

# MCLS Press

MADISON COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM

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Winter 2015

## Welcome Tonja Johnson to MCLS as the New Director

Tonja Johnson was previously employed as Assistant Director at the Jackson-George Regional Library System in Pascagoula. Previously she was with the Pontotoc County Schools and held the position of Librarian/Media Specialist at North Pontotoc Elementary in Ecpu, where she was selected as 2013-2014 Educator of the Year. Tonja has also served as Director for the Union County Library System in New Albany, MS.

Her education includes a Bachelor of Arts in History and Political Science from Samford University in Birmingham, AL, as well as, a Masters of Library and Information Science from the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg.

She has a strong background in library services to bring to the Library System with experience in literacy and library skills, budgets and collections, cataloging, library and professional development, and more.

## Ridgeland Library welcomes Antionette Giamalva



Antoinette Giamalva is the new Branch Manager for the Ridgeland Public Library. She started with MCLS on October 12, 2015. She received her MLIS from the University of Southern Mississippi in 2012 and received her Bachelor's of Science degree in Communication; Public Relations from Mississippi College in 2008. Antoinette previously worked for the Flowood Public Library as a Children's Supervisor Assistant and Reference Librarian. She has also worked at the Delta State University Library as a Reference Librarian and an Access Services Librarian. She has been a presenter at various conferences and has had various articles published. She is looking forward to this next stage in her life.



## Educational Kits Now Available

MCLS now circulates educational kits at each of its five branches. These kits are intended for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers. Kits include board books, flash cards, music CDs, and educational toys, such as puzzles and games. Each kit focuses on a certain topic; such as letters, numbers, and colors, among others. The intent is to give easy access to materials that make learning fun and interactive.

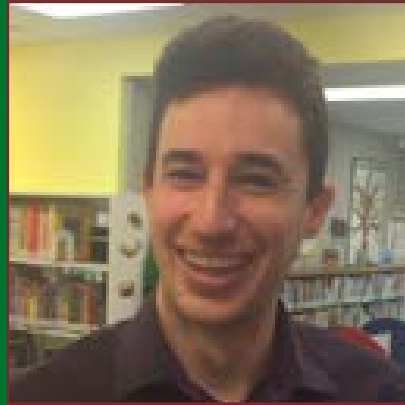
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## What's Going on @ the Library?

### New Faces, New Places

#### Jason Sharp joins the Youth Service's Team



Jason Sharp started to work at MCLS this past July as the Youth Service's Programming Coordinator. He has started several new programs and partnerships in the few months he has been with us. As the Youth Service's Programming Coordinator, Jason spends half of his time acting as the Children's Specialist for the Canton Library. The other half of his time is spent serving, supporting, and implementing children's and teen services at the other branches in the county. One of his most notable contributions has been his ability to successfully incorporate digital technologies that have educational merit in his programs. These range from preschool storytimes to afterschool clubs for young adults.

Additionally, he has been instrumental in building positive bridges with public schools, nonprofit organizations, and local businesses in the county. He helped design this year's National Library Card Sign-Up Month promotion, and used it as a way to begin providing outreach programs to local schools.

Prior to his employment at MCLS, Jason was the Senior Youth Service's Librarian at the Memphis Public Library and Information Center, as well as a Student Teacher School Library Media Specialist (Student Teacher) in Memphis, Tennessee. He received his MLIS from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville in 2014 and his Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Communication from the University of California in 2006.

"Coming to a library shouldn't be like attending a class in school. If our programs aren't both fun and educational, we aren't doing our jobs correctly."

#### Steve O'Brien new shelver at Ridgeland



Steve O'Brien is the new shelver for the Ridgeland Public Library. As the youngest of four children, both of Steve's parents were in the Air Force and he has experienced living in many parts of the country. He earned a degree in History and Political Science from the University of Southern Mississippi. Steve went to work for Barnes and Noble in Omaha, Nebraska, in July 1997 until January 2013. He worked afterwards as a paginator for the Omaha World Herald newspaper. Following his relocation back to Madison County to be with family, Steve began working at our branch in September.

## What's Going on @ the Library?

### New Faces, New Places

#### Canton Library welcomes Stephanie Morris to their staff family



The Canton staff welcomes Stephanie Morris. Stephanie joined our staff family on July 20, 2015.

