



BLOUNT COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

508 N. Cusick Street, Maryville, TN 37804
Phone: (865) 982-0981 Web site: www.blountlibrary.org



BCPL – Celebrating History, Creating Connections, Inspiring Imagination

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Joan VanSickle Sloan, Public Relations Manager
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January 2018 Events at the Blount County Public Library

MARYVILLE, TN (December 22, 2017) With New Year’s Resolutions abounding, January is the perfect month to make the library part of your regular routine – to attend informative or entertaining programs, check out new-release DVD movies, utilize the online databases available from any internet computer through the library’s website (www.blountlibrary.org) or check out free, downloadable e-books through the library’s website. If you didn’t know all of these resources are available to you, then use that New Year’s Resolution to become familiar with these services and programs – for which you’ve already paid taxes! Some of the special programs for January include

- A mini-performance of “Turandot” by the Knoxville Opera Company,
- 150th Anniversary Exhibits for Blount County Schools,
- Appalachian Reads book group discussion of Sharyn McCrumb’s “King’s Mountain,”
- One Book Blitz Festival – a day of fun and learning for the entire family, with the theme centered on the book selected for this year (Shhh! The title’s secret until January 8),
- “Managing Photos & Digitizing Collections” will be presented by Wil Davenport, professional in that field, for the Focus on Seniors,
- Southern Appalachian Studies, “Little River Railroad & Lumber Company” by Neal Stone,
- It’s Your Career: “Time Management” workshop to be held in the Learning Lab.

There’s always a lot going on at the library, so we’re certain that you’ll find something to make it easy to keep your “library resolution!”

MUSIC & CONCERTS: Phone (865) 982-0981 or (865) 273-1428

- **Saturday, January 13, 11 a.m., “Puccini’s Turandot Opera,” directed by Maestro Brian Salesky.** This opera, still among the world’s finest operas and one that made Luciano

Pavarotti famous, was originally bereft of its final scene due to Puccini's untimely death and had to be completed by a "mere mortal." This program is sponsored by the Blount County Friends of the Library. The opera tells the story of Princess Turandot and her plan to remain unmarried by forcing potential suitors to answer three riddles. Until Prince Calaf arrives, all suitors have met their deaths by answering the riddles incorrectly. Although even the king, Turandot's father, beg Prince Calaf not to ring the gong signaling his attempt to answer the riddles and win Princess Turandot in marriage, the Prince proceeds with the challenge. The performance at the library will have stage sets, props and artists to perform a "mini" version of the opera as an educational program for the library audience, children and adults.

Following the performance, Maestro Salesky and the artists will answer questions from the audience. The performance will be in the Reading Rotunda end of the Main Gallery. (In the event that the library is closed due to inclement weather on January 13, the opera will be performed the following Saturday, January 20, at 11 a.m.)

- **Saturday, February 10, 2 p.m., "Valentine's Harp Ensemble Concert"** at the library, **conducted by Mr. William Lovelace.** Unusual anywhere in the world, this concert will have multiple harps and multiple harpists, some of whom are among the nation's top artists. In addition to students from the Maryville area, this ensemble also includes Lovelace's students from Knox Music Studios, in Knoxville, and from his other teaching locations as well. Mr. Lovelace is past president of the American Harp Society. The concert will be in the Reading Rotunda end of the Main Gallery of the library.

NEW EVENTS: Phone (865) 982-0981 or (865) 273-1428 (See recurring events below the new events)

- **Through January 31, "Coats for the Community."** The Blount County Public Library and Blount County Fire Department invite you to donate new or gently used winter coats, sweaters, hats, gloves and scarves. Two donation barrels are located inside the library's main gallery front doors, near the circulation check-in desk. Thank you for participating in this needed program. For further information, check the website <http://www.blountfire.org/coats-for-our-community.html>
- **Thursday, February 1 through April 17, "AARP Tax Preparation Assistance."** AARP tax preparation volunteers will begin making appointments for tax preparation assistance on Tuesday, January 16. Appointments will begin on Thursday, February 1. For the phone numbers to call for making appointments, look in "The Daily Times" newspaper and on the Blount County Public Library website at www.blountlibrary.org
- **Saturday through Tuesday, December 23, 24, 25 & 26, "Library Closed for Winter Holiday."**
- **Monday, January 1, "Library Closed for New Year's Day."**
- **Monday, January 8, 6:30 p.m., "Fiscal Fitness: Homeowner's Insurance"** will be presented by **Charlotte Chance**, Agency Owner, Farmers Insurance. Buying a home is likely the largest investment most of us will make in our lifetime. So, how do we protect this large and important investment? How do we make sure we are protected in the event of an accident or a natural disaster? Homeowners Insurance not only protects your investment, but it is also often required by the lender of your mortgage. Do you understand the basic parts of homeowner's insurance, what it covers, how to best use it when needed and how important it is to your lender? Charlotte Chance has 20 years of experience in the financial and insurance

industry. This program will be in the Kathy Pagles Board Room at the library.

