



The Monroe County Library System enriches the quality of life for all residents by providing free access to informational, educational, and recreational resources.

MCLS Matters

Winter 2010 Edition

Monroe County Library System <http://monroe.lib.mi.us> 1-800-462-2050

If you would like to receive this newsletter electronically, please visit http://monroe.lib.mi.us/about_us

Monroe County's 23rd Annual Black History Month Blues Series February 2010

BRIEF SCHEDULE OF EVENTS



Farmer Jason

- Monday, February 1: Madcat, Kane & Maxwell Street at Ellis
- Tuesday, February 9: Matt "Boogie-Woogie Kid" Ball at Bedford
- Monday, February 22: Farmer Jason's Moozapalooza! at Carleton
- Wednesday, February 24: Fiona Boyes & Rich DelGrosso at Dorsch
- Saturday, February 27: The Big Gig! Monroe County's 23rd Annual Black History Month Blues Concert with Arthur Adams, Johnnie Bassett & the Blues Insurgents, Rev. Robert B. Jones and Phil Wiggins
Monroe County Community College—Meyer Theater

Move aside, Memphis, and cuddle up, Clarksdale—Monroe County takes its turn as "The Home of the Blues" during February with the Black History Month Blues Series. Recipient of The Blues Foundation's 2009 Keeping the Blues Alive Award for Education, the project celebrates its 23rd year with another month-long schedule of free concerts for all ages throughout the county, culminating with **The Big Gig!** on Saturday, February 27.

This year's **Big Gig!** moves to Monroe County Community College's Meyer Theater, where its big stage will be filled by the big sound of a once-in-a-lifetime lineup of blues greats. Detroit's **Rev. Robert B. Jones**, who's been part of the blues series since its 1988 start, will once again appear, setting the tone for this "acoustic, electric and eclectic" evening, joined by Los Angeles singer/songwriter/guitarist **Arthur Adams**, whose work inspired his friend B.B. King to say "I love the spirit in your guitar playing." Detroit's "gentleman of the blues," guitarist **Johnnie Bassett**, will return to Monroe, this time with his band The Blues Insurgents, and Virginia-based harmonica legend **Phil Wiggins** will be weaving notes in and out of the guitar riffs all night long. It's never a bad idea to arrive early for **The Big Gig!**—the doors to the Meyer Theater will open at 6:00 p.m., the show will start at 7:00 p.m., and the general admission, first-come, first-served seating is limited to theater capacity.

The Big Gig! is the climax to a February full of blues—be sure to catch these "Not As Big Gigs" at branch libraries for more intimate concerts starring old friends and acts finally moving from our "wish list" to our "guest list":

Another harmonica genius, this one from Ann Arbor--and a Monroe County favorite, **Peter Madcat Ruth** kicks things off at the Ellis Reference & Information Center with the local debut of his new group, **Madcat, Kane & Maxwell Street** on Monday, February 1. Joined by his longtime musical partner, guitar master **Shari Kane**, Madcat's finally found



Madcat & Kane



Matt Ball



Rich DelGrosso



Fiona Boyes



Arthur Adams



Johnnie Bassett



Rev. Robert Jones



Phil Wiggins

(continued from p. 1)

a blues rhythm section agile and powerful enough to keep up with the riffs and grooves he and Shari have been creating for over two decades. **Madcat, Kane & Maxwell Street in Concert** starts at 7:00 p.m.

Next up, the 2010 blues train rolls south to the Bedford Branch Library for a February 9 blues and boogie-woogie piano concert by **Matthew Ball**. Matt's a Michigan native who's been called "the Gen-X arrival to this uniquely American art form" while rocking the '80s around the world. Matt's also a published author of two picture books, *The Worm and the Caterpillar* and *Minnie and Melvira* (and a teacher and an attorney...in his spare time). 7:00 p.m.

"There's never a shortage of sunshine" when "the rockinest folk singer who ever lived," **Farmer Jason**, comes to town, so he's back to perform at the Carleton Branch Library on February 21 as part of Monroe County's biggest children's music event of the year, **Bluesapalooza!** (In honor of Farmer Jason and his songs inspired by the madcap menagerie on his Tennessee farm, the 2010 event will, of course, be renamed Moozapalooza!) Recipient of an Emmy and a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Americana Music Association, Farmer Jason's work (often confused with that of his "twin brother," rocker Jason Ringenberg) caused the Los Angeles Times to rave about his "rousing songs about forest critters that encourage tykes to exercise their muscles and educate their minds." The "Anarchy in the pre-K" begins at 6:30 p.m.—adults need not be accompanied by single-digits, honest.