Stephanie Morris is a native of Canton, Mississippi. She received her formal education in the Canton Public School District. After graduating from Canton High School in 1988, she continued her studies at Alcorn State University and Mississippi College with a major in Elementary Education. Stephanie has shared her wisdom with many children and colleagues in the Madison County School District for 23 years where she served not only as a teacher, but as a mentor with the Teach Mississippi Institute at the University of Mississippi. She received numerous awards and accolades over the years in her profession. She acknowledges that there is no greater gift than the imprint that she leaves on the lives of the people around her.

#### Tiffany White, New Shelver at the Madison Library



Welcome Tiffany White, our new shelver. She comes to us from Ocean Springs, MS. Tiffany received her Bachelor's degree in Political Science from the University of South Alabama and is currently pursuing a Masters degree in Library and Information Science with a Youth Services Certificate from the University of Southern Mississippi. Tiffany has several hobbies and interests that include steampunk, baking, cross-stitch, board and video games, reading (mostly fiction and manga), as well as learning how to sew.

#### Admin Welcomes Two New Staff Members

Teresa Grant joined MCLS on September 1, 2015, as the Administrative Assistant and Marlon Beamon joined MCLS on August 2, 2015, as the Courier / Housekeeping. They both are hard-workers and have been an asset to the Madison County Library System.



## New Faces, New Places Continued

### Ke'Aura joins Ridgeland Circulation Staff



Ke'Aura Lawson joined the Ridgeland Public Library staff as a full time Circulation Assistant in December 2014. Miss Lawson earned a Baccalaureate degree in Library Science from the University of Southern Mississippi in 2011 and will begin work on a graduate degree in January 2016. She has worked and volunteered in the library field since 2008 and particularly enjoys creating book displays and passive library programming. While at the Pearl Public Library, she served as a Reference Librarian and taught the public computer classes. Her hobbies include reading, long-distance running, and part-time vegetarianism. Ridgeland is happy to have Ke'aura on staff, and the public is enjoying the free computer classes she teaches twice a month.

## Moving on to the Next Chapter of this Journey. . .

### Farewell to Nan Crosby, Branch Manager



On October 28, patrons, coworkers, and Friends of the Library honored Nan Crosby for her 25 years of dedicated service as Branch Manager for the Ridgeland Library. Her retirement was effective October 31, 2015. During the farewell reception, Ridgeland Mayor Gene McGee presented Nan with a proclamation for her extended commitment to the community. Nan remarked that she felt fortunate to have a career that was "absolutely perfect for her!" It provided her an opportunity to work with dedicated staff, colleagues, and so many wonderful Friends of the Library.

Over the past decade, changes in technology and the growth of the Internet have definitely changed the world for our libraries! Nan acknowledged her appreciation for the City of Ridgeland and the Madison County Library System for encouraging and financially supporting these ever-changing developments.

"I won't say goodbye because this is not the end, but only a new chapter in my life. I'm looking forward to the birth of two grandbabies, traveling, improving my photography skills, a part-time job, and finally getting caught up on all the books on my must read list! I enjoyed serving the Ridgeland community and thank you for your loyal support! You have been both a Friend of the Library, as well as a dear friend to me."

## Moving on to the Next Chapter of this Journey. . .

### World's Longest Coffee Break

### "Lizzie" will be Greatly Missed System Wide



After nearly 16 years with the Madison Library, Elizabeth Turner will hang up her Mother Goose hat.

As the beloved Children's Specialist for that branch, she has seen many of the children who attended her toddler storytime slowly graduate to her programs for older children. Liz says of her younger patrons, "Getting to work with all these wonderful children and watching them grow and change has been a highlight in my life."

Liz is a hard worker, having multiple weekly storytimes, on top of monthly clubs for older children. More recognized than the number of her programs, is the high level of quality and creativity in each one, testifying to her work ethic. Liz not only understands theories of infant, child, and adolescent learning and development, but she also applies them to her programs in creative and inspired ways. She attests much of her work with being a part of MCLS: "This is a great 'forward thinking' library system of which I am proud to be a part. Creativity is encouraged and fostered which makes us uniquely dynamic in the state."

Liz Turner's daily presence will be missed by staff and patrons alike. Branch Manager Tammie Terry says, "Liz will certainly be missed by all of our patrons, especially the little

ones. All of us here at Madison will truly Miss Liz and we wish her good luck in the next chapter of her life."