- **Saturday, January 13, 11 a.m., “Puccini’s Turandot Opera,” directed by Maestro Brian Salesky.** This opera, still among the world’s finest operas and one that made Luciano Pavarotti famous, was originally bereft of its final scene due to Puccini’s untimely death and had to be completed by a “mere mortal.” This program is sponsored by the Blount County Friends of the Library. The opera tells the story of Princess Turandot and her plan to remain unmarried by forcing potential suitors to answer three riddles. Until Prince Calaf arrives, all suitors have met their deaths by answering the riddles incorrectly. Although even the king, Turandot’s father, beg Prince Calaf not to ring the gong signaling his attempt to answer the riddles and win Princess Turandot in marriage, the Prince proceeds with the challenge. The performance at the library will have stage sets, props and artists to perform a “mini” version of the opera as an educational program for the library audience, children and adults. Following the performance, Maestro Salesky and the artists will answer questions from the audience. The performance will be in the Reading Rotunda end of the Main Gallery. (In the event that the library is closed due to inclement weather on January 13, the opera will be performed the following Saturday, January 20, at 11 a.m.)
- **Saturday, January 13, 3 p.m. until 5 p.m., “MLK Kids & Families Fair.”** A variety of fun activities for all ages will celebrate the life and legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. while exploring race and identity, thus helping our community live that legacy by learning about and promoting racial justice. This year’s MLK Kids & Families Fair is sponsored by the Blount County United (BCU), Blount County Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ), Talking with Kids and Teens about Race (TWiKTAR), Blount County NAACP chapter, and Maryville College. Interpreters in Spanish, Japanese and ASL will be available. The event takes place throughout the Main Gallery, the Reading Rotunda and the Children’s Library.
- **Monday, January 15, “Library Closed in Honor of Martin Luther King Day.”**
- **Saturday, January 20, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., “Smart Bicycling Skills for Adults (16+),”** presented by **Donna Dixon**, with the Jeff Roth Cycling Foundation, using the League of American Bicyclists BikeEd Program. This course combines online instruction with parking lot and on-road practice of vehicular bicycling principles. **Preregistration is required: email: donnasuedixon@hotmail.com or call Smoky Mountain Wellness at 865-803-8887.** For more information about the Jeff Roth Foundation and to learn more about the League of American Bicyclists, go to www.jeffrothcyclingfoundation.org For certification, the course begins with participants completing an online, self-guided course. **The Certificate of Completion must be printed by the participant and brought to the biking skills course.** The Smart Bicycling Skills course will be held at the Blount County Public Library’s Learning Lab @ BCPL Parking Lot.
- **Saturday, January 20, 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. (3rd Saturday of every other month) “Appalachian Reads.”** The book group will read and discuss works of Southern Appalachian authors. Sharyn McCrumb’s *King’s Mountain* will be the topic of this meeting, facilitated by A. J. Coulter, a local writer and family historian who lives here in Maryville. Coulter leads the Writers’ Workshop of Maryville, and he recently published a historical creative nonfiction account in *Foothills Voices* describing his family’s contribution with the Overmountain Men’s trek to the Battle of King’s Mountain. Sponsored by Friends of the Library, meetings will be held the third Saturday of every other month in Dorothy Herron Room A.