The blues series goes Down Under for the first time on February 24 when native Australian **Fiona Boyes** performs with mandolin master **Rich DelGrosso** at the Dorsch Memorial Library. Boyes, who's been called "a one-woman blues tent revival," proves that tent's a big one (literally and figuratively) as she lets in former Detroit'er Rich DelGrosso, to perform individual sets as well as numbers from their acclaimed recording (with Mookie Brill), *Live from Bluesville*. 7:00 p.m.

As always, all events are free and open to the public. No ticket is required, and it's general admission seating: first-come, first-served and limited to venue capacity.

The Black History Month Blues Series is presented by the Monroe County Library System and the 2010 Blues Coalition of community co-sponsors: Monroe County Community College, Friends of Bedford, Friends of Carleton, Friends of Dorsch, Friends of Ellis, Black Swamp Blues Society.

For more information on the series, give us a call at (734) 241-5277 or visit us online at <http://monroe.lib.mi.us/blues.htm>.

Monroe County Library System Ahead of the Times

According to an article by Susan Saulny and Emma Graves Fitzsimmons in the *New York Times* on December 29, 2009, libraries across the country have begun offering a variety of amnesty programs to ease the burden of overdue fines on patrons. *The Times* calls these programs "new and creative." "New and Creative?" muses Library Director Nancy Colpaert, "We've been doing this for years."

Beginning some 30 years ago, the Monroe County Library System offered "Food for Fines" during Library Week in April. "It was certainly a new idea then," says Colpaert, "and unheard of for a library to turn away that nickel a day." Fines were excused in exchange for non-perishable food items that were then donated to local food closets. Over the course of the years, fine amnesty took several forms until 2009, when the Library Board instituted the policy that exists today called "It's a Fine Thing to Do." Overdue materials can now be returned on any day, no matter how long overdue or how many items there are for a fine of just one dollar. "This not only gets our materials returned to us, it also helps people struggling in this economy to continue to take advantage of all the free services the library has to offer and as an added benefit to the community, the first \$1,000 is donated to a local charity," said Colpaert.

"People tend to think that libraries are run on overdue fines," said Colpaert, "but that's not the case. Overdue fines were an old notion of punishment that didn't work. Fortunately, we've been able to change with the times and in cases like this, we're way ahead of them."

Memorial Books

These books have recently been placed in our collection as memorials to the following:

World of Wonders

by Jimmy Katz

In Memoriam: Patrick Redmond

Though Waters Roar

by Lynn Austin

In Memoriam: Eugenia Curtiss Bobetta Whitehead

Al Kaline: The Biography of A Tiger's Icon

by Jim Hawkings

In Memoriam: Nancy Lee Guthrie

The Cook's Herb Garden

DK

In Memoriam: Mary Agnes Beste

*Flora Mirabilis: How Plants Have Shaped
World Knowledge, Health, Wealth, and Beauty*

by Catherine Howell

In Memoriam: Marie Sexton

Norman Rockwell's Boy Scouts of America

by Joseph Csaturi

In Memoriam: Jesse R. Whitehead

Did you know you can request a book as a memorial remembrance? You will find cards in this regard at all funeral homes, or please contact us at the Mary K. Daume Library Service Center, 840 South Roessler St., Monroe, MI, (734) 241-5770, <http://monroe.lib.mi.us> for more information.

Books can also be donated for special occasions:

Hearing from God Each Morning

by Joyce Meyer

Dollie Queen (100th Birthday)

Taste of Home Annual Recipes 2010

Laura G. Kush (100th Birthday)

2009 Tax Forms Arrive at Libraries

Federal tax forms have arrived at all branches of the Monroe County Library System and are also currently available online at <http://www.irs.gov/>.

State of Michigan forms will not be available in branch libraries until the beginning of February 2010, however they are currently available online at <http://www.michigan.gov/taxes>. Michigan tax returns can be filed electronically beginning January 16, 2010 through October 15, 2010.