## Chicken Pot Pie

- 2 cans cream of potato soup
- 1 - 16 oz. can Veg-All (drained)
- 2 cups cooked diced chicken breast
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1/2 tsp. black pepper
- 2 - 9 inch pie shells (thawed)
- 1 egg slightly beaten (optional)

Combine and pour into pie crust. Cover the top with crust and crimp edges to seal. Slit top of the crust and brush with egg, if desired. Bake at 375 degrees for 40 minutes. Cool 10 minutes. ---- Enjoy!



## Branch News

### Madison

The Madison Public Library has a few changes to share. We would like to welcome our new shelver, Tiffany White, to our branch family. We are also very sad to say goodbye to Elizabeth Turner, our “Miss Lizzie”, who will be retiring at the end of December. We wish good luck to “Miss Lizzie” as she starts a new and exciting chapter in her life. We also have some nice changes to the library grounds, thanks to the hard work of the Madison County Master Gardeners, with the assistance of Madison Public Works. The nature areas, as well as other areas, have been planted with shared plants from library patrons and Master Gardeners. We look forward to all of our beautiful spring flowers!

The Madison branch recently hosted two popular guest speakers. Both of these programs were made possible thanks to the sponsorship of the Madison Friends of the Library. Walt Grayson came in August to talk about highlights from his career. Program participants were able to purchase *Oh! That Reminds Me: More Mississippi Home Grown Stories* with Walt Grayson and had their books signed. Mr. Grayson entertained the crowd with stories from his career spent traveling around the state. Our second guest speaker was Dr. Carolyn J. Brown. Dr. Brown gave a presentation in September on the lives of Eudora Welty and Margaret Walker. These well-known writers are the subjects of her books: *A Daring Life: A Biography of Eudora Welty* and *Song of My Life: A Biography of Margaret Walker*. Dr. Brown recently won the Mississippi Youth Non-Fiction Award and was honored in October at this year’s Mississippi Library Association Conference held in Natchez, MS.

Our library patrons continue to enjoy our regularly scheduled adult programming at the Madison branch. The HigBee Hive Quilters meet every first and third Wednesday of the month from 2:00-5:00 p.m. This program is for the newly interested to the very experienced. A new program that we are offering is a coloring program for adults. You’ve heard of coloring books for kids, but now there are coloring books for adults. This program has been added to our regular programming schedule. The Madison Coloring Club meets every third Tuesday of the month from 6:00-7:30 p.m. in the meeting room. Something new in the coming year will be basic computer classes at our branch. Stay tuned for more information to come on this exciting new addition for our patrons!

Our new youth programs have been very popular with our parents and children. Children ages 9-14 have participated in our Robotics Club. This program was made possible in part by the Friends of the Madison Public Library. With their help, we were able to purchase four LEGO Mindstorm NXT robot kits, which have allowed us to educate up to fifteen children in each session. In these workshops, students learn how to program basic robot behaviors using motors and rotation, sound, light, touch, and ultrasonic sensors.

Let’s Cook is another new program for us at Madison and is a cooking class for children ages 10 and up. This program teaches kids how to make simple recipes by giving them hands-on cooking experience. So far, they have learned how to make shepherd’s pie, turkey decorated cookies, homemade pizzas with pizza sauce made from scratch, monster mouths made of fruit, and spaghetti and meatballs with fruit roll ups. Chinni Chatterjee, a library patron and member of the Madison community, leads the cooking class.

## Branch News

### Madison Cont. . .

The Madison Library hosted its annual holiday program for children on Thursday, December 17th. This year’s theme was “Santa Claus is Coming to Town”. Children were treated to refreshments, stories, and crafts. Santa even paid a special visit and children were able to bring and share their wish lists with him. Children had their picture made with Santa and we all enjoyed live holiday music performed by local band, Bons Amis.

It’s almost that time again for the Friends of the Madison Library’s Annual Winter Book Sale. Members of the Friends of the Madison Library are already sorting and packing up the donations in preparation for the upcoming book sale. The book sale will start with a preview party on Thursday, February 25th for the Friends of the Library members, and will open to the public on Friday, February 26th. The book sale will continue on Saturday, February 27th and end on Tuesday, March 1st. The Friends of the Madison Library experienced a highly successful summer book sale and look forward to yet another eventful and successful book sale in February.





## Branch News

### Camden

The Camden branch welcomes new staff members to the Madison County Library System. We are extremely proud to have new faces and new ideas.

