Thanks to the City of Homewood

Homewood Library is loved by its users, has great leadership from the Library Board, and is wholeheartedly supported by the Friends of the Homewood Library and the Homewood Library Foundation. Even with this, the Homewood Library could not exist without the support of the City of Homewood. Mayor Scott McBrayer and the Homewood City Council, just as the Mayors and Councils before them, have generously funded the Homewood Library and realize its importance to this community.

The Friends of the Homewood Public Library

The Friends of the Homewood Public Library is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization formed to support the Homewood Public Library and its mission to bring people, information and ideas together to enrich lives, build community and inspire lifelong learning.

The Friends manage and maintain the Friends of the Library Bookstore and recruit volunteers; sponsor cultural and other Library related programs for the community; promote increased public knowledge about the functions, resources, services, and needs of the Library; encourage gifts and memorials for the Library; provide funds to be used for items that are not included in the regular Library budget; and assist the Board of Trustees in raising funds for capital projects.

How can you help? Purchase books and other materials in the Friends of the Library Bookstore, attend the Bag Sales, donate items for the Bookstore and Bag Sales, become a Friends volunteer, join the Friends, and/or make a tax deductible donation to the organization. The Friends Bookstore is open Monday-Saturday from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

For more information on the Friends of the Homewood Public Library contact Heather Cover at hcover@bham.lib.al.us.

The Homewood Library Foundation

The Homewood Library Foundation is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization which serves to enrich the Homewood Public Library as the cultural center of the community through raising private funds to supplement public funding for facilities, services, projects, collections, and technology.

Donations to the Foundation support their goals for improving facilities, funding community access to information technology, supporting creative educational programs, and enhancing the Library collection.

For more information on the Homewood Library Foundation contact Deborah Fout at dfout@bham.lib.al.us.
From the Director

The Homewood Public Library continues to be a leader among public libraries in the State of Alabama and in the nation. Libraries today are about much more than checking out books and materials. They are about education, programming, entertainment, and community. The Homewood Public Library offers valuable programs and services to people of all ages and in every walk of life, including these regular programs, classes, and services:

For Children:
- Coding classes for K-12 grades
- Sensory Story Time for children with autism
- Special Siblings, a support group for siblings of special needs children

For Teens:
- ACT Prep classes and workshops
- Road to College for teens and their parents to talk with representatives from colleges and learn about scholarship opportunities, ACT vs. SAT, and other issues overwhelming parents
- Animal Allies, a program where teens advocate for animals and work with local agencies such as the Humane Society

For Adults:
- The ABC’s of Medicare
- Two dinner theaters (October and February)
- Library Yoga and Tai Chi for Life
- Classes for iProduct users, basic to advanced computer classes, and classes on our eServices
- Seven book clubs!

Additionally, the Homewood Public Library has computers with internet access and the Microsoft Office Suite, color printers, a scanner, and copiers for public use. Our meeting rooms provide space not only for our extensive programs but also as rentable meeting space for various organizations, businesses, and other community groups from across the metro area.

24/7 access to our eServices is available on our fantastic free app: find and register for library programs; check your record and reserve materials; download an eBook or audiobook; read magazines; and go to our website. You can access the New York Times through the app, too! In addition to our app and our website, the Library distributes a full-color event calendar.

Coming in 2019

Thanks to our NASA@ My Library Grant, the Library will have programming this year that allows the public to see actual lunar and meteorite material. As part of our grant, a staff member received intensive training for Homewood Public Library to be a certified lending site for lunar and meteorite samples.

The Library received an LSTA (Library Services Technology Act) grant for 2019 and will be adding microscopes as part of our STEM programming. Watch for some of these innovative programs.

This year the State of Alabama is celebrating its Bicentennial. With help from a Bicentennial grant, the Library will be providing a number of interesting historical programs about the state of Alabama throughout the year.

The Homewood Public Library isn’t just a brick and mortar building housing print materials. It’s a vital, thriving community hub that brings people, information and ideas together to enrich lives, build community and inspire lifelong learning.

2018 Highlights

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>763,329 items checked out</th>
<th>23,008 registered users</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>446,364 library visits</td>
<td>100,800 public computer sessions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,487 library programs attended by 79,477 people</td>
<td>3028 community meetings attended by 40,843 people</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In October 2018 the Homewood City Council approved $1.4 million for a library expansion as part of the 2019 budget. This 3,000 square foot expansion will be on the Ridge Road side of the library and will be accessible from the adult department. The expansion will be the new home of the computer department, currently located on the lower level, which will provide technology services for the public that are more centrally located and easier to access. Moving the computers from the adult department to the new computer department will also allow for reallocation of space in the adult department.

Included in the construction will be additional study rooms with natural light and a more open aspect than the current, well-used, study rooms, which are windowless cinder-block spaces. The rooms on the lower level currently housing the computer lab will be turned into additional storage space for the library and additional meeting rooms for use by the community.

As part of the expansion, the library will enlarge the courtyard and make it accessible from both the adult department and the new computer department. Our wonderful outdoor space is enjoyed year round by people reading books, using the library’s free Wi-Fi while they eat lunch or enjoy the nice weather. Once enlarged, the space can be used for small events and programs.

Davis Architects has been hired to oversee the expansion project and the first stages have already begun. Construction crews will break ground this summer, and the expected completion date of the project is April, 2020.

Rendering of expansion courtesy Davis Architects.