- **Wednesday, January 24, 11 a.m., “Focus on Seniors: Managing Photo Collections and Digitizing Items”** will be presented by **Wil Davenport**. If you have boxes and boxes of photographs – or many albums assembled, and don’t know what to do with them so that you can leave a legacy for your children, you are invited to attend this presentation. Please bring your laptop, if you have one, to the program. Davenport will offer suggestions for organizing photograph collections, digitally, and will suggest different types of software that can be used. He will also discuss various providers of cloud storage as possibilities. Part of the Focus on Seniors series, this presentation is co-sponsored by the Blount County Public Library and the Blount County Office on Aging and will be in the Sharon Lawson Room of the library.
- **Friday, January 26, 7:30 a.m. to 10 a.m., “It’s Your Career: Time Management,”** will be a part of an ongoing series of Soft Skill workshops designed to take your career to the next level. You’re busy, but how productive are you? Learn effective strategies for managing your time and boosting your effectiveness at work. Class format features a short lecture on each topic, case studies discussion in small groups and resources for use in businesses and organizations. Bring your laptop or tablet, or one will be provided for your use. This class will be at the Blount County Public Library’s new Learning Lab (outside the library in the former First Tennessee Bank branch building). Registration begins December 21. For class synopsis and registration information, go to www.blountchamber.com/community/soft-skills Soft Skills are strengthened and developed over time and are necessary if you desire to climb the career ladder. The classes are a collaboration of Blount Partnership, Adult Education Foundation of Blount County and the Blount County Public Library.
- **Saturday, January 27, 10:30 a.m. until 4 p.m., “One Book Blitz Special Event.”** In cooperation with the Maryville City Schools, Alcoa City Schools and Blount County Schools, the library’s day-long celebration of a beloved children’s book will feature a variety of activities for children and for teens. Join in a scavenger hunt through the library to win a special prize, have the chance to eat pizza and enjoy a movie. Full details will be announced after the One Book Blitz book is unveiled on Jan. 8! Events for all ages will be happening throughout the library and sponsored by the Blount County Friends of the Library..
- **Saturday, January 27, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., “Pop-Up Book Sale.”** Blount County Friends of the Library will offer pre-owned books for sale in the Entry Rotunda of the library
- **Monday, January 29, 7 p.m., “Southern Appalachian Studies Series: Little River Railroad and Lumber Company.”** **Neal Stone** will discuss the history, influence and impact of the Little River Railroad and Lumber Company upon the local economy and peoples. Stone now serves on the Board of Directors of the Little River Railroad and Lumber Company Museum in Townsend. This program will be in the Sharon Lawson Room of the library.
- **Saturday, February 10, 2 p.m., “Valentine’s Harp Ensemble Concert”** at the library, **conducted by Mr. William Lovelace**. Unusual anywhere in the world, this concert will have multiple harps and multiple harpists, some of whom are among the nation’s top artists. In addition to students from the Maryville area, this ensemble also includes Lovelace’s students from Knox Music Studios, in Knoxville, and from his other teaching locations as well. Mr. Lovelace is past president of the American Harp Society. The concert will be in the Reading Rotunda end of the Main Gallery of the library.

RECURRING EVENTS: Phone (865) 982-0981 or (865) 273-1428

- **Tuesdays, 5:30 p.m. until 8:30 pm., “Dungeons & Dragons.”** All ages (12 and up) and skill levels can join in the fun of this tabletop role-playing game by learning about D&D and sharing your love of fantasy gaming! Coordinated by **Brandon Clackum**, a Maryville City Schools teacher, this group meets in the Staff Lounge of the library (but may move to another area, depending on other events).
- **Tuesdays, 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m., “Tech Time.”** Need help with technology and don’t know where to start? Tech Time is designed to be a space to get your questions answered and set you on the path you need for technology success! Having trouble with **email**? Can’t find what you need on the **internet**? Curious about **Facebook, Twitter or Pinterest**? Need help with **eBooks**? Bring your technology questions and get assistance from a Tech Time facilitator. Tech Time will be held in Study Room A in the Reference area of the library.
- **Tuesday, January 16, 5:30 p.m. (3rd Tuesday of each month), “Blount County Public Library Board of Trustees Meeting,”** in the Board Room of the library.
- **Thursday, January 18, 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. (3rd Thursday of each month), “Adult Coloring.”** Remember the carefree joy of picking up your favorite crayon or marker and adding color to a beautiful picture? Experience the same fun and relaxation even though you are now an adult! For this program, sponsored by the Blount County Friends of the Library, participants (**teens and older**) can bring their own coloring books and materials, or you can select from a variety of intricate adult coloring pages and utilize coloring supplies provided at the library. Just show up at the library at 7 p.m., on the third Thursday of every month, select a fun design and color away to your heart’s content. This program will be in Reading Rotunda end of the Main Gallery.

Tennessee R.E.A.D.S. HELP!

If you have an e-reader, tablet or other device, you may check out e-books, audiobooks and streaming movies from Tennessee R.E.A.D.S., through the library website. You can seek personalized help by calling the Reference Desk at (865) 982-0981, ext. 302, or (865) 273-1428 to schedule a time for an appointment or attend a Tech Time session (check monthly calendar for day and time) for help. To set up access to download e-books, audiobooks and materials from the library, bring these items:

- **library card in your name and in good standing,**
- **your device (fully charged),**
- **email account user name and password,**
- **Kindles e-readers: Amazon sign-in and password**

You are ready to enjoy your Tennessee R.E.A.D.S. experience!

