

Library honored as Family Place

By CHARLES W. JOHNSON
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Magness Library recently received national recognition in a ceremony held at the conclusion of the Spring 2009 Family Place Library Parent-Child Workshops when Kathleen Deerr, national director of Family Place Libraries, presented the facility with a special Family Place Library Banner.

In making the presentation, Mrs. Deerr was complimentary of Magness Library, its Family Place Program and the community.

What began two years ago as a grant project through the Tennessee State Library and Archives has resulted in Magness Library becoming the first and only Family Place Library in Tennessee. Magness joins over 200 other public libraries nationwide as a center for early childhood information, parent education, emergent literacy, socialization and family support.

Family Place builds on the knowledge that good health, early learning, parental involvement and supportive communities play a critical role in young children's growth and development.

As a Family Place Library, Magness Library and Community House provides:

- collections of books, toys, music and other materials for babies, toddlers, parents and service providers,
- a specially designed welcoming space within the children's area for families with young children;
- a parent-child workshop, a five-session program that involves toddlers and their parents and caregivers and features local professionals who serve as resources for parents. The



Charlie Johnson photo

Magness Library recently received a special Family Place Library banner from Kathleen Deerr, the national director of Family Place Libraries. Pictured are, front row, from left, Pat Bigbee, Mary Robbins, Ariel Walker, Ariea Walker, Aliscia Garza,

Lakelynn Garza, Constance Lynn Eldridge and Kathleen Deerr. Back row, Ashley Wright, Anthony Walker, Arin Walker, Travis Holland, Jimmy Haley, Rachel Killebrew and Donna Rutherford.

workshops emphasize the role of parents as the first teachers of their children and facilitates early literacy;

- coalition building with community agencies that serve families and young children to connect parents to community resources and develop programs and services tailored to meet local needs;
- outreach to new and non-traditional library users, especially parents and very young children;
- developmentally appropriate programming for very young children and their parents.

- library staff trained in family support, child development, parent education and best practices.

The success of the Family Place Library program at Magness Library has also depended in large part upon the library's partnership with River Park Hospital, a local business that has supported the project from the beginning. River Park community relations coordinator Ashley Wright says River Park is proud to be a part of this innovative program. Wright says she has a personal perspective on the value of the program.

"Growing up, I remember the library being a fun and almost magical place to visit," Wright said. "So I appreciate that in this online, plugged-in society, the Family Place Program encourages children and parents to once again seek out the library as a place to learn, have fun and connect with others in the community. River Park is committed to seeing this program remains a part of the community."

Any business or organization interested in becoming a Family Place Library Community Partner is encouraged to call Mary Robbins at 473-2428.



Fourth of July

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Saturday, July 4

Downtown McMinnville

- 6:30 a.m. Stars and Stripes Fun Run/Walk registration \$10
- 7-10 a.m. Breakfast on square: \$5 adults, \$3 children
- 7:30 a.m. Stars and Stripes Fun Run/Walk begins
- 8-11 a.m. Heritage Alliance Museum open
- 9 a.m. Art show at Chamber
- 9 a.m. Presentation of colors: VFW, American Legion
- 9 a.m. Walking Tour of the Old City Cemetery, to assemble at Chamber
- 9:15 a.m. Silver and Gold Band
- 10 a.m. Paula's Dance Academy performance
Pionerette performance, Stomp Group
- 10:30 a.m. Yankee Doodle Children's Parade for children up to fifth grade
- 9 p.m. Dr Pepper fireworks at Civic Center

Fairview CIC

- 8 a.m. Flag raising, recognition of veterans present
- 8:30 a.m. Ball games begin
- Noon Outdoor games begin
- 1 p.m. Pet Show (registration begins at 12:30)
Dogs, cats, and all other pets are eligible.
- 1 p.m. Ball games resume
- 2 p.m. Baby show and pageant (registration begins at 1:30) children from Fairview, Mt. Leo, and Irving College, or who played in the Fairview softball league, are eligible.
- 5 p.m. Awards program
- 5:30 p.m. Fairview Jammers

Centertown CIC

- 6 p.m. — Auction of ball team theme baskets
- 7 p.m. — Awards
- 9 p.m. — Fireworks

Midway Community Center

- 10 a.m. Opening ceremony with floral, pie and quilt contests inside center