

Shelflife

Staff Newsletter of the Metropolitan Library System

August 2005

Five Info Sessions on Pension Changes Set

A series of five educational sessions about the new Defined Contribution Pension Plan have been planned for the month of August to allow staff members to learn and ask questions about the Plan.

The new Plan goes into effect August 29. The first paycheck to be affected will be the one dated September 15.

"Mark Thompson, representing Mass Mutual, will be here

for all five meetings," said MLS Deputy Executive Director **Lloyd Lovely**. "He will talk to staff about investment options and then be available to answer questions after each session on a one-on-one basis.

"Staff will not be required to make any decisions at the sessions. Everyone will be given time to decide what they want to do."

The times and locations for the meetings are:

Monday, August 8:

Edmond Library, 9 a.m.

Midwest City Library, 3 p.m.

Tuesday, August 9:

Southern Oaks Library, 9 a.m.

Belle Isle Library, 3 p.m.

Wednesday, August 10:

Midwest City Library, 9 a.m.

Downtown Library,

46th Star Auditorium, 3 p.m.

Thursday, August 11:

Belle Isle Library, 9 a.m.

Southern Oaks Library, 3 p.m.

Friday, August 12:

Downtown Library,

46th Star Auditorium, 9 a.m.

Edmond Library, 3 p.m.

Wi-Fi Without Tears:

New Service Designed to Function Sans Staff

Remember when computers began to creep onto our desks? Not long after that, they found their way to the public floor and MLS began offering free Internet access to our customers.

Now MLS is about to take the next logical step in the evolution of computer-based services for our customers. It's wireless fidelity, or Wi-Fi. It allows computers to connect to the Internet without the use of wires.

MLS Deputy Executive Director Jimmy Welch wants to

ease any staff concerns before they take hold. "The MLS wireless service," he said, "will allow us to provide Internet service to more customers with minimal staff involvement. Wireless access service is designed to be simple and hassle-free for our customers."

And there's one other point Jimmy wants to stress: "Staff members will not be configuring customer computers."

In fact, to avoid any possible liability, he says, staff shouldn't even touch a customer's computer.

Currently, MLS Information Technology and Marketing & Communications departments are developing a brochure for customers that will explain the service.

Wi-Fi service will begin August 15 at 9 a.m. at MLS's 12 full-service libraries. The service is being offered at all MLS libraries that are in a position at this time to offer it.

MLS has invested about \$60,000 to get the wireless hotspots up and running, and Jimmy says the investment

will save the System money in the long run. "For one thing," he noted, "it will mean we can support many more computer users in our libraries without having to purchase more computers."

Nearly all libraries in the United States offer free public Internet access, according to a study released recently by the American Library Association, but only 18 percent presently offer wireless access. "We're pleased to be among the front runners in bringing this new technology to the public," said Welch.



News ... News ... News ...

Teen Summer Read Numbers Have MLS Staff Laughing Out Loud :)

"And what," asked James Russell Lowell, "is so rare as a day in June? Then, if ever, come perfect days?"

Well, if Lowell had just stuck around for another month, and if he were an MLS librarian for teens, he'd know the answer to his question. Rarer than a perfect day in June is the day in July when the teen summer reading program, LOL:, passed a goal that had

proven elusive for the first three years of its existence.

As of July 19, 2005, MLS staff had signed up 3,015 teens for the program — even better a third of them (1,106 teens in all) had completed Level I. That's a record completion rate of 36.6 percent, and it means that not only are more teens than ever before entered in the program, but a higher percentage of them

have also stayed the course through Level I.

They're not just signing up for the prizes—they're reading!

"Woo hoo!" said **Heidi Daniel-Morgan**, MLS young adult service coordinator, demurely. "We have finally reached the goal we set way back in the very beginning of the program in 2002 Extreme Summer / Extreme Reads!"

Let James Russell Lowell express our congratulations to Heidi and every member of the MLS staff whose hard work made this possible:

"Everything is upward striving; 'tis as easy now for the heart to be true as for grass to be green or skies to be blue."