COMPUTER COURSES:

For more information, go to the Blount County Public Library Information Services (Reference Desk) or call (865) 273-1428 or (865) 982-0981, ext. 4.

TECH TIME – in Study Room A/Reference Area:

Tuesdays, 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m., “Tech Time.” Need help with technology and don’t know where to start? Tech Time is designed to be space to get your questions answered and set you on the path you need for technology success! Having trouble with **email**? Can’t find what you need on the **internet**? Curious about **Facebook, Twitter or Pinterest**? Need help with **eBooks**? Bring your technology questions and get assistance from a Tech Time facilitator. Tech Time will be held in Study Room A in the Reference area of the library.

Microsoft Computer Courses: Registration Required



Free computer classes are offered in Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint (2016), Email and Social Media. Receive an opportunity to gain a nationally recognized certificate from Northstar Digital Literacy. Seeking employment? Receive résumé help, online job searches, online applications, practice interview skills or create and update LinkedIn account. Course descriptions and schedules are listed below. The free classes meet in the Blount County Public Library’s new Learning Lab (outside the library in the former First Tennessee Bank branch building) unless otherwise noted. Spaces are limited and registration is required. **To register, please visit the library’s Information Services (Reference Desk) or call (865) 982-0981, ext. 4, or (865) 273-1428. Sign up no earlier than one month prior to a class.** (If a person desires to enroll in the Microsoft courses but has had no computer experience, you will need to practice using a mouse before you may enroll. Listed are a few practice websites available:

<http://www.mouseprogram.com/> and <http://www.pbclibrary.org/mousing/mousercise.htm>)

The free computer courses are offered through a partnership between the Blount County Public Library and the Adult Education Foundation of Blount County and made possible by generous funding from the ARCONIC Foundation.

Résumé Help Sessions – Résumé help sessions are designed to give one-on-one help to job seekers in need of a new or improved résumé, conduct online job searches, apply online and create or update a LinkedIn account. Instructors will be available to help individuals design or update a résumé using current formatting trends. A flash drive with various résumé templates will be provided to participants. Participants should bring job history, including employment addresses, phone numbers, dates of employment, list of responsibilities, and salary going back ten years. A reference list can also be completed during a session; please bring reference names and contact information, including address, phone number, and email address.

Sessions run from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Mondays of the designated month in the Learning Lab (*with the exception of Wednesday, January 17 and Wednesday, February 21 the location will be in Dorothy Herron Room B). More than one session may be needed to complete a résumé and reference list. Registration is helpful but drop-ins are allowed. Please register at the Reference Desk. For more information on the program, call 865-982-0981 ext. 4 or 865-273-1428.

Bring your job history with dates.

Time: 11:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Dates: *This is a single session.*

Session 1:

Mondays, January 8, 22 & 29, 2018

*Wednesday, January 17, 2018

Session 2:

Mondays, February 5, 12 & 26, 2018

*Wednesday, February 21, 2018

Session 3:

Mondays, March 5, 12, 19 and 26, 2018

Session 4:

Mondays, April 2, 9, 16 and 23, 2018

Microsoft Word 2016 Essentials – This free class offers a general orientation to Word 2016, including topics such as toolbars/ribbons, shortcuts, save/save as, files/folders, selecting text, moving text, drag and drop, editing, formatting, spell check/thesaurus, page setup, line spacing, the ruler, navigating, changing margins, changing case, word count, bullets/numbering and attachments.

Time: 2 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Dates: *This is a 2-session class, so plan to attend both sessions. Please bring a USB Drive.*

Session 1: Monday, January 8 and Wednesday, January 10, 2018

Session 2: Monday, February 5 and Wednesday, February 7, 2018

Session 3: Monday, March 5 and Wednesday, March 7, 2018

Session 4: Monday, April 2 and Wednesday, April 4, 2018

Microsoft Excel 2016 Essentials – This free class is an introduction to Excel 2016. Topics include toolbars/ribbons; navigation; entering text and formulas; editing and viewing worksheets; introduction to formulas and functions; formatting the contents of cells; changing the appearance of worksheets; changing column width and row height; auto complete; fill series; selecting cell ranges; move and copy shortcuts; inserting/deleting columns and rows; inserting/deleting worksheets; renaming worksheets; and moving worksheets.

Time: 2 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Dates: *This is a 2-session class, so plan to attend both sessions. Please bring a USB Drive.*

Session 1: Wednesday, January 17 and Friday, January 19, 2018

Session 2: Monday, February 12 and Wednesday, February 14, 2018

Session 3: Monday, March 12 and Wednesday, March 14, 2018

Session 4: Monday, April 9 and Wednesday, April 11, 2018

Microsoft PowerPoint 2016 Essentials – This free class will provide students with the skills needed to produce a professional-looking presentation. Topics include editing, outlining, drawing, graphing, images, and presentation management functions.