During the months of June and July, numerous students from Camden and the surrounding areas participated in our annual Summer Reading Program. The theme, "Every Hero Has a Story," generated many ideas and projects. Being inspired by one of our most popular programs, "Legos", students used their imagination and creativity to effectively design their own unique structures.

In September, the Camden branch was given the opportunity to show appreciation to the Board of Trustees by hosting a luncheon. We are honored to have such a dynamic board, and we applaud them for the great work they do.

In October, the Camden library was the scene for a Halloween Spooktacular hosted by our Youth Services. The participation was great. Students wore exotic costumes and involved themselves in many games that were selected for their enjoyment. Afterwards, students were delighted with the serving of ice-cream, root beer floats, and other sweet treats provided by the presenters.

All branches of the Madison County Library participated in the "National Day of Giving" on October 24th. Branches requested donations to assist with the enormous amount of library projects.

"Buy it Now" is a first time library project for our system. Patrons may now make purchases through Amazon, and a portion of the proceeds will be given to the library system.

Computer classes are now being offered at the Camden branch. We have successfully completed two classes, and have the third class already scheduled. Participation is steadily increasing, thanks to our instructor, Jason Sharp, Youth Service Coordinator.

This year, in October the MLA convention was held in Natchez, MS. Thanks to administration, I was given the opportunity to attend and learn new things that will be instrumental in improving our library branch. I attended a session on "Creating and Implementing Successful Adult Library Programming". In addition to our many services already offered, the things I learned will help me to formulate programs that would possibly interest the community and increase our patronage.

Did you know that the Camden library was recently featured in the Madison County Journal? The article headed, "Camden Library Strong Link for Community Education" perfectly described our unique branch. We will cherish this paper forever!

### Autism Resource Center at the Madison Library

The Madison Library now has an Autism Resource Center (ARC). This collection is comprised of books, DVDs, and CDs on the subject of autism. Also included are therapy tools that are designed to help the social and communicative skills of children who have autism. Items from the ARC can be checked out by any MCLS cardholder. Those who live outside the county and are interested in accessing the ARC can sign up for an out-of-county ARC card at no cost. This card gives the user access to the ARC, but no other library materials.

### Flora

The past year at the Flora Library has been full of fun, education and inspiration for our patrons and visitors!

We've had 2 very successful Plant Swap programs, a fantastic Summer Reading Program, 2 Mystery Date book programs, Valentine, Halloween and Christmas Parties! All during the year we have incentives and prizes for children who check out books. This year we had all kinds of funny bookmarks, crafts, treats and little handmade toys.

Our Plant Swap get-togethers bring in many adult patrons who always have a good time thanks to Janis Watkins (former Flora Library Branch Manager) and her husband, Gene, who coordinate that effort. In October, they arranged for Felder Rushing, renowned gardener and author, to be here to speak with our avid horticulturists.

The Summer Reading program was the best and most fun ever – reaching almost 900 children. We had 2 magicians, a story teller, drama class, Legos and super hero parties. We love having so many children in the library! We feel they become comfortable here and want to come often during the year. We give away wonderful prizes and treat bags.

Our Mystery Date book programs are always a hit. We put a description and the genre on the outside of the wrapping paper and ask patrons to give each book at least 30 pages before giving up! This gets readers outside their comfort zones and introduces them to new authors. At Christmastime we wrap books for children of all ages and put them under our tree.

Our in-house parties are great! We always have a story, of course. Sometimes we have seasonal Bingo or another fun game. This past Halloween we had such fun with our karaoke machine, games and prizes and the favorite: balloons filled with candy. There were lots of giggles and grins. Everyone took home a craft and handmade treats.

We enjoy our patrons very much at the Flora Library, and we plan to keep programs fresh and inviting for our community throughout the year.

### Canton



The entire staff of the Canton branch of the Madison County Library System would like to thank Commander Valerie R. Buie with the Mississippi Department of Corrections, Madison County Community Work Center, for the valuable inmates' services rendered to us throughout the years. The Canton branch is happy to show-off the landscaping services of our local CWC worker. So far, other inmates' services include: replacing numerous ballasts and light bulbs, window cleaning, shampooing carpets and buffing floors.

'If You Refurbish They Will Come'. This is the new mantra of the Canton branch. We have recently renovated by replacing old worn out carpets and enlarging our study areas and have begun offering adult computer classes. Friends of The

Canton/Camden Public Library announces a "Big" Fall Book Sale, scheduled for December 18-31, 2015, at the Canton branch.

