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## News - Gwinnett County Public Library

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

### Gwinnett County Public Library

The General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC) Lilburn Woman's Club (LWC) presented Gwinnett County Public Library (GCPL) with a check for \$10,000 for the Lilburn Branch. The funding will be directed to the children's area where a large mural will be installed under the direction of Good Day Art Studio in Lilburn.

LWC Co-President Trish Biemiller feels that a library should always feel like a happy, safe place for children to engage their imagination. "As a retired Gwinnett County media specialist, there is nothing more endearing than seeing a child surrounded by a pile of books and lost in thought or entranced in a storytime activity," says Biemiller.

"We are pleased to partner with the Lilburn Woman's Club to provide this artistic mural which will enhance the children's area in our Lilburn Branch," says GCPL Executive Director Charles Pace.

The mural will include scenes of Old Lilburn viewed through the windows of a train. LWC members will be trained to help paint some of

the background imagery. Installation is expected to be completed by the end of August.

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Gwinnett County Public Library's (GCPL) Centerville Branch is partnering with Parkwood Farms Therapy Center to bring fun, educational programs to the Snellville community.

Centerville Branch staff member Sandy Shaull, who is also an amateur butterfly photographer, led a project to create a butterfly garden at Parkwood Farms Therapy Center for families who attend sessions at the facility. Dan DeVore of Bailey Construction, with the help of local nurseries and landscape organizations, created the design for three butterfly garden plots and helped secure donations of plants and planting materials. More than sixty volunteers helped plant the donated items.

"Watching this idea blossom has been magical, and it couldn't have happened without Dan DeVore," says Shaull. "The garden is the gift of many helping hands, and I hope all who come to Parkwood Farms enjoy it for many years to come."



Free programs for people of all ages were held at Parkwood Farms on June 17 and July 15 from 9 to 11 a.m. The June 17 program focused on urban gardens and how to successfully grow vegetables and flowers in small spaces. The July 15 program was geared towards butterfly photography and the progress of the butterfly gardens.

The library also offered crafts, books, and a library card sign-up station.



Parkwood Farms Therapy Center is located at 2519 Parkwood Road in Snellville.

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Beginning on the week of June 5, 2017, four Gwinnett County Public Library (GCPL) branches will serve as site locations for the US Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), also known as the Summer Meals Program. The program helps provide free nutritious meals to children in low-income areas so they are better fueled with healthy food to learn and grow.

This summer, meals will be served at the Buford, Lawrenceville, Norcross, and Snellville branches, Monday to Friday, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. There are no income requirements or registration and anyone age eighteen or younger may come to eat.

Childrens and teen programs will be offered throughout the summer to encourage culinary literacy and continued learning.

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Readers of all ages began signing up in mid-May for the Gwinnett County Public Library Summer

Reading Program. This year’s theme is “Build a Better World.”

Reading for fun builds literacy skills, expands vocabulary, and helps kids explore their growing interests and expand their horizons. Join the library for programs including crafts, movies, storytimes, and special guest performers all summer long.

The Summer Reading Program will go digital with the launch of Beanstack, a customized online portal where customers can access weekly book recommendations, keep track of reading activities, earn digital badges, and more.

Kids and teens will receive a Certificate of Recognition and have a chance to win prizes including a free book of their choice, tickets to a Gwinnett Braves game, free Laser Quest play, a \$75 LEGO gift card, or even a Chromebook laptop computer. Prizes vary by age and are available while supplies last.

Adults can sign up for the Adult Summer Reading Challenge and enter to win a gardening gift basket that includes a book, garden hose, fertilizer, and an assortment of garden tools. Pick up an Adult Summer Reading Challenge sheet at your local branch, fill in as many answers as possible, and return the completed sheet to the branch for your chance to win. To learn more and sign up for the Summer Reading Program, visit: [www.gwinnettpl.org/summer](http://www.gwinnettpl.org/summer).

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Gwinnett County Public Library (GCPL) is one of seventy-five US public libraries, and the only library in Georgia, selected through a

competitive application process to become a NASA@ My Library Partner. NASA@ My Library will increase and enhance STEM learning opportunities for library patrons throughout the nation, including geographic areas and populations currently underserved in STEM education. GCPL will participate in the eighteen month project with the opportunity to extend for an additional two-year period.

GCPL will receive materials and training to lead educational, fun STEM programming for all ages. Materials include two NASA STEM Facilitation Kits designed for use in hands-on STEM programming, a tablet computer preloaded with how-to videos, apps, and educational games.

“Gwinnett County Public Library is strongly committed to promoting education for all, and STEM is one of our major areas of focus,” says GCPL Executive Director Charles Pace. “From learning how to use a 3D printer to working with robotics, GCPL leads the way in public STEM education. We are very pleased to be the

only library in Georgia selected to take part in the NASA@ My Library program.”

“We are thrilled to bring NASA@ My Library to Gwinnett's students and communities,” says GCPL Director of Grants & Community Partnerships Barbara Spruill. “This opportunity will allow us to add a new and dynamic level of interest to our STEM programming.”



The NASA@ My Library project is led by the National Center for Interactive Learning at the Space Science Institute. Partners include the American Library Association (ALA) Public Programs Office, Pacific Science Center, Cornerstones of Science, and Education Development Center. NASA@ My Library is made possible through the support of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Science Mission Directorate as part of its STEM Activation program.

View the list of selected NASA@ My Library Partners [here](#).