



LOTS OF FUN AT THE MADISON LIBRARY

By JAMIE LOGAN | *Madison County Journal*

One step through the doors of Madison's Rebecca Baine Rigby Library transported visitors into a world of superheroes this summer as Children's Specialist Liz Turner brought magicians, beekeepers, and local heroes to an audience of all ages.

"It was the highest attendance we've ever had in twelve years," Turner said. "We were just jam packed, and I find that very exciting."

A smile spread across her face as she described the Superhero Party that united children with their personal superheroes earlier this month. Firemen, policemen, mothers, and grandfathers were just a few of those who were invited to attend the celebration.

"There was a superhero that stood out among them all, and that was Superman," Turner said, noting that his presence was made possible by Patrol Commander Jonathan Lumbley and his team at the Madison Police Department.

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Magic Mr. Nick from Memphis performs at the Madison Library.

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The Madison branch also brought back an old favorite connected to the summer theme. Lego at the Library drew crowds to the conference room on a weekly basis as children gathered to construct creations straight out of stories.

"We also had a real interesting opportunity given to us by Helen Pinkerton," Turner said. Pinkerton, the owner of Computer Explorers, provided kits for the kids to create moving robots at the library's first ever Lego Motion Minicamp.

Turner also partnered with Youth Services Director Jaclyn Anderson, who oversees all five library locations, to bring two magicians, a traveling theater group, a storyteller, and a beekeeper to Madison. The magicians, Mr. Nick from Memphis and Madison's own Dorian LaChance, were two of the summer's biggest hits.

Little Gym Preschool Tumbling shared the basics of the sport with a large group of heroes-in-training. "They directed the moves of fifty kids for a long time," Turner said. "I was absolutely amazed that they had so many great offerings. They kept everybody happy."

Although summertime often shifts the focus to children, adults are equally welcome at the Madison branch. Programming for older audiences includes everything from the monthly Madison Avenue Book Club to nursing home outreach events.

"This is a busy branch," said Branch Manager Tammy Terry. "I believe last month just in this one month we circulated 13,400 items."

One of her newest programs is a quilting group led by Alice Higbee. The group, which meets twice a month, includes both avid quilters and novices. The Madison Library Ancestry Detectives is another recent addition to the roster. "It's a genealogy group," Terry said. She explained that the group uses a combination of print and online sources to learn more about family history.

"Right now, something that we have going on at the library is the Madison County Master Gardeners have recently taken on the library for a five year project," Terry said. She hopes that patrons will notice the transformation that has already begun to take place on the library grounds.

"If anyone in the community has plants that they would like to see at the

library, they can pass those along to us and the Master Gardeners will plant those here," Terry said.

Already, families have begun to prepare for the start of school and so has the staff in Madison. Terry and Turner have several plans in the works. "I know that in the future I will continue to have the Mother Goose programs," Turner said.

Mother Goose on the Loose is a fun-filled session complete with rhymes, songs, puppets, musical instruments, and more. The program is designed to stimulate babies and toddlers. The children's specialist will also maintain Rising Readers, an interactive story time for children from three to five.

This fall, the library will also offer a robotics club. "We did this last year, and it was very popular," Turner said. She will attend classes this week to learn more on the subject.

At the end of the day, she reminds residents that the library is an invaluable resource. "We are here to educate, entertain, and support our community," she said. "We really want to be there for them."