## Branch News

### Ridgeland

The Ridgeland branch has been bustling with activity over the last year. A variety of programs sponsored by the Friends of the Ridgeland Library captivated a large number of patrons and guests. Last fall Karen Martinson McKie, florist and owner of Green Oak Garden Center, shared easy fall and holiday decorating ideas. In honor of National Library Week, the Friends group sponsored Rick Cleveland, Sports Journalist and Executive Director for the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame and Museum. One of the most notable programs was the watercolor artist Wyatt Waters. Mr. Waters fascinated a sizeable audience as they watched him paint a work of art from scratch. He intrigued the group with interesting stories and welcomed questions from everyone.

Thanks to the hard work of the Friends of the Ridgeland Library volunteers, our branch has five new study desks, chairs, and reading lamps. The desks provide a quiet area for studying and include power outlets for charging devices. Public support of the book sales and monetary and book donations are greatly appreciated and make it possible for the Friends to provide continued improvements to our library. The Friends are preparing for the next book sale, "Sweetheart of a Deal," February 5-10, 2016. Instead of buying a box of chocolates for your sweetie, why not give a treasure of romantic books? Mark your calendar and plan to pick up a "bouquet of books" to bring home to the family.

The Madison County Mystery Readers have greatly increased their regular attendance this year. Some of the highlights have been a Skype session with writers of interest such as San Francisco author Sheldon Siegel; Linda Castillo, author of the Kate Burkholder series; and, award winning author, Hilary Davidson. The Mystery Readers will enjoy visiting with Owen Laukkanen via Skype at their meeting on April 12th. Mr. Laukkanen's first book, *The Professionals*, earned rave reviews as a first-class thriller. His newest novel, *Criminal Enterprise*, will be released in March. Our adult program, *Mining your Memories* welcomed a new facilitator this past fall and continues to meet once a month. Andy Oldham, an experienced writer for the Northside Sun newspaper, studied memoir writing under the guidance of the former facilitator Vivian Newkirk and Tulane University (Madison campus).

The Ridgeland branch added several new and exciting classes this year. Staff member Ke'Aura Lawson teaches a semi-monthly computer class on Tuesdays at 10 a.m. The classes vary from beginning to intermediate Microsoft Word to internet use and safety. Madison county resident Judy Jacobs volunteered her services by leading two workshops on navigating Ancestry to locate military history, marriage and death records, tax and census information, and more.

We have had a number of gifted artists show their work in our branch this year. The students of Diane Norman's School of Art displayed a collection of oils, watercolors, and pastels. Brandon resident M. W. "Butch" Stewart showed oils and watercolors that capture the inspiring sights of the Ross Barnett Reservoir. Retired physician Dr. John Gibson is a self-taught artist and has been involved in some form of art since childhood. Dr. Gibson's intriguing pen and ink drawings attracted a substantial interest from the community. Most recently, we were fortunate to have on exhibit the charming collage art of Gary Russell Bass and whimsical paintings and note cards by childrens book illustrator Tracey Hudson Countz.

### Ridgeland Cont...

We have catered to the children through various events. At this past summer's programs we had visits from Mayor Magee, Ridgeland police officer and faithful patron, Justin Lancaster, and an EMT/officer from American Medical Response to help display that our community is full of heroes. The Reading Passport Program started with October's Harvest Reading Fair where students and families brought their "passports" to the library to earn stamps from attending programs, checking-out items, and receiving recognition by their school for reading efforts. In preparing for the winter holidays, children, parents, and library staff wore their PJ's for a Pancakes and PJ's party. Ally Watkins, a former Children's Librarian consultant from the MS Library Commission, read a collage of holiday stories by the "fireplace" decorated with a painted mantel & lights. Student volunteers served pancakes and assisted with making reindeer feed and antler/elf ear crafts. Thanks to the enthusiastic spirit of Jason Sharp, our Children's Programming Coordinator, the program ended with the highlight of Santa making his grand appearance.

The Ridgeland staff looks forward to the exciting events coming to our branch in 2016. We will be joining forces with the Madison Branch in the Adult Coloring Club once a month. Coloring pages and supplies along with a snack and some relaxing music will help adult patrons unwind after a busy day. Plans are under way for some Cajun fun with a Mardi Gras party. On January 20, we plan to "let the good times roll" with the Krewe of Ridgeland for Mardi Gras Madness. Prizes will be awarded for best mask, best costume, and best book cart float. We look forward to this festive event complete with Cajun music and Mardi Gras food.

