WHAT'S HAPPENING
BLOUNT COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
Quarterly Newsletter

Board of Trustees Meetings, Closures, and Curbside Pickup Hours
Friends Community Market opens April 24th
New books display is back

Virtual Pre-K Story Time
Virtual Classes
Storytime for Grown-ups
New Online Teen Programs
Summer Reading starts June 5

Kanopy Streaming Service
Mobile Printing
Curbside Service
5 for 5 Book Recommendations
Hoopla and Libby
Seed library reopened

A full list of programs and activities is available on our calendar at blountlibrary.org as well as on our Facebook page.

NEWS
• Board of Trustees Meetings, Closures, and Curbside Pickup Hours
• Friends Community Market opens April 24th
• New books display is back

SERVICES
• Kanopy Streaming Service
• Mobile Printing
• Curbside Service
• 5 for 5 Book Recommendations
• Hoopla and Libby
• Seed library reopened

PROGRAMS
• Virtual Pre-K Story Time
• Virtual Classes
• Storytime for Grown-ups
• New Online Teen Programs
• Summer Reading starts June 5

SUMMER READING
Starting June 5 (until July 17), read and do other activities to earn points and prizes; But you know, the real treasure is the summer fun we’ll have along the way! Separate challenges and prizes for three age groups: Children (preschool and elementary age); Teens (middle and high school); and adults (18+).

NEED A BOOK WE DON'T HAVE?
Fill out an InterLibrary Loan form online or in-person and we'll see if a neighboring library will let us borrow it for you!

Check out our website - For information and access to our calendar, databases, and hours please visit blountlibrary.org

p. 1
Take BCPL with you anywhere
Find us on social media or in the App Store! Just search for Blount County Public Library. Don’t forget to download the Hoopla, Kanopy, and Libby apps for on-the-go entertainment!

BOARD MEETINGS:
Library Board of Trustees meets the third Tuesday of each month at 5:30 pm and is open to the public. If you are interested in attending, please call to confirm the date and if the meeting will be virtual or in-person at (865)-273-1404.

CLOSURES:
- April 2nd- April 4th for Easter Holiday
- May 31st for Memorial Day

Curbside Pickup Schedule
Tuesdays 10:00 am - 7:00 pm
Saturdays 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Meeting Room Hours
Monday - Saturday
9:00 am - 9:00 pm
Sunday 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

DID YOU KNOW?
We have a new Seed Checkout Procedure! Due to Covid-19, this year our seed checkout looks a little different. There are two ways to get seeds—fill out the Seed Request form on our website or call 865-982-0981 during our business hours. You can request up to five seed packets a month. You will be called when your seed order is ready for pick up, and you can pick up through our Curbside Service or you can come and grab them at the Self Check Out Desk!

THANKS TO OUR FRIENDS
The Blount County Friends of the Library are looking for volunteers to help them with donations, Ebay, book sales, and more. If you have some time and would like to be part of this dynamic organization, please call (865)-273-1451 or email friendsbcpl@hotmail.com.
TEEN PROGRAMMING

*Make sure to RSVP by noon on Friday to reserve your spot!*

**Dungeons and Dragons: 1st Saturday of the Month**
Whether you're a veteran or want to see what all the hype is about come join us for a fun and low-commitment monthly one-shot. We'll be playing online via the Roll20 platform. Email Jennifer at jspirko@blounttn.org.

**Tabletop and Party Games: 2nd Saturday of the Month**
Join us virtually for fun party games such as Drawful, Quiplash, Trivia Murder Party and more! RSVP to cgodfrey@blounttn.org.

**YA Café: 3rd Saturday of the Month**
Come hang out with us virtually! Sign up in advance to get a 'Cafe Crate' with some treats courtesy of your librarians! RSVP to cgodfrey@blounttn.org.

**Trivia: 4th Saturday of the Month**
Test your knowledge with both silly and serious questions! RSVP to cgodfrey@blounttn.org.

LIBRARIAN SPOTLIGHT

Our teen program is back! And we want to highlight the staff member making it possible. Carrie is our new teen librarian. Every Saturday she runs a different interactive program—from Dungeons and Dragons, Trivia, Board Games, and even just a chill hang out Saturday, Carrie is our go-to for all things Teen! Email her at cgodfrey@blounttn.org to sign up for teen events today!

