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News-Athens Regional Library System

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*People, Libraries
and Agencies* **IN THE NEWS**

Athens Regional Library System

The Boomers Video Archive

The Athens Regional Library partnered with the Lyndon House Arts Center to create *The Boomers: Reflecting, Sharing, Learning*. Funded by a leadership grant from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services, the project creates lifelong learning programs thought up by local baby boomers, which can be attended in person, seen live from a computer or viewed later in the video archive.

The video archive has become the preferred way for community members to attend the programs. It includes twenty five Community Snapshots as well as a continually growing number of interviews with Vietnam veterans. Some videos have been viewed hundreds of times each after being posted a few months. Of our two annual events, *Athens Rockin' Roots Revisited* and *The Mystique of the Automobile*, the latter was viewed more than 4,000 times.

The video archive helps the library and its partner "extend the walls" outside the physical building. The projects also helped build a sense of community by asking local people to share their interests and knowledge and allowed people new to the community learn about the area's rich history.

The grant is in its third and final year. Athens Regional is creating a "best practices" manual to share what they learned with other museums and libraries.

Visit the project's website at <http://boomersinathens.org>.

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Renovation of Athens-Clarke County Library

A two year renovation project will be completed in April 2013 when the Athens-Clarke County Library has its formal dedication



Athens-Clarke County Library's new awning over the main entrance includes a new stylized sign

ceremony. The 22,000 square foot addition to the Baxter Street Library has been eagerly anticipated by the community. Since the library continued to operate in the building during the project, patrons have been able to see every step in the process, including the dust and inconveniences as well as the expansion. In fact, "Bob the Builder" was nominated for the staff member of the year! The library, which enjoys a circulation of over 1.2 million and 700,000 visitors annually, will offer an enhanced children's area, expanded Heritage Room, and more public spaces.

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Toby Mayfield Wins 2012 Staff Distinction Award

Toby Mayfield, a children's assistant at Athens-Clarke County Library and branch manager at Winterville Library, was named the recipient of

the 2012 Athens Regional Library System Staff Distinction Award at the system's annual Staff Development Day on November



Toby Mayfield, left, and Athens Regional Library System Director Kathryn Ames.

12. Mayfield has been with ARLS for three years. She received a plaque, certificate, restaurant gift certificate and a day off with pay!

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Sarah Reynolds hired as Adult Services Coordinator at Athens-Clarke

Sarah Reynolds has joined the staff at Athens-Clarke County Library as Adult Services Coordinator. A graduate of the MLIS program at the University of Alabama, Sarah has ten years' experience in public libraries. Previously Assistant Director for Chestatee Regional Library System, Sarah is excited about the opportunity to expand her library experience at ARLS. "I am so pleased to join such a dynamic, innovative library system!"

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Athens-Clarke County Library Awarded Grant for Ukuleles

Athens-Clarke County Library recently received a mini-grant from local organization Athfest Educates! to fund a series of afterschool music education programs featuring ukuleles. The library purchased ten ukuleles with carrying cases and two electric tuners. The grant also provided funds for an instructor! The program series will target children ages 5-10 with five

weeks of after-school classes. At the end of the series, each participant will receive a CD of their group performances. At the end of the grant period, the instruments will be available to borrow for enjoyment and practice.

Athfest Educates! is associated with Athfest, an annual music and arts festival in Athens and is a year-round effort to share Athens' rich musical heritage with local students by providing funds for music programs.



Children's Area Assistant Rebecca Ballard was a featured performer at the June 2012 Athfest music festival in downtown Athens

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Friends of Athens-Clarke County Library Launch Engraved Paver Fundraiser

The Friends of Athens-Clarke County Library recently started selling engraved pavers at the library as a fundraising campaign. For \$100, contributors can honor a loved one, celebrate the love of reading and show their support of this community resource with an engraved paver on the library's new Reading Garden Patio. Donations are tax deductible and proceeds will benefit programming and services at the Athens-Clarke County Library. More information about the program is available online at <http://www.clarke.public.lib.ga.us/arlis/support/pavetheway.html>.