



# Books and Bytes on the Bayou

A Lafourche Parish Public Library Publication

December 2019



Make Your December **Merry & Bright**  
with Lafourche Parish Public Library!

- Rock the Holiday Hits with Lady Chops
- All Aboard for a Polar Express Special Event
- Find Melvin the Elf & Rescue Santa
- Santa & Mrs. Claus are Coming to Town

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REGISTER ONLINE FOR  
DECEMBER'S PROGRAMS  
@ [WWW.LAFOURCHE.ORG](http://WWW.LAFOURCHE.ORG)



## MEET OUR LIBRARY BOARD

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### VICE-PRESIDENT

Talisha Chiquet

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Selma Malcombe  
Bennie Smith

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Daniel Lorraine

## STAFF STARS!



### JACOB VERDIN

Big congratulations go out to Bayou Blue Branch Assistant Jacob for being recognized as a Staff Star this month!

"I have been impressed with Jacob's willingness to perform any duty necessary at the Bayou Blue branch. Jacob plans all of his programs in advance, even assisting with those of his co-workers. He is efficient & a team player!"

- Anonymous, Bayou Blue Patron

### JESSICA DUET

Big congratulations go out to Bayou Blue Branch Assistant Jessica for being recognized as a Staff Star this month!



"Jessica gets a Staff Star for providing exceptional customer service. After notifying me that my hold had arrived, Jessica offered to place another similar item on hold for me. I was very impressed with the service I received from Jessica."

- Ruth, Bayou Blue Patron

**DO YOU KNOW A STAFF STAR?  
ASK FOR A NOMINATION FORM AT ANY  
BRANCH CUSTOMER SERVICE DESK!**



## LIBRARY CLOSURES

All LPPLibrary branches will be closed  
Wednesday, 12/11 for Staff Day,  
Tuesday, 12/24 - Thursday, 12/26  
for Christmas, and Tuesday, 12/31 -  
Wednesday, 01/01 for New Year's.

Our digital library is always open at [www.lafourche.org](http://www.lafourche.org)

# WHAT'S NEW!

## Lady Chops Presents:

### Here Come the Bells, So Many Bells!



Rock the holiday hits with Lady Chops! No registration required for this holiday musical experience.

**Monday, 12/23**  
For All Ages

**Thibodaux**  
(@ Jean Lafitte)  
10 AM

**Lockport**  
Library  
2 PM

**South Lafourche**  
Library  
5 PM

## All Aboard! The Polar Express is Coming to a Library Station Near You!

Join us in your pajamas for milk & cookies as we watch The Polar Express movie in your homemade Polar Express train car! Make a cardboard train car at home & bring it to sit in & watch the movie. Cuddly items such as blankets & pillows are welcome if you would prefer that to a train car. The conductor is waiting for you - all aboard!

### Schedule

South Lafourche  
12/07 @ 1-3 PM

Lockport  
12/14 @ 1-3 PM

Thibodaux  
12/14 @ 1-3 PM





# WHAT'S HOT & HAPPENING!



## Where in the World is Melvin the Elf?

### Holiday Escape Room Experience



Friday, December 27  
 Gheens - 2 PM    Raceland - 4 PM

Monday, December 30  
 Larose - 11 AM    Bayou Blue - 1 PM    Choctaw - 2 PM

Friday, January 3  
 Golden Meadow - 2 PM

An escape room experience is back at your library! Should you accept the challenge, you must discover clues, solve puzzles, & complete other tasks to find Melvin the Elf & help rescue Santa! Bring friends to form a team, or join a team at the library. Registration is not required, but is encouraged. For all ages!



## Santa & Mrs. Claus are Coming to Town for Photos & Fun!



- BAYOU BLUE:** Mrs. Claus Visit - Monday, 12/16 @ 10:30 AM-12:30 PM (BC)
- CHOCTAW:** Mrs. Claus Visit & Ornament Craft - Wednesday, 12/04 @ 4:30-5:30 PM (BC)
- GHEENS:** Story Time with Santa - Tuesday, 12/17 @ 4:45-5:45 PM (BC)
- GOLDEN MEADOW:** Pictures with Mrs. Claus - Tuesday, 12/03 @ 4:30-5:30 PM (PP)
- LAROSE:** Story Time with Mrs. Claus - Thursday, 12/19 @ 1-2 PM (BC)
- LOCKPORT:** Story Time with Mrs. Claus - Thursday, 12/12 @ 10:30-11:30 AM (PP)  
 Pictures with Santa - Thursday, 12/12 @ 4-6 PM (PP)
- RACELAND:** Mrs. Claus is Coming to Story Time - Tuesday, 12/17 @ 11 AM-12 PM (BC)
- SOUTH LAFOURCHE:** Photos with Santa - Tuesday, 12/10 @ 4:30-5:30 PM (PP)
- THIBODAU:** Christmas Open House with Santa & Mrs. Claus - Tuesday, 12/10 @ 4-6 PM (BC)

PP = Photo Provided. BC = Bring Camera.



## SAVE THE DATE! THURSDAY, JANUARY 2, 2020

### SCHOOLHOUSE SAFARI RETURNS IN JANUARY!

Thibodaux (Jean Lafitte) 10:30 AM	Lockport Library 1 PM	South Lafourche Library 4 PM	<b>3</b>
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# RESOURCE SPOTLIGHT

## Give the Gift of Books that Talk!

Wonderbooks & VOX Books are now available at your LPPLibrary! They may just look like ordinary books, but they are not! Wonderbooks & VOX Books contain an audio player inside, which reads the book aloud to you. Simply take one off the shelf & press play. Reading aloud has never been more fun - borrow one today!