CANNING CLINICS

New to canning or want to brush up on your skills? Come join us for the Canning Clinics put on by the friendly folks from the UT/TSU Extensions Offices on Zoom. Check out the BCPL website to register!

Jams/Jellies - April 6th
Tomatoes - May 4th
Pickling - June 8th
Each class runs from 7:00pm - 8:30 pm.

SKYFI TABLES

We are excited to announce the launch of our SkyFi Project, an initiative to install solar-powered Wi-Fi charging tables at accessible locations around Blount County.

This project has been made possible by a generous grant from the Arconic Foundation to the Blount County Friends of the Library. The tables generate and store solar electricity, allowing users to charge devices and access the Internet any time of day.

The Blount County Public Library Board of Trustees and staff would like to thank our partners in the project including the three library funding bodies (Blount County Government, the City of Maryville, and the City of Alcoa), the Arconic Foundation, the Rotary Club of Maryville, and the Blount County Friends of the Library. Businesses, organizations, and individuals interested in learning more about the SkyFi Project should contact K.C. Williams, kwilliams@blounttn.org or Ari Baker, abaker@blounttn.org.
HOW LITERATE ARE YOU?

by Sarah Smith

Literacy is so much more than the ability to read. Literacy often refers to the ability to understand something or do something well, making you literate in that subject or work. In this issue of our newsletter we’re going to focus on three more types of literacy. Specifically, we’re going to look at civic literacy, health literacy, and cultural literacy. We’re going to briefly break down each of these types of literacy as well as explore options for learning more about what we offer here at the Blount County Public Library.

Civic literacy can be defined as the knowledge and ability to take part in local, state, and national democratic processes such as voting, attending meetings, and advocating for your community (Stambler, 2013). The key to civic literacy is to stay informed because literacy is an active process. To do this one must seek out equitable and reliable sources about local and national politics. It is also always important to notice if the information you’re reading or viewing is evidence based and not opinion based.

Health literacy has become increasingly important. Health literacy is defined by the CDC as, “the degree to which individuals have the ability to find, understand, and use information and services to inform health-related decisions and actions for themselves and others,” (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2021). This includes things like making sure you’re getting your medical information from a vetted source, such as the CDC or Mayo Clinic. Established health organizations are your best bet for the most up to date and accurate health information.

Cultural literacy is more open for interpretation than civic and health literacies. Cultural literacy refers to being conscious of and prepared to interact with one’s own particular culture (Western Sydney University, N.D.). It also addresses the ability to understand and interact with other cultures. For example, there are clear regional differences in culture in the way that we take our tea. If you were to order a tea in the Northern United States you would likely receive a hot cup of tea, but if you were to ask for the same in the Southern United States you would likely get a cold glass of sweet tea.

These types of literacies are constants in everyday life even if we don’t recognize them by name. Civic literacy is important even when it isn’t election season. Being involved in the decision making processes of your community is important all year long. Health literacy is more important now than ever. Making well informed health decisions impacts more than just you, it also impacts your community. Cultural literacy is constantly being practiced in our own cultures, but there’s always room to improve our literacy of other cultures. At the Blount County Library we offer information under ‘Be Informed, Vote Smart’ on our website to grow Civic literacy. For health literacy we offer access to ‘Gale Health and Wellness,’ a platform to find accurate and unbiased health information, as well as Health.gov. Finally, for cultural literacy we offer thousands of books by authors from all cultures. Try reading a book by someone outside of your own culture and see what you learn.

BUILDING LITERACY

Questions to Consider

• Do you know who your representatives are?
• Where do you go for health information?
• How often are you exposed to other cultures?

Take Quizzes

Want to learn more about your own literacy? Take some quizzes! Visit blountlibrary.org and look under the ‘Learning’ tab to find literacy quizzes.

Resources at blountlibrary.org

• Be Informed, Vote Smart
  ▪ Under ‘Learning’ and ‘E-Library’
• Health.gov
  ▪ Under ‘Learning’ and ‘Health’
• Our catalog
  ▪ On our main page under ‘Catalog/Account’

Sources