Time: 2 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Dates: *This is a 2-session class, so plan to attend both sessions. Please bring a USB Drive.*

Session 1: Monday, January 22 and Wednesday, January 24, 2018

Session 2: Wednesday, February 21 and Friday, February 23, 2018

Session 3: Monday, March 19 and Wednesday, March 21, 2018

Session 4: Monday, April 16 and Wednesday, April 18, 2018

Email How-to's - An Intro to Email class will discuss how to register for a new email account, create a username and secure password, send and reply to emails, etc. This class will also include instruction on attaching files, moving and deleting emails, email etiquette, as well as pitfalls to avoid when using email, such as opening files with viruses. Online assessment will be given at the end of class.

Time: 2 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Dates: *This is a single session class. Please bring a USB Drive.*

Session 1: Monday, January 29, 2018

Session 2: Monday, February 26, 2018

Session 3: Monday, March 26, 2018

Session 4: Monday, April 23, 2018

Social Media for Job Seekers – An introduction to social media know-how for job seekers will explore how to best manage social media accounts for work. The class includes managing privacy settings, sharing and publishing content, distinguishing between public and private spaces online, and creating a social media account using LinkedIn, Facebook, or Twitter.

Time: 2:00 – 4:30 p.m.

Dates: *This is a single class session. Please bring a USB Drive.*

Session 1: Wednesday, January 31, 2018

Session 2: Wednesday, February 28, 2018

Session 3: Wednesday, March 28, 2018

Session 4: Wednesday, April 25, 2018

Paid Internship Program for Young Adults: Registration Required



The ARCONIC Global Internship Program is made possible through a generous grant from the ARCONIC Foundation. It is provided by the Adult Education Foundation of Blount County, Blount Partnership, and the Blount County Public Library.

Paid Internship Program for Young Adults Interested in Manufacturing Careers:

Are you between the **ages of 18 – 26** and would you like to get **paid to intern** at a local manufacturer? **Check back for future dates and times to be announced** to gain training and real-world, hands-on manufacturing experience with the possibility of getting hired permanently. Spaces are limited and registration is required.

The program consists of three components:

- 1) **3 weeks of Workforce Readiness Training**
 - *Training* will run for specific periods of time, with another session beginning soon, Monday through Friday. During this time participants will receive training in skills needed to obtain and maintain a job in the manufacturing field. Participants will receive a \$300 stipend upon completion of this component.
- 2) **100 hours of hands-on manufacturing experience interning with a Blount County manufacturer**
 - *The Internship* will be at a local manufacturer where participants will be paid \$10/hr. for 100 hours, get hands-on job experience, and potentially get certifications such as forklift operation.
- 3) **2 half-days of Follow-up, Career Fair and Graduation**
 - **Participants then return** for *Follow-up, Career Fair and Graduation*. Participants will receive a \$40 stipend upon completion of this component.

Participants must complete all three components.

TEEN PROGRAMS – Phone (865) 273-1414:

Special Programs:

- **Saturday through Tuesday, December 23, 24, 25 & 26, “Library Closed for Winter Holiday.”**
- **Monday, January 1, “Library Closed for New Year’s Day.”**
- **Saturday, January 13, 2 p.m. until 4 p.m. (2nd Saturday of each month), “Gaming @ Your Library.”** Games of all kinds! Board games, Wii Sports, Super Smash Bros., MarioKart, or bring your own tabletop game or video game console and games to share. We’ll use multiple screens to multiply the fun. Bring friends! Gaming will take place in the Sharon Lawson Room.
- **Saturday, January 13, 3 p.m. until 5 p.m., “MLK Kids & Families Fair.”** A variety of fun

activities for all ages will celebrate the life and legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. while exploring race and identity, thus helping our community live that legacy by learning about and promoting racial justice. This year's MLK Kids & Families Fair is co-sponsored by Blount County United (BCU), Blount County Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ), Talking with Kids and Teens about Race (TWiKTAR), Blount County NAACP chapter, and Maryville College. Interpreters in Spanish, Japanese and ASL will be available. The event takes place throughout the Main Gallery, the Reading Rotunda and the Children's Library.

