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## News - Gwinnett County Public Library

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People, Libraries  
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# IN THE NEWS

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## Gwinnett County Public Library

### Gwinnett County Public Library Hosted #1 Bestselling Author Brad Thor

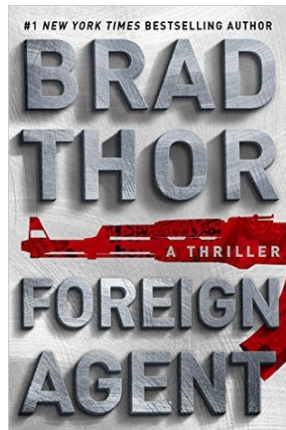
Gwinnett County Public Library (GCPL) hosted *New York Times* #1 bestselling author Brad Thor



for a book discussion and signing event on June 17 at 7:30 pm in Peachtree Corners. The program was hosted by Christ the King Lutheran Church, located at 5375 Peachtree Parkway. His

latest book is *Foreign Agents*, a nonstop thrill ride that is filled with action, intrigue, and edge-of-your-seat suspense, reaffirming Thor's position as the "master of thrillers."

Thor is the bestselling author of *Code of Conduct*, *Act of War*, *Hidden Order*, *Black List*, and *Full Black*, one of *Suspense Magazine's* best political thrillers of 2011. He has hosted the Glenn Beck TV and radio programs, and has appeared on FOX News Channel, CNN, CNN Headline News, MSNBC, ABC, CBS, NBC, and PBS to discuss terrorism. Books will be available for purchase and signing thanks to The Books for Heroes Foundation.



### GCPL to Award Scholarships for Adult Learners to Earn Their High School Diploma: Potential Students Can Take Online Self-Assessment Beginning June 1, 2016.

GCPL is offering qualified community members the opportunity to earn an accredited high school diploma and credentialed career certificate through Career Online High School, a program brought to public libraries by Gale, a part of Cengage Learning. Part of the world's first accredited, private online school district, Career Online High School is specifically designed to re-engage adults into the education system and prepare them for entry into post-secondary career education or the workforce.

"Earning a high school diploma is a life-changing achievement," said GCPL Executive Director Charles Pace. "With Career Online High School, we're empowering our residents to seek new opportunities and transform their lives. We're excited to be the first library in Georgia, and one of the first in the Southeast, to offer this program to our community."

"We're delighted to partner with Gwinnett County Public Library to offer Career Online High School and give residents access to education and the potential to change their lives," said Paul Gazzolo, senior vice president and general manager for Gale.

GCPL will award scholarships for Career Online High School to qualified learners looking to earn a high school diploma and advance their careers. Once enrolled, Career Online High School pairs each student with an academic coach, who assists with developing an individual career plan, offers ongoing guidance and encouragement, evaluates performance, and connects the learner with the resources needed to demonstrate mastery of the course material.

Classes are supported by board-certified instructors and students have 24/7 access to the online learning platform. Coursework begins in one of eight high-growth, high-demand career fields (across a wide spectrum from child care and education to certified transportation), before progressing to the core academic subjects. Students are able to graduate in as few as six months by transferring in previously earned high school credits but are given up to eighteen months to complete the program.

Residents can learn more about Career Online High School and take an online self-assessment by visiting [www.careeronlinehs.gale.com/gcpl](http://www.careeronlinehs.gale.com/gcpl).

For more information or questions, please contact the Library Help Line at 770-978-5154.

### **GCPL Introduces New Logo and Customer Service Model**



Along with new standardized system hours, GCPL debuted a new logo on Monday, May 16, 2016. The new logo, featuring bright, vibrant colors, and an assortment of media icons, will replace the navy blue book stack logo.

“As part of our strategic plan developed last year, we’re introducing a new logo and branding that truly represents what our library system offers and the direction we are heading in,” says Library Executive Director Charles Pace. “The logo represents the different forms of media and programming we offer, and supports our vision for the future of GCPL as a place to connect, learn, and grow. All of these changes, including the technology upgrades, hours, and logo, are being implemented to best support the needs of the entire Gwinnett community.”

