



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BEAT THE SUMMER SLIDE! SUMMER READING KICKS OFF JUNE 1

Library also announced final reopening phase effective June 1

HUNTSVILLE (May 26, 2021) – The Huntsville-Madison County Public Library (HMCPL) is excited to announce that its 2021 summer reading program, “Tails and Tales,” will begin June 1. In addition, the library announced that beginning June 1, all locations will be operating at pre-pandemic hours, including Sunday hours at Bailey Cove, Madison, Downtown and the North Huntsville locations. The meeting and study rooms will also be available to reserve.

“We invite everyone to rediscover their favorite things about the library again- whether that was browsing the shelves, holding a meeting in one of our spaces, or attending a storytime, we hope you will visit us this summer,” said Cindy Hewitt, Interim Executive Director for HMCPL.

While most operations are going back to normal at the Library, some popular services will remain, including curbside pick up service.

“What we have been reminded of during this pandemic is that not everyone patronizes the library the same. Curbside pick up service is a convenience we are happy to offer to patrons who use our library holds system and prefer not to browse the shelves,” added Hewitt.

Summer reading is also returning, though most programs will be held outdoors this year. The goal of the program is to keep Madison County kids and teens reading during their summer break from school, ensuring that they maintain or gain reading skills and start the next school year on track and ready to learn.

“Our summer program has been a staple in the community for many years, drawing thousands of children to participate. While certain changes proved necessary this summer, the library staff is committed to continuing the tradition of bringing engaging and creative literacy enrichment to our community,” said Hewitt.

Parents are encouraged to set a summer reading goal with their children. This year, the primary focus will be on reading books, tracking progress for prizes and making crafts that go along with the summer reading theme, “Tails and Tales.” Every week, each location of the library will hold

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2-3 outdoor programs. In addition, the library will offer a free take and make craft, as well as a grab bag of books for kids to checkout.

The summer reading program will run through July 16. For more details on this year's summer reading program, including required summer reading lists for your child's school, visit hmcpl.org/summer.

As part of the summer reading program, the Library's Bookmobile has partnered with local organizations to extend the Library's reach in the county. The Bookmobile will be visiting schools through the SAIL (Summer Adventures in Learning) program, local YMCAs and other locations during the summer so children have access to books and activities.

On days of inclement weather, the Library will move programs indoors or reschedule. Please visit the website at hmcpl.org or call the location to verify before arriving.

The 2021 summer reading program is funded by the Huntsville Library Foundation and the Junior League of Huntsville.

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