People

Sheila's Most Spooky Vacation — a.k.a. The Lizzie Borden Project

Lizzie Borden took an axe and gave her mother 40 whacks. When she saw what she had done, she gave her father 41.

Well, not quite. It was her stepmother, and it was only 18 whacks, but they were all to the head so they count double. And Mr. Borden only received 11. But no matter how many, the fourth was a bad day in August of 1892, for Andrew and Abby Borden. As for the house at 92 Second Street in Fall River, Massachusetts, it has been a magnet to steely-eyed true crime buffs like **Del City** Circulation Clerk **Sheila Fixel** ever since.

"I'm going there with my sister," reported Fixel. "We'll be staying at the actual house where this happened. This is her dream vacation. I am a

Lizzie fan but not like her. She insists that Lizzie was innocent, but I haven't reached a verdict yet.

"There are two Lizzie Borden tours—the bed and breakfast (the house on Second Street where the murders occurred) and the Fall River Historical Society. The lady there tells people to go by Maplecroft, Lizzie's last home, and by the cemetery. Can you imagine the crowd at the cemetery? Spooky! We'll also go by the courthouse where the trial was held.

"If we see any ghosts, I will let everyone know."

I wonder if the gift shop at the bed and breakfast sells rubber hatchets ...

To My Fellow Employees, Before I Go ...

As you know July 22, 2005, is my last day of employment here at the Metropolitan Library System. For the last 10 months, I've been going to school 30 hours a week to pursue my career as an airframe & power plant mechanic, and I'm two-thirds of the way there.

I would like to thank Patrick Williams and Ric Rea for working with my schedule to make it possible.

I would also like to thank Ernestine Clark for being a wonderful person and a great friend ("I love you Ernestine"); all of the clerks, pages, and librarians that are too many to name; security ("you've been great in helping when asked"); and Rodney and Keith ("thanks for being there guys").

I also haven't forgotten about the daytime folks: Business Office and Mama Lisa, MSS ("you all were great"), Automation ("Anne, Jim, and my two newest close friends — Steve and Laura"), Sharlott White-Brown ("you've been like a sister; you're my girl — and thanks

for doing my time card), MAC, PSA ("Mrs. Jackson and Fran, you are for real!), Planning (Teresa), and last but not least the guys back at the Maintenance Center! But one man stands out the most: David Mack, whom I have a lot of respect for, who showed me the ropes when I first came on here at the library, and Bob Hurst ("I'll still pull for your Cowboys so long as they're not playing the Sooners").

Well thank you to everyone at MLS, and I'm sorry if I left anyone out, because there have been many more people than I've mentioned who've made it great to work here.

Good luck in the future, and best wishes!

—James Anderson

James Anderson worked with MLS's Maintenance Department — most recently as the first person to oversee the day-to-day maintenance needs of the new Ronald J. Norick Downtown Library. James, you will be missed! But good luck on your new career — we'd fly in any airplane you'd worked on!



News ... News ... News ...



Ralph Ellison Library received a facelift for its front door.
Photo by Susie Beasley

New Landscaping Brightens Ralph Ellison Library

Ralph Ellison Library is a little greener, after finishing a recent landscaping project, according to Manager **Susie Beasley**, who sent us this picture so we could see the final results ourselves.

"The landscaper added brick to accentuate the borders," explained Susie. "He also added eight shrubs on the interior and 10 on the exterior."

Two new trees also now grace the oval, which should cast some shade on the bench in front of the library.

"We're really pleased with the way it turned out," Susie added.

Your Degree Days are Here!



The Fall 2005 class schedule for the Downtown College Consortium is out. With a varied number of classes offered, from yoga and tai chi ch'uan to computer classes and English Comp, there is something for everyone. Check out the new OKC Arts Alive! class where you will earn 3 college credits (Humanities) by spending your Friday nights attending local downtown arts and music venues.

Yes, you can earn college credit as well as non-credit classes to help you finish up that degree. Enroll now for a full 16-week session or some of the eight-week sessions! Go to <http://www.downtowncollege.com/> to view the Downtown College Consortium website.