The children will also experience an extra dose of fun in the coming year. The Ridgeland Readers will enjoy the Drive-In Theater program in January. Popcorn snacks will be delivered on steering wheel plates and students will decorate their own license plate. While "parked" on the carpet, stories will be interactive ebooks, educational videos, or approved tapings of celebrity-read stories. Tell your friends to come join us "Under the Stars" for this super special story time.

### Joyce Huskey honored with Ruby Assaf Presidential Award



Joyce Huskey received the "Ruby Assaf Presidential Award" during the 2015 annual meeting of the Mississippi Library Association, held October 20-23 in Natchez. The award is presented to an outstanding volunteer in the Friends of Mississippi Libraries. The service award is named in honor of the late Ruby Assaf, the wife of former television personality Woody Assaf, to acknowledge the efforts made by others in their communities to strengthen library services.

For the past 3 years, Mrs. Huskey has served as Book Sale Chairman for the Friends of the Ridgeland Library. She has written guidelines for book sale volunteers, developed criteria for financial accountability, and incorporated organizational shortcuts for setting up the book sale. She refers to her service as a true labor of love and has always said, "I'm all about learning something and teaching it to somebody else." Under her guidance, the volunteers

complete two successful book sales each year.



## Systems & Technology

The IT Department has been busy this past year with projects to keep the library system current with technology. Installation of 10MB fiber circuits was completed at the Camden and Flora branches. The Canton branch was upgraded to a 100MB circuit while the Ridgeland branch was upgraded to a 50MB circuit. The Madison branch will be upgraded to a 50MB circuit in the near future. These faster connections will alleviate network congestion and give the patrons a more satisfying online experience. We have heard many compliments from patrons using the public access computers regarding the upgrade in bandwidth. They are able to search and apply for jobs, access school boards, etc. more efficiently due to these upgrades. Faster PCs allow for faster transactions, so we replaced 8 staff PCs within our five branches to give Branch Managers and Circulation staff upgraded equipment to keep up with the growing number of patrons checking out materials. We will soon be upgrading all PCs in the library system to Microsoft Office 2016, which will give staff and patrons access to the newest updates and templates provided with programs such as Word, PowerPoint, and Excel. We have also installed software on all public PCs that will allow the library to perform Windows updates as well as updates to other programs such as Flash and Java during closed hours. This will prevent the closure of the computer labs during open hours. Also, you will notice that all the OPACS are now cloud-based Chrome boxes allowing the IT Department to make policy and configuration changes remotely without any interruptions during patron use. Another piece of exciting news is that the Website Committee decided to revise the entire MCLS website. See the article below.

—Ray Myers, System Admin - Asst. Director; Braley Reed, Asst. System Admin - PIO

## New Website, Same Useful Info

Madison County Library System is proud to announce a new, improved website that will be launching in January 2016. The MCLS Website Committee diligently worked to investigate and implement a design that would help our patrons use our website even more efficiently than before. Things to look out for with this new design; a slide show that previews all our important events for that month on the homepage, new and bigger tabs so that elderly patrons can navigate more efficiently around the website, and a Locations tab so that you can keep up with all the important things your local Madison County library is doing for you and in the community. We conveniently added the Google Calendar directly into the Location pages so patrons don't have to go back and forth between upcoming events and their branch's page. Did you miss the day of giving back in October or never even heard about it? For each branch there is now a way to donate incorporated into our website. Also, we have a "Buy it Now" option so that you can support your MCLS when you shop at Amazon. We compiled information leaving fewer tabs and pages to maneuver through. Knowledge is power and we want you to be powerful by having information quicker and easier. We designed the new site with the patron in mind because we want you to enjoy using our website. We want to have applicable information for each patron no matter what age group. We now have Twitter, FB, and Instagram for all the social media savvy users out there who feel passionate about reading, attending MCLS' programs, and influencing their friends to do the same; all easily accessed by the badges at the bottom of every page. The Madison County Library System's mission is to provide library resources and services necessary to meet the evolving informational, recreational, and cultural needs of the public, thus enhancing individual and community life. Technology is the way we can do that for a greater number of patrons through our website. We hope you find the new design to be just what the Librarian ordered.

