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Arkansas Aging

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KEEPING ARKANSANS OVER 50 INFORMED

This library caters to the needs of many

By **KEITH WEBER**
Special to Arkansas Aging

The William F. Laman Public Library in North Little Rock is definitely not like the city library of years ago when we were in school, nor is it even like the local libraries when your children were in school.

The 50,000-square-foot library has something for everyone from infants to seniors. Every square foot of the two-story library is packed with modern high tech gear, from Wi-Fi throughout the facility to 50 dual-core computers with wide-screen monitors in the upstairs computer center.

Additionally, the facility has computers just for kids and teens to use in the children's section and the teen center.

"Arguably, one of the greatest

assets for the community of central Arkansas is that the William F. Laman Public Library System provides continued access to public computers. In 2012 the library served more than 11,800 individuals in this area," noted public relations manager Dan Noble. "At the conclusion of the year, the William F. Laman Public Library System had provided over 78,000 hours of public computer usage.

There are eight computers in the children's department, four in the teen center, and 50 in the Laman Information Network Center." People can use the computers for two hours a day. Patrons log on to the computer with their library card account number. Just ask one of the approximately 50 staff members for any help you need.

From country and rock to



DAVID SCOLLI/Arkansas Aging photo

North Little Rock's state-of-the-art Laman Library is a technology powerhouse offering continued access to public computers, wide-screen monitors and Wi-Fi throughout.

blues and soul, the library literally has thousands of music CDs, movie DVDs and books on CDs plus new fangled books recorded on MP3 type players. With 3,158 music CDs and 3,998 DVDs, you can check out four DVDs, four CDs and four books

on CD at a time. Altogether, readers can check out 25 items for two weeks per card, Noble said. Grandparents can check out movies and music to share with their grandchildren if they have library

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DAVID SCOLLI/Arkansas Aging photo

Senior Hall of Fame inductees for 2013 are, from left, Wetzel LaGrone from Dover, Jean Ann Roddy from Fort Smith, Paul Mruk from Mountain Home, Ann Ashcraft of Malvern and Warren Blaylock of Alma.

Five seniors inducted in state Hall of Fame

Five Arkansans from across the state were inducted into the state's Senior Hall of Fame May 14 at the State Capitol. The Senior Hall of Fame honors Arkansans 65 and older who, through volunteering, have worked to improve and enhance the lives of seniors in Arkansas.

"We have people pushing every day to make sure our seniors have a voice in public policy and have the things they need to live life to the fullest," said Steven Jones, Deputy Director of the Department of Human Services (DHS). "It's crucial that we recognize this hard work because we couldn't do it without them."

The award is given each year in May to coincide with Older Americans Month. This year's inductees were longtime volunteers committed to ensuring seniors have enough food to eat and a place at the table during policy deci-

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Laman

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cards for the kids. Parents and kids can browse and check out some of the more than 500 kids CDs, watch some of the more than 950 DVDs and read some of the 67,325 books in the separate children's section.

The department attracts an average of 2,177 young visitors a week. It has several activities throughout the week for the young-set and has educational toys like big-block puzzles for toddlers to play with while their older siblings and parents look for books.

The teen center overlooks both the children's section and the music CDs and a reading area downstairs. The teens can play on two big flat-screen televisions with Wii and PS III games. The center draws an average of 232 teens each week. They can choose from 1,745 young adult books and DVDs.

The library also features two sunny reading areas where you can sit, relax and read some of the 102 magazines and newspapers that the library has available for people to browse and enjoy while overlooking Laman Plaza.

Or, you can be one of the 6,078 people who visit the library each week to check out books from their collection of 78,632 books. Upstairs patrons will find a coffee shop and snack bar and a gallery with traveling exhibits.

You can even get your passport made there. In addition, the library puts on many special events for the children's section and shows movies in the auditorium.

Like a military base's community center, the library is the center of city services in North Little Rock on Pershing.

The peaceful Laman Plaza features an enclosed park surrounding a pond. The health department and community center surround the plaza.

The Patrick Henry Hays Senior Citizens Center is across a small parking lot from the community center. Both centers have workout facilities for the public to use. The community center has meeting rooms and a gym. Anyone 50 years old or older may join the senior center for \$25 a year and use its two swimming pools and other facilities.