Smile! You're on MLS's New Digital Camera

For anyone who has ever taken a great photo of a library event only to lament the hassle involved with getting film processed, prints back, and then finding a scanner so you can share the prints, have we got good news for you!

As of August 1, MLS will have not one but two Olympus digital cameras available for checkout by library managers or their designee for up to two weeks, says **Denyveta Davis**, MLS director of branch services.

The cameras are 5.1 megapixel with a 5x sport zoom — so there shouldn't be a photo situation they can't handle. And don't worry the cameras are graded for use by beginners!

"Now you can keep a record of your special events on memory cards to share online with the rest of MLS," said Davis. "No more lost photos."

Now that's reason to smile.

New Design of Staff Recognition Pin Created



Old Pin



New Pin



New Pin
with stones

Don't Forget Staff Recognition

November 19, 2005

The Centre
4325 N.W. 50th
Oklahoma City, OK

The new Staff Recognition pin, designed by MAC's **Wanda Scott**, was approved at the July 26th meeting of the Staff Recognition Committee. The new pins will be given to this year's five-year anniversary employees, but honorees for 10, 15, 20, 25, and more anniversary years who wish to buy the new pin may do so.

More info regarding price and deadline to order new pins will be sent to all staff via e-mail.



A Library Within a Library— *For Staff Eyes Only*



When was the last time you checked out a library book?

Okay, when was the last time you checked out a library book from one of MLS's professional collections? These are the books purchased for staff use only, and they are not part of the regular circulating collection.

We chatted recently with **Stacy Schrank**, employee development coordinator in the Planning Office, about Planning's Lending Library.

"It serves as a resource for staff," Stacy said, "in meeting various training and/or development needs. It supplements the face-to-face training MLS offers its staff."

The Planning Lending Library includes some 360 items—books, cassettes, videos, manuals, statistics, and web design resources among other things—that don't duplicate material already available in the circulating collection.

The items can be checked out for a two-week period, but extended loans are easily arranged. Typically, 10 to 15 items are checked out at any one time. Just check with Stacy.

"We have a valuable assortment of material for any MLS staff member who would like to further his or her career with the library system. Say you want to move up to a management position, or you just need books that will assist in training in a particular area.

We have books that will guide you along."

Finding out what the library contains couldn't be easier. Just go to the MLS Intranet page. Click on "Resources." On the right of the screen, under the heading "Professional Collection," you'll see it clearly—"Planning Lending Library."

Feel like Going to the Dogs? *Now you can.*

You've seen MLS's mascot—the colorful spotted Dalmatian known as Spoticus. He causes a stir wherever he goes, and MLS customers of all ages seem to love him.

What many people don't realize, however, is that, without you Spoticus would be just a shell of himself. Literally.

MaC houses a pair of Spoticus costumes—one a little larger than the other, and is actively recruiting MLS staff members who would like to become Spoticus for a day. Well, a few hours at a time, anyway.

If you're interested in putting on the dog, contact **Doug Bentin** in MaC and let him know about it. We're putting together a list of staff members who are willing to spend some time in the doghouse.

And if you're interested in booking Spoticus for an event (a parade, festival, story time), just visit the Intranet where there is a new MLS Spoticus Booking Form. Just fill it out and route to MaC!

How many places Spoticus can be in 2005-2006 will depend a lot on how

many volunteers—staff or non-staff—we can find. So tell your buddies, tell your co-workers, tell the kid who mows your lawn but who aspires to be on Broadway. (It's a great gig for an aspiring actor's resume!)



MLS's Mascot, Spoticus.

People

Coretta Scott King Awards MLS's Denyveta Davis to Jury (Again)

It's always an honor to be asked to serve on a committee or jury — but it may be a greater honor to be asked back.

That's an honor **Denyveta Davis**, MLS director of Branch Services, recently experienced, when she was named to the jury that selects the winner of the Coretta Scott King Award for the second time.

"The CSK committee was one of my first ALA committee appointments 18 years ago," Denyveta said, "and one with which I continue to participate. I started by attending meetings as an observer, getting to know the members,

and participating in activities. I have thoroughly enjoyed it.