—Braley Reed, Assistant System Admin - Webmaster

## Youth Services

— Jaclyn Lewis  
Youth Services Director

The people of Madison County made themselves clear this summer; they wanted to be at their library when school was out. Over 8,000 people attended MCLS' Summer Reading Program. That was an increase of 136%! In response, we offered more programs and designed our programs to accommodate larger crowds.

This increase was no real surprise. For the last two years, the public's participation in our Summer Reading Program has steadily climbed. What did surprise us is how big of an increase there was this past year. Program attendance as well as circulation grew. June and July were our highest circulating months out of the year. Our Summer Reading Challenge likely had something to do with it. The challenge gives children and young adults opportunities to read for prizes, and over 1,300 participated. No one can say that Madison County wasn't reading last summer!

MCLS is already preparing for this year's summer, so be on the lookout for announcements. Hope to see you there!





# Community Outreach

## Madison

The Madison Library has continued its nursing home outreach. Our community volunteer, Mary Jo Hasson, continues to deliver books to Home Place. As our current and primary volunteer, Mary Jo Hasson will come and pick out books to take to the nursing home as well as any that have been set aside for residents of Home Place. Once she arrives at the nursing home, residents can make their book choices from the provided selection. Other residents, who are unable to come down and select their own books, have their books delivered to their room. We, at the Madison Library, appreciate the hard work and dedication Mary Jo Hasson has shown toward the residents.

Our previous and long-time volunteer, Pat Monsour, stepped down this past year. However, she can still be found pulling books at the library for those residents who need their books brought to their room. Also, when Mary Jo Hasson is unable to volunteer, Pat will fill in for her so that residents do not have to do without their library books.

## Canton



Reading is a part of life for many of our seniors; therefore, the Canton branch is dedicated to delivering library services and materials to our Madison County nursing home residents and patrons with disabilities who do not have easy access to our library building. We provide "regular" books, and other special resources such as magazines, newspapers and audio books. According to our patrons, "reading and listening to library materials help to ease or lessen seclusion, and boredom".



Patrons create meaningful activity by reading and sharing information.



# Community Outreach

## Ridgeland

Ridgeland Public Library Outreach targets senior citizens and patrons residing in assisted living facilities or nursing/retirement homes. Monthly, this program enables them to borrow large print books on a rotating basis because they are unable to get to the library. These materials are delivered by three volunteers or Marvette Burns, a Ridgeland Circulation staff member, at no charge. There are never any overdue fines or replacement costs for lost materials.

## Recipe

### Louisiana Crawfish Casserole

#### Ingredients

- 1 lb crawfish tail (Can substitute chicken or shrimp. I like to cube chicken breasts and sprinkle with Tony's Seasoning instead of using crawfish.)
- 1 (10 3/4 ounce) can French onion soup
- 1 (10 3/4 ounce) can cream of mushroom soup
- 1 (10 ounce) can Rotel tomatoes & chilies (I use 2 cans. If you want it really spicy use one can Hot Rotel and one Original)
- 1 1/2 cups uncooked rice (I use just one cup of rice)
- 1/3 cup butter, melted
- 1/4 cup chopped bell pepper(I use a whole medium bell pepper)
- 1/2 cup chopped green onion (I just use a regular medium onion)
- 1/3 cup chopped fresh parsley
- 1 cup chopped celery
- salt and pepper
- 1/2 cup grated monterey jack cheese (Want it spicy use Pepper Jack Cheese instead of Monterey Jack)
- 1 cup grated cheddar cheese

#### Directions:

Mix all ingredients except cheeses and pour into a large greased casserole. Cover and bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes. (I have found that it takes longer than 45 minutes for the rice to cook. Closer to an 1 1/2 hours.)  
Uncover and sprinkle cheeses over casserole.  
Return to oven and bake for 15 minutes more.



**Madison County Library  
System Branches:**

**Camden Library**  
(662)-468-0309

**Canton Library**  
(601)-859-3203

**Flora Library**  
(601)-879-8835

**Madison Library**  
(601)-856-2749

**Ridgeland Library**  
(601)-856-4536

[www.mcls.ms](http://www.mcls.ms)

**Our Mission**

The mission of the Madison County Library System is to provide library resources and services necessary to meet the evolving informational, recreational, and cultural needs of the public, thus enhancing individual and community life.



**Madison County Library System**

102 Priestley Street

Canton, MS 39046