Across the street from the library is a post office, the North Little Rock police department, courts building and the local housing authority is around the corner. North Little Rock High School is atop a hill less than a mile away. Shopping and restaurants are just around the corner on JFK and Camp Robinson.

The library is also expanding its small Argenta branch on Main Street by moving into the old post office.

"The Laman Library bought the old U.S. post office on Main



DAVID SCOLLI/Arkansas Aging photod

Laman Library employee Madeline Shepherd is ready to serve hungry book readers at the Overdue Brew Cafe. Library patrons don't need to step out for a snack.

Street in North Little Rock last September for \$775,000 and plans to move its Argenta branch there by early 2014. Renovation of the 16,000-square-foot space will cost \$3.5 million and be paid for through a bond issue," Noble noted.

"The new Argenta branch will have a larger children's department, 20 computers for public use, 15,000-20,000 books, CDs and DVDs and services including a notary public, a coffee shop with indoor and outdoor seating, an auditorium and space for exhibits," he said.

"We are very excited for this opportunity to improve and expand our services to the people of Central Arkansas," Noble said.

You'll never know what you will find in Laman Library's museum-quality exhibit hall, from curated art exhibitions to traveling shows from national museums including the Smithsonian Institute, according to Noble.

Noble calls the exhibit hall one of the best kept secrets in North Little Rock.

"The exhibit hall is quickly becoming a cultural destination for the city.

"Recently the library featured Portraits in Gray: A Civil

War Photography Exhibition. David Wynn Vaughan has arguably the largest collection of Civil War Confederate images in the nation, many of them identified," Noble explained.

"The exhibition, which ended mid-June featured 70 of his images in nine thematic sections. One section highlighted his rare collection including eight of the known 12 portraits of cadets at the Georgia Military Institute. "Portraits in Gray" is a unique multi-themed gallery which provides the viewer with an in depth emotional experience and knowledge of photographic subjects from the time of the Civil War," he said.

The next planned exhibit is "Discover Greatness: An Illustrated History of Negro League Baseball."

"This exhibit will open on June 28 and has traveled nationally to help bring the rich history of black baseball to hundreds of people outside of Kansas City. Discover Greatness features close to 90-framed photographs showcasing the history of African-American baseball from the late 1800s-1960s," Noble explained. The exhibit is divided into five sections.

SOME QUICK LAMAN FACTS

■ How many employees do you have on average?
45/50

■ How many teens use the teen center in a week?
232

■ How many children use the children's department in a week?
2,177

■ How many patrons use the library in a week?
6,078

■ How many books do we have in the children, teen and adult departments?
Children 67,325

Teen 1,745

Adult 78,632

■ How many (music) Cd' do you have?
3,158

■ How many DVD's do we have?
3,998

Looking ahead, Noble said, "The most anticipated exhibit for the year will open on Sept. 6 and it is called, "Recovery: The World Trade Center Recovery Operation At Fresh Kills." "Recovery is a traveling exhibition that documents the historic project at the Fresh Kills Landfill that was in operation from September 2001 to July 2002 to recover human remains, personal objects, and material evidence from the collapse of the World Trade Center," Noble said.

The exhibit hall has consistently drawn visitors from around the state. The library is open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday to Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday, plus 1 to 5 p.m. on Sundays. (It is closed on Sundays from May 26-Sept.1.)

Laman Library is not associated with the Central Arkansas Library System serving Little Rock, Sherwood and Jacksonville.



Laman Library employees Suzanne Ripley and Craig Gerard are available to help patrons with inquiries at the main desk.



DAVID SCOLLI/Arkansas Aging photo

Gracyn Fraley, 3, and her mother Paula Fraley set up for a friendly game of checkers in the children's section of Layman Library in North Little Rock.

Laman's full calendar of monthly events

The library puts on many special events for the children's section and shows movies in the auditorium. Here are some of the monthly activities at the library:

COMMUNITY CINEMA

The first Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m.

Community Cinema, a free monthly screening series engaging communities through film produced by the Independent Television Service, features monthly screenings followed by panel discussions with leading organizations, local communities and special guest speakers.