"The award celebrated 30 years recently, and I served on the planning committee. The committee sponsors a breakfast during the annual conference each year that attracts 600 to 800 attendees."

The award, named for the widow of the late civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr., who was a community activist in her own right, was conceived in the late 1960s and given for the first time in 1970. It is now awarded annually to African-American authors and illustrators who have made an outstanding contribution to literature for

children and young adults. In 1982, the CSK Award became officially associated with the American Library Association.

"Several years ago," Denyveta added, "I introduced two Oklahoma CSK book award winners. I have met numerous authors and illustrators and have autographs from most of them including: Leo & Diane Dillion, the late Virginia Hamilton (she was my favorite), Rudy & Ossie Davis, Walter Dean Myers, Ashley Bryant, the Pinkneys (father and son), the late Tom Feelings, the McKissacks, and many more."

The jury deliberates during the midwinter session, and



Coretta Scott King Award

the winners and honor books are announced with the Newbery & Caldecott winners.

The assignment is a natural one for Davis, who is an author in her own right. In 2003, Denyveta co-authored, with Oklahoma City attorney Bob Burke, *Ralph Ellison: A Biography*.

Congratulations, Denyveta!

ODL Executive Praises Work of Donna Morris

The following is from a letter written by Susan McVey, director of the Oklahoma Department of Libraries, to Metropolitan Library Commission Chair Hugh Rice. The full text of the letter appears in the July 21, 2005, Commission agenda packet.

We just thought you'd like to see this excerpt.

Dear Chairman Rice:

I want to recognize **Donna**

Morris, for her participation in National Library Legislative Day in Washington, D.C. Donna's involvement in calling on the Oklahoma congressional delegation is reflective of her leadership role in the Oklahoma community. Donna knows how to present the library story in language that is both powerful and clear so that decision makers understand the value of libraries. She is a warm person who finds common ground with all she

meets. Donna is a credit to the Metropolitan Library System and to librarians.

Donna's participation is very important because of Congressman Istook's service on the appropriations committee, which funds federal library programs. Donna was one of the staff whom the Congressman knew and respected during his service as chairman of the Metropolitan Library Commission. Donna's presence as a



constituent in National Library Legislative Day strengthens our requests for increased funding.

Sincerely,

Susan McVey
Director, Oklahoma
Department of Libraries

People

Hello To:

Jonntita Buford Tech Asst., RE
 Suzanne Anderson..... Page, RE
 Brandi Gay..... Page, DN
 Gaynell Spigne Page, RE
 Tara McDaniel Half-Time, Assoc. Librarian, CH
 Hollie Hire..... Page, BE

Goodbye To:

Julie Bennett Page, ED
 Marilyn Wetmore Page, WA
 Valarie Byers Tech Asst., RE
 Rosina Lansdale Librarian, CH
 Mercedes Franks Relief Assoc. Librarian, PSA
 Mary Ann Anderson Half-Time Librarian, SO
 Crystal Giles Cataloger, CAT
 Angela Davis Tech Asst., SO
 Barbara Namminga..... Librarian, BI
 Melissa Cunningham Tech Processor, TP

Sympathy

To **Elizabeth Pressler, Del City**, whose grandmother, Gracie Louise Osbourn recently died.

Sympathy also to **Joyce McCauley-Johnson, Downtown**, whose son Carlo McCauley passed away July 17. Carlo had a son, Carlo, daughter, Carlisha, and wife, Birdie.

Sympathy also to **Ric Rea, HR**, whose mother Thelma Rea passed away July 26.

