curbside Service | Valentine’s Day Give-Away | Virtual Book Club | Craft - Tara’s Fairy House | Coupon Swap | Jelly Bean Jar Guessing Activity | Black History Display | Bookateers Book Club

Jasper County Library

Facebook Live Story time | Bilingual Story time | Craft Kits and Craft Bag | Virtual Career Day at Washington Park Elementary | New Books For All Ages | Check Presentation to Food Bank Chamber | Summer Reading Planning
Morgan County Library

Weekly Facebook Story time with Wrangler Rick | Facebook Songs of Comfort Violin Performances | Bilingual Story time with Nelly | Virtual Book Club | Library Blog Updates | Children’s Craft Kits | Curbside Service | Chair Yoga | Notary | Adult and Children’s Computers | eBook, e-Audio and Digital Magazine Offerings via OverDrive’s Libby App

Monroe-Walton County Library

Mix it Up Mondays | Guest Story Time on Facebook | Weekly Live Facebook Story time | Weekly Library Book Blog | Curbside Service | Technology Lending Program | New Book Donations with Story Shop | AARP TaxAide Program | Telescope Borrowing

O'Kelly Memorial Library

Weekly Facebook Story time with Wrangler Rick | Facebook Songs of Comfort Violin Performances | Bilingual Story time with Nelly | Virtual Book Club | Library Blog Updates | Children’s Craft Kits | Curbside Service | Chair Yoga | Notary | Adult and Children’s Computers | eBook, e-Audio and Digital Magazine Offerings via OverDrive’s Libby App
Sparta-Hancock County Library

LIVE Facebook Story time | Craft Bags | New Books on Facebook | Library Blog Post | AWE Learning Literacy Computers for Youth | 21 Books in ’21 | 10 Reasons to Read and 100 Books to Read Programs | Story Time with Darice | Love to Read-Coloring Pages

W.H. Stanton Memorial Library

Facebook Live Story time | Bi-weekly Library Blog Posts | Family Movie Night with the City of Social Circle | Free Books for Community Egg Hunt | Weekly Chair Yoga | Library Coloring Station | Daily Recipes on Facebook | New Audio books | New Fiction and Non-Fiction Books

Walnut Grove Library

Books and Beyond Book Club | Facebook Story time | Ukulele Club | Library Blog | Music Monday- Violin Performances | Chair Yoga Tuesday | Toddler Music and Movement | Young Poet’s Poetry Contest | New DVDs

PLEASE remember to bring and wear your face masks or face coverings while visiting our libraries. We appreciate your support and cooperation. Thank you!
Azalea Regional Library System (AZRLS) 2021 Board of Trustees regularly called meetings:

**January 14, April 08, August 12, and October 14 at 1:00 PM.**

Such meetings will be held at the Steve W. Schaefer Regional Headquarters Building.

WWW.AZALEALIBRARIES.ORG

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### AZRLS FY 2021 -3rd Quarter Statistics

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Member Library</th>
<th>3rd Quarter Statistics</th>
<th>Library Programs</th>
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Free Library Services & Resources

- mango languages
- The NEW GEORGIA ENCYCLOPEDIA
- GLASS: Georgia Libraries for Accessible Statewide Services
- ancestry
- SebcoBooks
- eREAD KIDS
- Meet Libby
- Digital Library of Georgia
- Novelist K-8 Plus
- GALILEO

Service hours may vary by location - Contact your local library for updated information.

Check the AZRLS website at www.azalealibraries.org for the most current information, or follow our social media accounts at @AZALEARLS