

# Shelf LIFE

June | 2018 | Issue 1

*We grow smarter communities, one person at a time.*

## The Adult Literacy Secret - Library Program Overcomes Barriers

Lisa Patterson was intimidated by the library. Since childhood she found creative ways to hide her illiteracy from family, friends and teachers - and she kept it a secret into adulthood.

A program hosted by the Community Literacy Centers (CLC) at Southern Oaks Library helped skyrocket her reading level and confidence. The program at Southern Oaks has taught nearly 800 adults to read since its inception five years ago.

"[Our students] They often feel like they are the only adult in the whole world who

can't read," CLC education coordinator Laura Taylor said. "Being in a classroom environment is good for them because not only can they learn from each other and help each other, they can also see that they aren't the only one. It's liberating."

Oklahoma ranks among the least educated states in the country with 23 percent of adults over the age of 25 reported have less than a 12th-grade education. Oklahoma County has over 140 thousand adults who are considered functionally illiterate, according to the CLC website.

Education and literacy impacts an adult's ability to get and maintain a steady job, their ability to obtain, process and understand health information as well as their ability to complete everyday tasks such as reading street signs and helping their children with homework.

"Our students are hard working adults who struggle with self-esteem because they didn't learn how to read," Taylor said.

CLC adult literacy classes allow a maximum of 15 students to a state-certified

teacher employed by CLC. The program also uses volunteers who complete the CLC Tutor Training Program.

Each course begins in September and ends in May, but students can enroll anytime after completing a short application.

Check out videos about adult literacy students, including Lisa Patterson, on the CLC website [HERE](#).

### Quotes from MLS Adult Literacy Students

*"I feel better about my life and do more new things."*

*"I feel more capable of doing something."*

*"I have become more confident in getting closer to my GED."*

*"It has helped me at work and at home."*

*"It (CLC) changed my life. I'm reading better."*

*"It's taking me out of my comfort zone, learning new things."*

*"I can read more books."*

[Quotes collected from anonymous student surveys conducted by CLC.]

### Oklahoma Adult Literacy Facts

**23%** of Oklahoma County adults over the age of 25 have less than a 12th-grade education.

**1 IN 5** in Oklahoma are considered functionally illiterate.

**140,000** individuals in Oklahoma County are considered functionally illiterate.

That's roughly the size of Oklahoma's third largest city:  
**Norman, OK**

## Coming Up June

Date	Event
Jun 21	Staff Association Meeting @ the Downtown Library 2-4 p.m.
Jun 21-26	ALA Conference
Jun 21	Commission Meeting at Downtown Library
Jun 30	SA Picnic @ Stars and Stripes Park 4 p.m.
Jun 30	2nd Quarter Safety Training Due

## July

Date	Event
July 4	All Metro Libraries Closed for Independence Day
July 19	Commission Meeting at Northwest Library
July 26	Staff Association Meeting at Northwest Library

### Missing Something?

Contact Victoria  
victoria.garten@metrolibrary.org

*Follow us @*



## From Our History Databases: Independence Day

Soon we will celebrate Independence Day in America – not the Box Office hit movie, but the anniversary of the adoption of a document that forever changed our country.

While the holiday is often celebrated as the birth of the United States, the vote in favor of independence occurred on July 2, 1776. Two days later, the Declaration of Independence was signed.



### Fun fact:

“John Adams believed that July 2nd was the correct date on which to celebrate the birth of American independence and would reportedly turn down invitations to appear at July 4th events in protest. Adams and Thomas Jefferson both died on July 4, 1826—the 50th anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence.” (history.com)

Following the July 2, 1776 vote John Adams first set the tone for Independence Day writing, “It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forevermore”.

The holiday was first celebrated with the firing of 13 guns for the 13 states, parades, the ringing of bells, decorations and fireworks. Some colonists celebrated the first Independence Day with mock funerals for King George II. Following the adoption of the U.S. Constitution the holiday became even more widely celebrated.

Today many Americans celebrate the holiday with fireworks, picnics, family trips and sporting events.

### Bibliography:

“Fourth of July.” History.com. 2009. <http://www.history.com/topics/holidays/july-4th>

Burnett, Edmund C. “Independence Day.” Dictionary of American History, edited by Stanley I. Kutler, 3rd ed., vol. 4, Charles Scribner’s Sons, 2003, pp. 256-257. U.S. History In Context.

## Read it Forward

### Learn More About the 2018 Non-Profits



YMCA staff member Latasha Wickware with donated Read it Forward books from 2017.

The Read it Forward program allows Summer Reading participants to give back to the community by donating books to selected non-profit organizations serving families and youth in Oklahoma County.

Readers can donate a book to Read it Forward as they reach goal one (10 hours) and up to two books at goal two (20 hours). A book is automatically donated to the program at 30 hours.

The donated books are collected at each library location during June and July and then donated to pre-selected non-profit organizations after Summer Reading ends in August.

This year BE engagement manager Edie Daniel, together with EPS, is coordinating Read it Forward. The following organizations will be receiving books this year.