New Staff Members



Jonntita Buford



Suzanne Anderson



Tara McDaniel



Gaynell Spigner



Brandi Gay



Hollie Hire

Promotion:

Traci Jinkens From Planning Svcs Specialist, PLA,
 To Development Specialist, DEV

Transfer:

Kristin Brewer..... From Half -Time Circ Clerk, SO,
 To Full-Time Circ Clerk, RE

August Birthdays

BARBARA A. JOHNSON	8/01	JOYCE MC-JOHNSON	8/09	NATHAN K. LEONARD	8/21
PATRICIA J. HALL	8/03	JOSHUA H. GERNER	8/09	CRYSTAL DAWN ROPER	8/22
CAROL L. PROVINCE	8/03	CHARLA MCGARRAH	8/09	JEAN M. WILBURN	8/22
CAROLYN S. ABERNATHY	8/03	KAREN A. LEHR	8/11	JESSICA Y. LITTLE	8/23
JAMES E. NIMMO, JR.	8/03	JAMES B. GORDON	8/12	LINDA LEE HYAMS	8/25
DAGMAR M. PEERY	8/04	SYLVIA A. LAWSON	8/13	PAMELA K. KOSTED	8/25
JILL L. VESSELS	8/04	ANITA F. ROESLER	8/13	QUEITA HARVEY	8/25
CHESTER KINZIE, JR.	8/04	FRANCIE L. PENDLETON	8/13	ANN G. ALIOTTA	8/28
RACHEL B. SMOOT	8/05	LAURA MCMURTRY	8/13	ELIZABETH PRESSLER	8/28
SHARON A. NOLAN	8/05	ERICA Y. RUTLAND	8/13	TIMOTHY D. FISHER	8/29
KATRINA S. PRINCE	8/06	MARYANN M. HEARD	8/14	TERESA GOGGINS	8/29
ANGELA D. DAVIS	8/06	LINDA J. JAMESON	8/14	VALERIE MANRIQUEZ	8/29
REGINA M. WOLFINGER	8/07	BOBBIE KAY BREWER	8/15	JOYCE A. HELMS	8/30
KELLY M. DALRYMPLE	8/07	RACHEL H. BROWN	8/17	WENDY GABRIELSON	8/30
KATHY L. FRITSCH	8/08	SUSIE L. BEASLEY	8/18	KAY L. BAUMAN	8/31
LINDA A. ELSTON	8/09	VAN R. BIELSTEIN	8/21	BETH K. STEELMAN	8/31
KATHRYN M. DUNN	8/09	EDWARD N. TERRY	8/21	BRENDA HAMMONS	8/31

August Anniversaries

PRISCILLA M. DOSS	8/1/1972	MARY K. HARRISON	8/7/2000
CHERYL E. PERNELL	8/1/1979	STEPHANIE D. GERLING	8/14/2000
MARILYN R. BARNETT	8/20/1981	SAISRI MCCORMICK	8/21/2000
PHILLIP E. TOLBERT	8/9/1982	DAVID L. CALHOUN	8/1/2001
SHARON L. MAINE	8/17/1982	KIM L. COBB	8/9/2001
BARBARA K. BEASLEY	8/1/1984	ELIZABETH A. PRESSLER	8/20/2001
DARRYL G. FITZHUGH	8/17/1987	JOHN D. WOOD	8/27/2001
SHARON A. NOLAN	8/29/1989	FANNIE HARSHBARGER	8/10/2002
QUEITA HARVEY	8/21/1991	ROBERT L. RODDY	8/10/2002
KELLY M. DALRYMPLE	8/26/1991	SHARON DAVIS JORSKI	8/10/2002
GALEN R KURTH	8/30/1993	GERALD W. HICKMAN	8/10/2002
JULIA A. MOCK	8/30/1993	YVONNE M. DYESS	8/12/2002
EVA F. PETEET	8/23/1994	BARBARA A. JOHNSON	8/19/2002
JACQULYN J. TAYLR	8/29/1994	ELVIRA M. M. FRANKS	8/31/2002
ROBERT A. HURST	8/26/1996	JULIE E. BENNETT	8/2/2004
DEBORAH J. WILLIS	8/31/1996	NGOC KIM NGUYEN	8/3/2004
KAREN L. LITTERAL	8/31/1996	JENA E. MULHOLLEN	8/6/2004
KATHLEEN LAUGERMAN	8/4/1997	JOSEPH A. HUDSON	8/9/2004
GLENN E. WEBB JR	8/25/1997	WIMFORD MARTIN	8/16/2004
FREDERICK R. WILSON	8/10/1998	KEVIN D. COLWELL	8/30/2004
CRYSTAL D. GILES	8/23/1999	TERRI PAULINE FROST	8/31/2004
JANET E. BOWEN	8/25/1999	JULIA C. ENGEL	8/31/2004