The program is designed to help people learn about and get involved in the social issues raised in the documentaries. Community Cinema partners in Central Arkansas include UALR Public Radio/KUAR FM 89.1 and William F. Laman Public Library.

REEL CLASSICS WITH THE REP

Depends on the schedule at the Rep but usually the second Monday of the month at 6 p.m.

Reel Classics With The Rep will screen classic films in conjunction with The Rep's production schedule.

Prior to the screening of each film, one or more members of the Arkansas Repertory Theatre's artistic team will lead a brief discussion on a current Rep show, offer behind-the-curtain insights and host an audience Q&A.

LIVE AT LAMAN

The second Thursday of the month at 7 p.m.

Live at Laman," is one of the most popular programs, offering an evening of musical entertainment every second Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. The library has hosted some of the best music groups Arkansas has to offer, and its packed houses are proving that "Live at Laman" is the place to be when it comes to quality entertainment for its patrons.

Put the second Thursday of the month on your calendar and join us at the library. Whether it's Bach and Beethoven, the Beatles and Fleetwood Mac, or the best original music you've heard in a long time, there are always surprises in store.

FIT 2 LIVE

Third Thursday of every month at 6:30 p.m.

In partnership with NLR's Fit 2 Live initiative - "Fit 2 Live" at Laman! - runs every third Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm.

Patrons will participate in learning about nutrition, exercise options, healthy grocery choices, meal planning and more.

ARGENTA ART WALK

Third Friday of every month at 5 p.m.

From March through October the Argenta Branch hosts demonstrations by local artists during the Argenta Art Walk.

Artist demonstrations are held from 5 to 8 p.m. the third Friday of each month at 506 Main Street.

Artists will also have work for show and for sale.

Russellville hospice receives honors award

Arkansas Hospice Russellville has been named as a recipient of the Hospice Honors Award given by Deyta, a data-gathering company that partners with thousands of hospice, home health, human services and other health-care organizations.

The award recognizes the top 100 hospice agencies that continuously provide the highest level of satisfaction through their care as measured from the caregiver's point of view.

"Hospice Honors defines a new standard of excellence in the patient/family experience for hospice agencies," said Liz Silva, a director at Deyta. "Identifying these top performing hospices is our way of recognizing organizations that have demonstrated high quality of care to both patients and caregivers. That positive family experience is a key driver of ongoing patient-focused care and overall agency success."

Celebrating its 10th anniversary in the River Valley this July, Arkansas Hospice Russellville cares for terminally ill patients in homes, hospitals, nursing homes and assisted living facilities as well as in the Arkansas Hospice River Valley Home, an eightbed inpatient facility in Russellville.

Rhonda Horton, program director for Arkansas Hospice Russellville, said her staff appreciates knowing that the award is based on feedback from their patients' caregivers.

"Receiving the Deyta Hospice Honors Award validates the care and compassion shown every day to our patients and families by the Arkansas Hospice Russellville team members," Horton said. "It takes a powerful team and positive approach to provide comfort

and make a difference in the lives of our patients and families. It makes me very proud to be the leader of the Russellville team for Arkansas Hospice."

To determine which organizations will receive the award, Deyta used results from the Family Evaluation of Hospice Care survey, an independent survey given to the caregivers of hospice patients to help measure the quality of their care; Deyta looked at results from more than 1,200 partnering hospice agencies in its database. To be considered, agencies needed to have at least ten of the independent surveys returned. Using the survey's five questions on customer satisfaction as a basis for calculations, the Hospice Honors Award acknowledges the highest performing agencies ranked by their satisfaction scores from January through December 2012. For Arkansas Hospice, the award was given based on the combined scores of the Arkansas Hospice Russellville homebased office and the Arkansas Hospice River Valley Home.

Arkansas Hospice and other hospice honor recipients were recognized at Deyta's hospice honors celebration at the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization's Management and Leadership Conference in National Harbor, Md.

Arkansas Hospice is a community-based, not-for-profit organization caring for nearly 500 patients and their families each day in more than 30 Arkansas counties.

For more information, call 501-748-3333 or toll free 877-713-2348 or visit www.arkansashospice.org.

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