#### **Citizens Caring for Children**

Citizens Caring for Children (CCC) is a non-profit organization that provides support and resources for children in foster care in Oklahoma, Canadian, Cleveland, Grady, Lincoln, Logan and Pottawatomie counties. Any child ages birth to 21 is eligible to receive services. They have several programs including the Resource Center, Back2School and Joy4kids. Through these programs, children are provided new clothing, books and school supplies.

[Learn more...](#)

#### **Faithworks of the Inner City**

Faithworks of the Inner City is a non-profit ministry that works with families in southeast Oklahoma City. The organization originally started as an after-school reading program in 2003. In 2009 they opened a community center and were able to expand services to further meet the physical and emotional needs of families. Faithworks provides evening meals for children in their after-school programs and offers counseling services and a benevolence fund for families in crisis.

[Learn more...](#)

#### **Mary Mahoney Community Health Center**

The Mary Mahoney Community Center is a private, non-profit comprehensive primary health care facility sponsored by Community Health Centers, Inc. Located in Spencer, OK, the center provides medical, dental and social services. All services are provided on a sliding scale according to family size and income, though no one is ever turned away due to inability to pay.

[Learn more...](#)

#### **Sisu Youth Services**

Sisu Youth Services (pronounced: see-sue) is a non-profit organization helping homeless youth ages 15-24. The organization not only provides youth with shelter, food, clothing and a safe place to relax and do homework, but also connects them with community resources.

[Learn more...](#)

Last year, over four thousand books were donated to three organizations including Sunbeam Family Services, the YMCA and the Bethel Foundation.

"You know you've read a good book when you turn the last page and feel a little as if you have lost a friend." - Paul Sweeney



## Announcements

Congratulations!

**Pictured right:**  
Arlo Wonder Allen  
Born Feb. 14, 2018  
child of Shanna Allen  
Engagement Manager  
Community Libraries



Welcome



**Above:** Janet Mills and Rudy, Warr Acres Library's newest Reading to Dogs program volunteers.

## Hello!

We are excited to welcome you ...

Name	Location	Position
Stacy Hansen	BE	Access Specialist I

## Congratulations!

Promotions & Transfers

Name	Old Position	New Position
Carissa Owens	Access Specialist II	Access Specialist II
Andrew Soliven	Adult Librarian I	L&D Specialist

## Goodbye

We are sorry to see you go ...

Name	Dept	Position
Blake Barrett	DN	Adult Engagement Specialist II
Abigail Griffin	CH	Access Specialist I
Kathy Fritsch	BI	Access Specialist I
Ann Motley	CL/CT	Access Specialist I
Sharon Murray	DN	Access Specialist I
Monica Townsden	OUT	Outreach Program Specialist
Derek Davis	MTC	Maintenance Tech I

### RETIREMENTS:

Van Bielstein	VI	Access Specialist II
Kay Bauman	DN	Interim Executive Director

Libraries Rock Displays



**Above:** Southern Oaks  
**Below:** Community Libraries



"You can find magic wherever you look. Sit back and relax, all you need is a book." - Dr. Seuss

## In Case You Missed It ...

### Leadership Team Minutes - June 06, 2018

HEATHER ZEOLI Jun. 12, 2018

[Read more...](#)

### Database Highlight #47: We've got the Consumer Review for That

SADIE BRUCE ♦ Jun. 11, 2018

Ready for summer? Need a grill? A boat? Maybe a new car? Do yourself a favor and do some research before making a 'big ticket' investment. Consumer Reports is the most trusted authority on consumer product reviews. Their reviews are thorough and easy to understand. They often rank products to help consumers make an informed decision.

[Read more...](#)

### 15K!

EMILY WILLIAMS ♦ Jun. 7, 2018

Late last night we hit 15,000 participants in Summer Reading! Way to go, everyone! Thanks for all your hard work in the last few weeks promoting Summer Reading, registering customers, answering questions, and recruiting and training volunteers. Keep up the great work!

[Read more...](#)

### Overdrive Summer Read

SADIE BRUCE ♦ Jun. 6, 2018

The "summer slide" is a well known phenomenon where kids experience some literacy loss over summer. They re-enter the school year having to make up ground. Overdrive is making it easy to beat the slide! Starting today, four juvenile ebooks and four young adult ebooks will always be available for check out. No waiting, no holds!

[Read more...](#)

### Summer Feeding Sites

KRISTIN WILLIAMSON ♦ Jun. 5, 2018

There are several sites in the OKC metro area offering free meals to children under the age of 18. No ID or paperwork is needed to receive these meals. All of the locations provide lunch, but many locations also offer an afternoon snack or breakfast as well.

[Read more...](#)

### Summer Reading Tip of the Week—Badges and Learning Tracks

JESSICA GONZALEZ ♦ Jun. 5, 2018

As of this morning, 13,033 people have registered for Summer Reading thanks to all of your hard work! Way to go everyone!! For this week's Summer Reading Tip of the Week, EPS would like to do a deep dive into this year's badges and learning tracks.

[Read more...](#)

## The Village Fair

The Village Fair, presented by the Friends of the Village Library, took place May 19, 2018 at Casady Square. The event included live entertainment, shopping, touch the trucks, inflatables, face painting, food trucks and a bake sale.