- **Saturday, January 27, 10:30 a.m. until 4 p.m., “One Book Blitz Special Event.”** In cooperation with the Maryville City Schools, Alcoa City Schools and Blount County Schools, the library's day-long celebration of a beloved children's book will feature a variety of activities for children and for teens. Join in a scavenger hunt through the library to win a special prize, have the chance to eat pizza and enjoy a movie. Full details will be announced after the One Book Blitz book is unveiled on Jan. 8! Events for all ages will be happening throughout the library, sponsored by the Blount County Friends of the Library.
- **Saturday, January 27, 2 p.m., “Minute to Win It.”** As part of the One Book Blitz event, test your wits, your speed and your hand-eye coordination and win prizes – and bragging rights – in a no-holds barred competition of challenges both silly and stirring. Every teen will get a chance to shine, and to take home tasty treats.
- **Saturday, February 3, 2 p.m. until 4 p.m., “Teen Advisory Board Interest Meeting.”** Do you want to help plan library programs and activities? Help pick out books, videos and magazines for the library's collection? Basically, do you want to make the library a better place for teens? Come hear more about what a Teen Advisory Board can do, enjoy snacks and give us your feedback. This meeting takes place in Dorothy Herron Room A.

Regular Teen Events:

- **Thursdays, 1 p.m. until 4 p.m., “Play Chess at the Library.”** All Ages are invited to play chess (or learn how to play) most Thursdays in the Teen Central area of the library.
- **Once per month: “Sanctioned Chess Tournament,”** is held at the library in the Teen Central Area.
- **Saturdays, 10 a.m. until 3 p.m., “Play Chess at the Library.”** All Ages are invited to play chess (or learn how to play) most Saturdays in the Teen Central Area of the library. On one Saturday of every month, there will be a rated tournament at the Blount County Public Library.
- **Sundays, January 7 and January 21, 2 p.m. until 3 p.m. (Meets every other Sunday of each month), “Teen Writers Group.”** Calling all writers! If you're looking for inspiration, motivation, feedback or camaraderie, this is your group. Teenagers are invited to join writing colleagues for discussion and inspiration. The Teen Writing Group, coordinated by **Hannah Spirko**, meets in the Boardroom. Follow the library on Facebook for dates for the Teen Writers Group.
- **Saturdays, 2:30 p.m. until 4 p.m., “Blount County Nerd Group.”** (Note: No meetings in December.) Teens can learn the basic principles of computer programming, also known as coding. By participating in the Blount County Nerd Group, students seventh grade and up can learn coding skills, such as making simple games, developing professional websites and creating mobile apps. Experienced web developers, **Kaleb Davenport** and **Garrett Smith** are students at local high schools who have worked very hard to learn about many different technologies and are excited to share their expertise with local teens. In the constantly

changing job market, coding is a huge advantage for students and job seekers. Participating students are encouraged to bring their own devices, including a laptop. However, students who do not have adequate technology will be provided a laptop by the library. The Nerd Group meets in the Board Room.

- **Tuesdays, 5:30 p.m. until 8:30 pm., “Dungeons & Dragons”** All ages (12 and up) and skill levels can join in the fun of this tabletop role-playing game by learning about D&D and sharing your love of fantasy gaming! Coordinated by **Brandon Clackum**, this group meets in the Staff Lounge of the library.
- **Saturday, January 13, 2 p.m. until 4 p.m. (2nd Saturday of each month), “Gaming @ Your Library.”** Games of all kinds! Board games, Wii Sports, Super Smash Bros., MarioKart, or bring your own Wii or tabletop game to share. There will be multiple screens to multiply the fun. Bring friends! Gaming will take place in the Sharon Lawson Room.

CHILDREN’S PROGRAMS: Phone: (865) 273-1414

Special Programs for Children (Preschool through Tween)

- **Saturday through Tuesday, December 23, 24, 25 & 26, “Library Closed for Winter Holiday.”**
- **Saturday, Dec. 30, 10:30 a.m., “Family Storytime: Noon Year’s Eve.”** Ring out the old year and ring in 2018 a little early! Bring the whole family out for stories, songs, movement and activities that are fun for all ages and that help encourage important early literacy skills. Join Chelsea for a “Noon Year’s Eve” party with music, stories and crafts in the Children’s Library.
- **Monday, January 1, “Library Closed for New Year’s Day.”**
- **Monday, Jan. 8, 10 a.m.: “One Book Blitz: The Big Reveal!”** The library has teamed up with local schools and businesses to make 2018’s One Book Blitz even more fun than last year. There will be lots of special activities all month long, starting with a special announcement in the Children’s Library. Starting Jan. 8, you can pick up One Book Blitz brochures listing all the special events, including movie screenings, scavenger hunts and much more.
- **Saturday, January 13, 3 p.m. until 5 p.m., “MLK Kids & Families Fair.”** A variety of fun activities for all ages will celebrate the life and legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. while exploring race and identity, thus helping our community live that legacy by learning about and promoting racial justice. This year’s MLK Kids & Families Fair is co-sponsored by Blount County United (BCU), Blount County Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ), Talking with Kids and Teens about Race (TWiKTAR), Blount County NAACP chapter, and Maryville College. Interpreters in Spanish, Japanese and ASL will be available. The event takes place throughout the Main Gallery, the Reading Rotunda and the Children’s Library.
- **Saturday, January 20, 10:30 a.m., “Sensory Movie Fun: One Book Blitz.”** If your little ones – or bigger ones! – struggle with the stillness and quiet expected at a movie theater, or if they find the darkened room or loud sound system of a commercial cinema overstimulating, this new family event is for you! Enjoy an animated feature related to the special One Book Blitz title, but without the pressures of stillness and silence, and with a low, constant light level. LEGOs will be set up in part of the room to add to the fun and give short attention spans an extra way to engage. Everyone is welcome! The movie will be shown in the Sharon Lawson Room.