September Anniversaries

MARY J. PATTON	9/01/71
KAREN MARRIOTT	9/06/77
SUSIE L. BEASLEY	9/18/78
FAYE HORN	9/10/79
JO NITA WHITE	9/25/81
PAMELA BRANDT	9/01/82
ROSEMARY CZARSKI	9/13/82
ALMA LOUISE BROWN	9/16/82
KAY L. BAUMAN	9/27/82
RUTH M. BUTLER	9/17/84
PAMELA S. BUCHANAN	9/10/85
PEGGY M. LONG	9/09/86
NINA GINSTERBLUM	9/05/89
SUSAN E. RYAN	9/13/89
SHIRLEY HENDERSON	9/03/91
LISA WEISSENBUHLER	9/23/91
CHESTER KINZIE, JR.	9/06/94
JANA C. HAUSBURG	9/11/95
DEBBIE E. ROBERTUS	9/11/95
ANN L. MEEKS	9/11/95
CRYSTAL L. SUPPES	9/25/95
PATRICIA J. HALL	9/24/96
JOYCE A. HELMS	9/24/96
MARCIA J. FINDEISS	9/20/97
MARY E. TAYLOR	9/16/99
JONATHAN ST.AUBIN	9/05/00
LINDA A. FELTON	9/18/00
JEANNE M. DEVLIN	9/04/01
ANGELA K. SANDERS	9/05/01
D. DIANE SHARP	9/17/01
AJAX S. C. DELVECKI	9/17/01
SHARON GAYE MAY	9/02/02
ELIZABETH NEWLAND	9/10/02
THOMAS GALLAGHER	9/16/02
MATTHEW E. EVANS	9/17/02
VAN R. BIELSTEIN	9/17/02
STUART WILLIAMSON	9/19/02
ALLISON MCBETH	9/30/02
EMILY R. WILLIAMS	9/07/03
VALARIE M. BYERS	9/15/03
ISAAC F. ONAOLAPO	9/15/03
BURTON D. THURMOND	9/16/03
TERESA R. MATTHEWS	9/29/03
MARY ANN JOHNSON	9/13/04
CINDY S. FINNEGAN	9/13/04
GEORGE NIEBANK, III	9/27/04

September Birthdays

MARY L. STRASNER	9/01	RUBY J. SOUTIERE	9/15
TERESA R. MATTHEWS	9/01	KIMBERLY L. WADE	9/17
LAQUETA L. LEWIS	9/01	ROSEMARY G. RYDEN	9/19
DANIELLE D. WALKER	9/02	ANGELA M. PAELTZ	9/19
KIM ELLEN MACARTY	9/02	GAYNELL SPIGNER	9/19
DEBORAH FAITH LEAL	9/02	CRYSTAL D. GILES	9/23
KATHRYN A. WILLIAMS	9/04	TARA M. MCDANIEL	9/24
DARRIE J. BREATHWIT	9/06	TINDLE J. ARNOLD	9/26
PERRY A. WILSON	9/06	JANA L. EATMON	9/26
JONNITA BUFORD	9/07	JEANELLE ECHOLS	9/27
JACQULYN J. TAYLOR	9/08	KAREN R. BRAY	9/27
BURTON D. THURMOND	9/09	DEBRA K. JACKSON	9/27
TULIN R. LAFOLLETTE	9/10	MARY ANN HUGGINS	9/27
LANNY B. MYERS	9/11	KAREN L. MARRIOTT	9/28
PRISCILLA M. DOSS	9/12	MARY K. HARRISON	9/29
KHANH M. DO	9/12	JOYCELIN KAY CARINDER	9/29
CHERYL E. PERNELL	9/14	MARYGRACE BERKOWITZ	9/30
VINCENT D. ARMIJO	9/14	DAVID WILLIAM FRENCH	9/30



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