

July 2008

## Fayette County News and Notes

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## Athens-Clarke County news and notes

The Athens-Clarke County Library is one of 35 libraries in the nation to be awarded "The American Dream Begins @ Your Library" grant. Sponsored by the American Library Association and Dollar General Store, the grant focuses on providing literacy services to new immigrants.



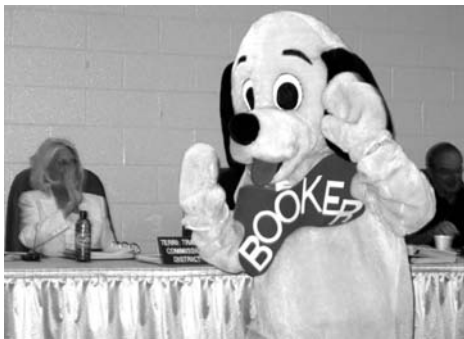
Vicente

The Athens project will be to develop an online training manual to be used by instructors in the Athens community who teach English as a Second Language and who work with the after-school tutorial program at the Pinewoods Branch Library. Miguel Vicente was awarded WebJunction's Diversity Fair Scholarship to attend the ALA annual conference in Anaheim. The all-expenses-paid scholarship enabled Miguel to conduct a "poster talk" session about the project. WebJunction also featured the Pinewoods project in its monthly webinar series on June 10. ►►

## Chestatee Regional news and notes

The Dawsonville-based Chestatee Regional Library System has unveiled its new mascot.

Booker the Dog made his first public appearance at the June 19 meeting of the Dawson County Board of Commissioners. Branch Manager Stacey Leonhardt donned the costume and greeted the board with hugs all around. Youth Services Specialist Tracy Walker told a short story promoting the Vacation Reading Program at Dawson County Library and shared all of the programs for children and teens offered at the library this summer.



Booker the Dog makes his debut. (Photo by Tia Lynn Lecorchick, Dawson Community News.)

Booker now greets the kids after each summer program. "You can see them looking for him as they leave the room, anxiously awaiting their hug," says Leonhardt. Booker will also make more public appearances outside the library throughout the year as a means to promote library services to the community. ►►

## Coweta County news and notes

The Coweta Public Library's new central facility has introduced "Health-Style," a consumer initiative to share in the launch of Georgia Health – Go Local, a federally funded initiative to link users of MedlinePlus, the National Library of Medicine's (NLM) premier consumer health Web site, to health services, health care providers or institutions, support groups, advocacy organizations, etc. in the county or ZIP code of their choice.

"'Health-Style' is a healthy-living initiative presented by the library in partnership with local health care providers, fitness centers, restaurants, pharmacies and supermarkets," said Barbara Osborne-Harris, system library director. "It is designed to create increased awareness of the partners' interests in serving the consumer health needs of our community. The program provides a broad range of health and medical information through books, Internet resources, brochures, topical displays, workshops and seminars. Health-Style table talk workshops with professional health care providers provide a neutral forum to highlight and discuss national and local health issues. The goal of this partnership is to impart knowledge and encourage and support consumers in gaining greater control over their own health."

Georgia Health – Go Local is a collaborative project of Georgia's four medical school libraries: Emory University, Medical College of Georgia, Mercer University School of Medicine and Morehouse School of Medicine, with funding support from the National Library of Medicine (National Institutes of Health), National Network of Libraries of Medicine-Southeastern/Atlantic Region and the Georgia Public Library Service.

The Coweta County Public Library System, located 35 miles southwest of Atlanta, is a network of four library facilities within Coweta County serving a population of approximately 125,121 residents. The library facilities are geographically placed to offer residents a primary service area within seven miles of their homes. CPL cardholders have access to the total holdings of the library system through an interlibrary loan book reserve and exchange program. ►►

## Fayette County news and notes

On July 26, the Fayette County Library will inaugurate "Fayette on the Page" — a "One Book, One Community" program in which everyone in Fayette County is encouraged to read the same book and talk about it. This year's featured book is *Tuesdays With Morrie* by Mitch Albom. The spotlight event of the program will be Patrice Dickey's

"Lessons from *Tuesdays With Morrie*," which will follow a free picnic on the library lawn, beginning at 1 p.m.

Dickey is an award-winning Atlanta author and motivational speaker who created "Get the Life You Love" at Emory University in 1999 and whose internationally acclaimed book *Back to the Garden: Getting From Shadow to Joy* has won multiple inspirational awards including those from Writers Digest and Best Books USA.

For more information, call the Fayette County Public Library at 770-461-8841. ►►



The Ashley Bryan Children's Literary Festival won many fans in Fulton County.

## Atlanta-Fulton hosts children's festival

Atlanta-Fulton Public Library System's Auburn Avenue Research Library on African-American History and Culture presented the Ashley Bryan Children's Literary Festival April 25 and 26.

The Ashley Bryan Children's Literary Festival celebrated Bryan's contribution to children's literature with interactive and educational programs and events that introduced children of all ages to culturally relevant art, literature and poetry. The conference was attended by teachers, librarians and parents and many children.

The 2008 featured authors and illustrators were Bryan Collier, Eloise Greenfield and Jan Spivey Gilchrist. Sessions and events included "Purpose and Promise," facilitated by Illustrator Bryan Collier; "Engaging Young Adult Readers," facilitated by author Sharon Flake; "Conversation With Three Friends: Poetry, Pictures and Passion: Ashley Bryan" by Eloise Greenfield and Jan Spivey Gilchrist; and "Picture Books and Pancakes" by LaDoris Bias-Davis and Ernestine Brown.

The event was sponsored by the Friends of Auburn Avenue Research Library and the Kuumba Storytellers of Georgia. ►►



Mayor Denney Rogers, Ephesus City Council members and Director Jim Cooper prepare to break ground in Ephesus.

## Ephesus breaks ground for new library

On May 20, the Heard County Chamber of Commerce and the city of Ephesus held a groundbreaking ceremony at the new Ephesus Public Library site. The new library will be located just behind Ephesus Elementary School.

Mayor Denney Rogers, Ephesus City Council members and Jim Cooper, director of West Georgia Regional Library, were among the many residents who turned out for the event. More than 200 students from Ephesus Elementary School also attended, prompting the mayor to state that this was the largest crowd he had ever seen for a groundbreaking in Heard County.

The Ephesus Public Library will be part of the West Georgia Regional Library System. It will allow residents to check out and return books to any PINES library in the state. The new 6,100-square-foot library will have several computer stations with high-speed Internet and a meeting room that will be available to the public. ►►

## Sequoyah Regional wins Excalibur Award

Each year, the Technology Association of Georgia, or TAG, offers the prestigious Excalibur Award to companies that have shown outstanding innovation and creativity in using technology to gain a competitive edge. This award is granted to four companies each year, one each in small, medium, large and creative categories. This year, the award in the "small business" category went to the Sequoyah Regional Library System for the use of RFID tags at the Woodstock and Rose Creek public libraries. More than 300 people attended the award ceremony, which was held in Atlanta.

"This automated check-out system frees up library staff to work with patrons in other areas — like answering reference questions, helping with book lookups or any one of a hundred other ways," said Library Director Susan White. "This system helps us help more patrons with things that they can't do on their own." ►►