- **Saturday, January 27, 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., “One Book Blitz Special Event.”** The library’s day-long celebration of a beloved children’s book will feature a variety of activities for children and for teens. Play a live-action board game, be part of a crazy assembly line, and join in a scavenger hunt through the library to win a special prize. You’ll also have the chance to eat pizza and enjoy a movie. These activities will be sponsored by the Blount County Friends of the Library. Full details will be announced after the One Book Blitz book is unveiled on Jan. 8– by the Maryville City Schools, Alcoa City Schools and Blount County Schools!

Elementary Age Activities:

Please Note! There will be NO regular programming in the Children’s Library from December 18 through January 7. STEAMkids and LEGO Club will resume the week of January 8.

- **Tuesdays, 4 p.m. until 5 p.m., “LEGO Club,” for Grades K-5,** will take place in the Children’s Library. Kids will complete different-themed and timed LEGO Challenges, as well as have some time for free building. The library will provide the LEGOs, so all you have to bring is your imagination.
- **Fridays, 4 p.m. until 5 p.m., “STEAMkids,” for Grades K-5.** Every week will be a different adventure, from hands-on science experiments to art projects and everything in between. Materials may be limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis. Unless otherwise noted, STEAMkids takes place in the Children’s Library.
 - **January 12, 19 & 26: One Book Blitz Meets STEAMkids!** In January, the library is joining local schools in again celebrating a beloved children’s book. STEAMkids will have science, arts and tech activities themed to the book, which will be revealed January 8.
- **Thursdays, 1 p.m. until 4 p.m., “Play Chess at the Library.” All Ages** are invited to play chess (or learn how to play) most Thursdays in the Teen Central area of the library.
- **Once per month: “Sanctioned Chess Tournament,”** is held at the library in the Teen Central Area.
- **Saturdays, 10 a.m. until 3 p.m., “Play Chess at the Library.” All Ages** are invited to play chess (or learn how to play) most Saturdays in the Teen Central Area of the library. On one Saturday of every month, there will be a rated tournament at the Blount County Public Library.

Growing Ready Readers -- Early Literacy Programs:

The Blount County Public Library is committed to growing ready readers and equipping caregivers with the tools they need to help their child be school-ready. Check the Blount County Public Library website (www.blountlibrary.org) or stop by the Children’s Library for more information on supplemental literacy activities for caregivers and early literacy programming for our youngest patrons.

Please Note! There will be NO regular programming in the Children’s Library from December 18 through January 7 with the exception for Family Storytime: Noon Year’s Eve, see below. Regular Storytimes will resume the week of January 8.

- **Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:30 a.m., “Little Learners,”** recommended for ages 3-5.

Interactive sessions focus on language acquisition and pre-literacy skills incorporating stories, music, motion, play, crafts and more in the Children's Library.

- **Wednesdays, 10 a.m. and 11 a.m., “Baby and Me,” recommended for ages 2 and under.** These lapsit sessions for baby and caregiver feature short stories, action rhymes, music and pre-literacy tips and tricks for caregivers. It is also a great time for caregivers and babies to socialize! These sessions are in the Children's Library.
- **Saturday, December 30, 10:30 a.m., “Family Storytime: Noon Year's Eve.”** Ring out the old year and ring in 2018 a little early! Bring the whole family out for stories, songs, movement and activities that are fun for all ages and that help encourage important early literacy skills. Join Chelsea for a “Noon Year's Eve” party with music, story and crafts in the Children's Library.
- **Saturday, January 27, 10:30 a.m., “Family Storytime: One Book Blitz.”** Bring the whole family out for stories, songs, movement and activities that are fun for all ages as part of the library's all-day celebration of the “One Book Blitz” title, to be announced Jan. 8 – by the Maryville City Schools, Alcoa City Schools and Blount County Schools. The fun also helps encourage important early literacy skills! This event takes place in the Children's Library and is sponsored by the Blount County Friends of the Library.
- **Tuesday, January 30, 6 p.m., “Sensory Story Time.”** An interactive story time with stories, songs, movement and activities designed to increase early literacy skills and provide a safe and open space for children and families to learn and interact. Open to children of all abilities, but especially designed for kids with special needs between the developmental ages of 3-5. Sensory Storytime takes place in the Children's Library.

