DeKalb County News and Notes

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DeKalb County news and notes

The DeKalb County Public Library broke ground for two library expansions in one month. Ceremonies were held Aug. 14 for the Hairston Crossing branch in Stone Mountain and on Aug. 27 for the Salem-Panola branch in Lithonia. The facilities are two of 12 county libraries being expanded or built with $54.5 million using bond funds that were approved by voters in November 2005.

In July, patrons at the Athens-Clarke County Library got to tour and experience the ultimate recycling project — the Society for Georgia Archaeology’s ArchaeoBus. The ArchaeoBus, or “Abby” for short, is a mobile classroom designed to teach students throughout the state about archaeology through hands on activities. In its past life, Abby was the Athens-Clarke County Library’s Bookmobile.

more important than ever for libraries to help their patrons keep up. The Athens-Clarke County Library has found a unique way to help patrons – and staff – navigate the twists and turns of the information superhighway with a new series of presentations on technology called “Tech Tips.” The “Tech Tips” series covers current software, technology and social media trends. The Library encourages patrons to attend during their lunch hour to learn new skills to enhance their careers and personal lives. The series was created by Karen Douglas, technical assistant and trainer with the Athens-Clarke County Library. Since April, the Library has offered “Tech Tips” presentations on Twitter, Facebook, Photoshop, Delicious: Social Bookmarking and Skype. Other scheduled programs include YouTube and eBay.

Luisa A. Vázquez-López has been named the Pinewoods Library Branch Manager. Luisa worked with 4-H propr to joining the library staff. Pinewoods was named a finalist in the Best Small Library in America earlier this year for its service to the Latino community. Jackie Elsner has been named the Oconee County Librarian. She was the children’s librarian for Athens for 20 years. Oconee County has branches in Watkinsville and Bogart. Clare Auwarter, formerly Oconee County Librarian, is now Assistant Director for Development and is concentrating her effort on grant writing and the Athens-Clarke County Library Endowment Fund.

The Friends of the Athens-Clarke County Library will present its 14th annual Café Au Libris event on Friday, Oct. 9 at the library. This year’s event will feature Rita Dove, former U.S. poet laureate and Pulitzer Prize winner. Dove will be available to sign books and chat in an informal atmosphere. Books will be available for purchase, and all proceeds will benefit the Athens-Clarke County Library. Light refreshments will be served. This program is free and open to the public. For more information, call 706-613-3650, ext. 344.

Ohoopee Regional news and notes

The Ohoopee Regional Library System, along with the Ohoopee Regional Council of the Arts and Southeastern Technical College, hosted Key Ingredients: America by Food, a traveling exhibition of the Smithsonian Institution. The exhibit explores the connections between Americans and the foods they produce, prepare, preserve, and present at table – while exploring the historical, regional, and social traditions that merge in everyday meals and celebrations. The exhibit began Aug. 8 and concluded Sept. 20.