June is here, and with it comes the Natchitoches Parish Library’s annual Summer Reading Program. There will be something for all ages this year, as we will be offering an Adult Reading Program and events in addition to children and teen programs.

The children’s program, “Speeding into the Arts” will hold its first event Wednesday, June 8 at 10am and again at 2pm. Musician Mike Anderson will be performing.

Teens will have an ice breaker and lip sync battle June 9 at 3pm as they ready to “Get in the Game READ!”

Adults participating in “Exercise your mind. READ!” will be making origami bookmarks Tuesday, June 7 at 5:30pm for the first of a variety of programs. Throughout June and July there will also be self-sharing “Book Talks” and free walking tours of downtown Natchitoches.

Registration for all three programs is open through June 30th, with reading for rewards, prizes, and drawing entries lasting until July 31st.

For more information on any of our Summer Reading Programs, visit the library’s website, Facebook page, or come on by and see us!
South Louisiana Author to Speak

Jon Griffin Donlon, author, artist, and scholar will read excerpts from his new book *Bayou Country Bloodsport: The Culture of Cockfighting in Southern Louisiana*, Tuesday, June 21 at 5:30PM at the Natchitoches Parish Library. This free reading is open to everyone and is one of many events scheduled for the Adult Summer Reading Program.

Mr. Donlon has studied cockfighting in order to probe the use of animals in sport and other closely related issues. In addition, the book describes the role of roosters and gamecocks in domestic design, their social history, and the political science of these complex settings. *Bayou Country Bloodsport: The Culture of Cockfighting in Southern Louisiana* marks Jon Donlon’s final and most substantial publication in his scholarly inquiry into human association with and use of animals, especially as combat surrogates. Mr. Donlon performed his fieldwork prior to the banning of cockfighting and devoted much of his career to shifting the vocabulary from “purple” to “controversial” leisure.

The South Louisiana native has dedicated much of his life to the study of leisure phenomena, including travel and less “savory” activities. As a researcher, he has published dozens of academic reviews in his field, entries in encyclopedias, and scholarly articles. He has also offered many papers at regional, national, and international conferences and consistently published informative pieces for the popular press, editing or writing hundreds of articles, columns, or features over the years.

Bayou Country Bloodsport: The Culture of Cockfighting in Southern Louisiana

Jon Griffin Donlon

NATIONAL PET MONTH AT NORTHEAST BRANCH

Northeast Branch Manager Linda Young celebrates May as National Pet Month during story time with Kitty Cat and Puppy Dog Tales, including a themed story with coloring and a craft. Story Time at the Northeast Branch is on Wednesdays at 10:30am.

Educational Tablets Available At Both Library Branches

The Natchitoches Parish Library’s newest item for checkout has hit the shelves: Playaway Launchpads!

Each pre-loaded tablet is geared towards a specific age group ranging from Pre-K to 8th grade. The tablets have several apps and games that cover various subject matter such as math, reading, critical thinking, creativity, school review, and school preparation.

Each device comes in a hard plastic carrying case with a USB cord and charger included. Instructions are included on the use of the tablet and Children’s Circulation Staff have familiarized themselves with the devices and are ready to demonstrate their ease of use.

Adult patrons may check out one Launchpad at a time for one week and may check out another at the time of return. “The Launchpads would be an excellent addition to books on a road trip to keep a child’s interest and still maintain an educational aspect,” said Children’s Librarian Annabel Jones.

School is out and the Schoolmobile is having some summer fun! Join us for mobile story times!

Library employee, Joy Creasong, familiarizes herself with the Playaway Launchpads.

Melinda McMillian, Edward LaCour, and Bryce LaCour were the first patrons to check out the library’s new Launchpad tablets.