Library Tours and Outreach

Please call the Children's Library at (865) 273-1414 or email jspirko@blounttn.org to schedule tours for your group, class or organization. Also if you would like a librarian to come to your class, community event, or parent night and share about awesome library resources and services for patrons ages 0-18, please get in touch!

EXHIBITS & COLLECTIONS:

January 1 to 31:





- **“Blount County Schools 150th Anniversary” Exhibit**, coordinated by **Marla Holbert**, in one vertical display case in the nook of the wall at the end of the Circulation Check-In Desk of Main Gallery and in two Mid-Gallery display cases near the Magazine Shelves in the Main Gallery of the library and in the square pedestal display case in the Entry Rotunda of the library..
- **“One Book Blitz” Exhibit** by **Chelsea Tarwater and Children's Library** in one vertical display case near the Audio Visual (AV) area in the Main Gallery.
- **“Little River Railroad & Lumber Company” Exhibit**, by **Linda Marcus**, will be in the Genealogy display case at Temporary Books Shelves.
- **“Russell Cramp Landscapes” Art Exhibit**, by **Russell Cramp**, will be on the Art Wall at the Bookmark Café.
- **“William Blount High School Student Art” Exhibit**, coordinated by **Doris Poppelreiter**, on the Art Panels at the Reading Rotunda end of the Main Gallery.

- **“Young Marines” Exhibit**, by **Kathy Winters**, in the square pedestal display case near the Audio Visual (AV) area in the Main Gallery.
- **“Blount County Arts and Crafts Guild Member Art” Exhibit**, coordinated by **Jeanie Dockery**, will be on two easels in the sitting area of the Main Gallery.
- **“Heritage Dickens Village” Exhibit** donated to the library by **Martha Black** and displayed in the Bookmark Café exhibit case.
- **“Graphic Novels – What are they?” Exhibit**, by **Information Services**, located in the Reference Area of the library. Grab a rocking chair, book, relax by the fire and find a moment of peace during the hectic holiday days.
- **“Young Adult Display, Check it Out!”** by **Information Services**, in the Teen Central area of the library.
- **“A Sweet Way to Start the Year” Exhibit**, by **Patron Services**, in the Main Gallery between the two Circulation Desks.
- **“Confederate Civil War Submarine: Working Scale Model” Exhibit**, donated to the library by **Lee Reynolds**, will be on the Magazine Counter in the Main Gallery.

LIBRARY TOURS & COMMUNITY INFORMATION:

- **Group Tours of the Main Library** and Reference Department may be scheduled by contacting Joan VanSickle Sloan at (865) 273-1408 or Kathleen Christy at (865) 273-1403 or (865) 982-0981, ext. 4.
- **Group Tours of the Children’s Library** may be scheduled by contacting Jennifer Spirko at the Children’s Check-out desk (865) 273-1414.
- **Community Information about Nonprofit Services or Fine Arts Events (flyers and brochures)** is available for the public on the Community Information wall at the Reference area of the library. If interested in displaying materials, contact Joan VanSickle Sloan at (865) 273-1408 or make an appointment to see her at the library.
- **Outreach programs** can be presented by the Library Director, Public Relations Manager, Information Services Manager or Youth Services Manager for civic organizations, community events, school fairs and special events or parent organizations. Call (865) 273-1408 (for adult presentations) or (865) 273-1414 (for children’s programs).

Open to the public, this program is hosted by the Blount County Public Library, located at 508 N. Cusick Street, Maryville, where services are an example of your tax dollars at work for you.

For further information about library programs or services, call the library at (865) 982-0981 or visit the Web site at www.blountlibrary.org. To sign up to receive a monthly calendar by email, go to the library’s Home Page and go to What’s Happening? on the Menu Bar. Then under News and Events click on Join Calendar Email List. Also check out Facebook at “Blount County Public Library,” Twitter at “Blount_Library,” Pinterest and Instagram.    

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Blount County does not discriminate based on race, color or national origin in federal or state sponsored programs, pursuant to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d).