Tax Tips with Pat Pitcher of H&R Block will be offered at the following Monroe County Library System branches:

Jan. 27 - Ellis Reference & Info. Ctr. - 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Jan. 30 - Bedford Branch Library - 10:00-11:00 a.m.

Feb. 1 - Erie Branch Library - 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Feb. 2 - Carleton Branch Library - 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Mar. 9 - Rasey Memorial Branch Library - 6:30-7:30 p.m.

New Hours for Three Monroe County Library System Branches

New hours for three Monroe County Library System branches were approved at the December meeting of the MCLS Board of Trustees. The hours took effect the week of January 4, 2010.

Lillian Stewart Navarre Branch Library, 1135 E. Second St., Monroe (734-241-5577) will be:

Monday 1-6, Tuesday 10-8, Wednesday 1-6, Thursday 1-6, Friday 1-5 and Saturday 1-5.

Newport Branch Library, 8120 N. Dixie Hwy, Newport (734-586-2117) will be:

Monday 12-6, Tuesday 10-8, Wednesday 10-6, Thursday 12-8, Friday 10 -5 and Saturday 10-2.

Summerfield-Petersburg Branch Library, 60 E. Center St., Petersburg (734-279-1025) will be:

Monday 10-7, Tuesday 10-7, Wednesday 12-8, Thursday 3-8, Friday, 10-5 and Saturday 10-1.

ELLIS RENOVATION PROJECT READY TO BEGIN

The \$2.5 million renovation project slated for the Ellis Reference & Information Center is set to begin. The building on South Custer housed the administrative offices and support staff for the Monroe County Library System until May of 2008 when those functions were re-located to the Mary K. Daume Service Center on South Roessler Street.

The new design calls for the second story to house special collections such as genealogy and Michigan history. It will provide a quiet space for research, microfilm machines and reference services. The Custer collection is in place in a secure room at Ellis and will remain available on an appointment basis to scholars from around the country.

Enhancements to the first floor will include a separate children's room and dedicated space for teen activities. The number of public access computers will quadruple and several self check-out stations will be added. The new design will also take advantage of the river view with floor to ceiling windows over-looking the river from a four thousand square foot addition. A dedicated room for the Friends of the Library's on-going used book sale and a café will complete the renovations.

Construction is expected to begin in the spring and take a year to complete. Ellis is expected to remain open for all but six months of the project. The project will be paid for with funds that have been set aside in the library's capital reserve fund and with a portion of the \$2.5 million bond issued through the Monroe County Building Authority for the renovation of the Daume and Ellis buildings.

Your Monroe County Library System

840 South Roessler Street
Monroe, MI 48161-1557

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Monroe, Michigan
PERMIT NO. 455

**It's a
Fine Thing
to Do**

February - Salvation Army
March- American Red Cross
April - Mary K. Daume Scholarship Fund

Fines are waived for a \$1.00 donation to a partner organization of the month, providing materials have been returned. You do not have to owe a fine to participate.

All branches of the Monroe County Library System will be
CLOSED
Monday, February 15
for President's Day.



Membership Application to the

Friends of the Monroe County Library System

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY are patrons and supporters of all occupations and ages who support their community through various projects. To learn more about the **FRIENDS**, please visit our website at <http://monroe.lib.mi.us>, or call (734) 241-5770, or fill out the form below.

Name:

Address: Phone:

City: State: Zip:

Please make checks payable to **FRIENDS OF THE MONROE COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM**. Mail to: **FRIENDS**, Monroe County Library System, 840 South Roessler Street, Monroe, MI, 48161-1557. Joining the **FRIENDS of MCLS** entitles you to membership in your local **FRIENDS** group. With which branch library would you like to be affiliated?

What would you like **FRIENDS** to support? Books? Technology? Programs? Beautification? Other?

Classes of membership: Individual (annual)-\$10.00; Family (annual)-\$15.00; Senior (annual)-\$5.00; Junior (annual)-\$2.00; Life- \$200. We also welcome corporate sponsors. Call the library for details. Your membership entitles you to invitations to Book Sale previews, special Friends events, and related Library mailings.

The Monroe County Library System Board of Trustees

Catharine Calder, Chair
Mary Ann Bourque, Vice-Chair

Laurence Gregory, Secretary
Elizabeth (Betsy) Taylor, Trustee

Fred E. Lux, Trustee
Nancy J. Colpaert, Director