The new GCPL branding was provided by Primerica, headquartered in Duluth, through their Communications and Community and Foundation Relations Departments, as an in-kind donation to the library system. Primerica Senior Designer and Illustrator Don Bolt created the logo.

Customers will also notice significant technology upgrades when they walk through the branch doors as new self-checkout kiosks that feature bright touchscreen monitors greet them. GCPL Director of Information Technology Michael Casey sees the potential in the upgrades. “Our new Bibliotheca self-checkout kiosks will be capable of much more than checking out a book,” says Casey. “Customers will be able to pay for their copies, print jobs, and late fees, and purchase items like tote bags and flash drives directly on the machines. With updates to the software later this year, the kiosks will make recommendations based on the user's browsing history.”

Staff will also be roaming the branch floors with iPads and mobile computing stations to provide customer service throughout the branch, eliminating the need for customers to find their way to the help desk.



The technology upgrades were completed prior to the May 16, 2016 reopening, and in time for the start of the Summer Reading Programs. For more information about the Summer Reading Program, or to sign up, visit [www.gwinnettpl.org](http://www.gwinnettpl.org).

### GCPL Launched Self-Service Access to Lawrenceville Branch

GCPL is the first library system in North America to introduce Open+, a service that grants customers self-service access to the library outside of normal operating hours. The service became available at the Lawrenceville Branch as a pilot program at the end of June. Registered customers will have access to the branch Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.



Open+, a system developed by Norcross-based technology supplier Bibliotheca, is a complete solution that automatically controls and monitors building access, self-service kiosks, public access computers, lighting, alarms, public announcements, and patron safety. Security cameras monitor the use of the facility.

“The Gwinnett County Public Library is happy to partner with Bibliotheca to offer this unique service to our customers,” says GCPL Executive Director Charles Pace. “Our number one goal is to increase community access to the resources and collections of the library for our citizens. Open+ will allow us to go beyond what libraries have traditionally offered in terms of service to our community.”

Customers who are eighteen years of age or older and hold a library card in good standing

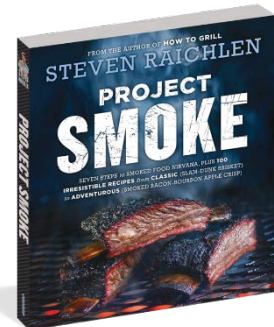
may register for Open+ at any of GCPL’s fifteen branches for a \$5 fee. Upon arrival, customers will insert their own library card into a reader at the entrance, enter a pin, and gain access to library resources.

For more information about Open+, call the Library Help Line at 770-978-5154 or stop by your local branch.

### GCPL Hosted Three Bestselling Author Programs

Gwinnett County Public Library hosted three bestselling author programs in May. *New York Times* bestselling author Mary Alice Monroe and award-winning cookbook author Johnathon Scott Barrett hosted a Low Country Wedding Luncheon on May 11 at 12 p.m. at Garden Plaza in Lawrenceville. Also on May 11, Ace Atkins, a *New York Times* bestselling author, appeared at the Norcross Cultural Arts & Community Center at 7:30 p.m. Atkins discussed and signed his latest novel *Robert B. Parker’s Slow Burn*.

Grill master Steven Raichlen returned to Gwinnett County on May 17 to discuss his latest book *Project Smoke*. Raichlen is the host of the award-winning television series *Primal Grill*, *Barbecue University*, and the new *Project Smoke*.



The Gwinnett County Public Library is a free provider of education and information. Located in Metro Atlanta, the Library has fifteen branches that offer free access to computers and Wifi, classes, materials, and programming for people of all ages. For more information about Gwinnett County Public Library programs and services, visit [www.gwinnettpl.org](http://www.gwinnettpl.org).