## Meet Grace Champagne!

Grace is one of our newest staff members at the Thibodaux Branch - she joined the team a couple of months ago! Grace says her favorite thing about her new job is helping patrons & shelving books, but you may also find her working the circulation desk. If you ask Grace for a book recommendation, she may just suggest her favorite novel - The Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkien.

A fun fact about Grace is that she comes from a big family - she is the youngest of eight kids! In her free time, Grace loves spending time with her Jack Russell Terrier mix named Sweetie. Welcome to the LPPL team, Grace!





# STAFF PICKS

#ourfavorites  
#checkitout



## Starry Night By Debbie Macomber



Crystal's Pick: ★★★★★

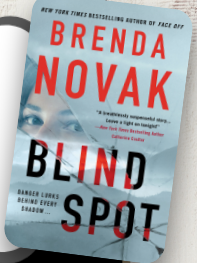
"Hoping to further her dream of becoming a serious journalist by tracking down a reclusive best-selling writer in the Alaskan wilds, gossip columnist Carrie Slayton discovers that her subject, Finn, is as mysterious as his reputation suggests before facing a difficult choice between her career & her heart. *Starry Night* is the kind of book you can cozy up with in front of a fire, wrapped up in a soft, warm blanket, drinking a steaming cup of hot chocolate or coffee. If you are a fan of romantic Christmas movies, you'll love this romantic Christmas book. What I liked most about this story was that the two main characters met in an extremely unlikely way. They were two individuals whose paths would probably have never crossed, but fate worked its magic & brought them together. The setting of snowy Alaska during the holiday season was an added benefit to this story. Recommended as a great way to get into the holiday spirit."

GENRE: Contemporary Holiday Romances  
THEME: Snowbound & Stranded  
TONE: Heartwarming; Mildly Sensuous  
WRITING STYLE: Engaging  
PACE: Fast-Paced

If you like this book, you may also enjoy ...



## Blind Spot By Brenda Novak

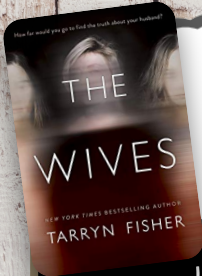


Bione's Pick: ★★★★★

"Are you ready for more psychopaths? *Blind Spot* is the fourth book in the *Evelyn Talbot Chronicles*, & it takes us right back to Alaska where the doctor has been kidnapped. Dr. Evelyn Talbot is a psychiatrist who created Hanover House, a prison created to house & study the world's worst psychopaths. This book kicks off with a kidnapping in broad daylight - Evelyn's. Evelyn is confused as to who would want her imprisoned because she believes all of her enemies are behind the steel bars of Hanover House. When the identity of the mastermind of her kidnapping comes out, Evelyn fears she will never see the light of day again. This book wasn't as terrifying as the others in the series, but it was still a page-turner for me. Brenda Novak was able to draw out emotions I didn't want to feel for certain characters, which is the mark of a phenomenal writer in my opinion. I think there will be more from Evelyn in the future, & I can't wait for her next adventure to start."

GENRE: Thrillers & Suspense  
THEME: Race Against Time  
WRITING STYLE: Compelling  
TONE: Bleak; Menacing; Steamy; Suspenseful

If you like this book, you may also enjoy ...



## The Wives By Tarryn Fisher

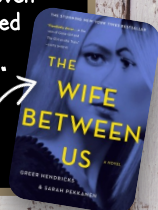


Laura's Pick: ★★★★★

"Imagine that your husband has two other wives that you agreed to. You have never met either of them, but you know all about them. You are the Thursday wife. Every Thursday you are the perfect wife - you never nag or complain, & dinner is always perfect. Your husband is sure to love you best of all! Then one day, you find a scrap of paper that tells you the name of the Monday wife. You know she is pregnant, but you never knew her name until now. Do you track her down, maybe even start a friendship with her? What should you do when Monday starts showing up with tell-tale bruises? Exactly who is your husband & how far are you willing to go to protect the other wives & yourself? And who is the third wife? This plot seems like a straight-forward premise, but it isn't. It is so much more than what you see on the surface. It is masterfully woven together & as soon as you think you have it all figured out ... BAM, it is completely different than you thought. This was a wild ride & I loved every minute!"

GENRE: Psychological Suspense  
STORYLINE: Intricately Plotted  
PACE: Fast-Paced

If you like this book, you may also enjoy ...



## The Library of the Unwritten By A.J. Hackwith



Katie's Pick: ★★★★★

"Looking for a new, fresh read? If you like adventurous librarians, stories that come alive, & warring legions of Heaven & Hell, then you should check out A.J. Hackwith's new series, *A Novel from Hell: The Library of the Unwritten*. As the title suggests, the novel is set in a library in Hell. I was initially drawn to this book simply by the title & unusual cover art. I love the story's premise - a library in (but not a part of) Hell, an adventurous librarian, & stories that manifest as people. With such an original story line, complex characters, & non-stop thrills, Hackwith's newest book does not disappoint. I especially liked the 'story about stories' concept, & the fantastical, yet relatable characters. Her novel is reminiscent of Neil Gaiman & Terry Pratchett's *Good Omens*, Genevieve Cogman's *The Invisible Library* series, & the CW's *Supernatural* series."

GENRE: Adventure Stories; Fantasy Fiction  
THEMES: Bad Religion; Books About Books; Chosen Family; Quest for Magical Items  
WRITING STYLE: Richly Detailed  
TONE: Dramatic; Mystical  
CHARACTER: Complex

If you like this book, you may also enjoy ...



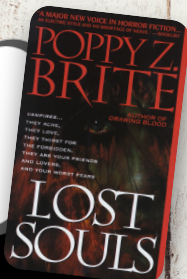


# STAFF PICKS

#ourfavorites  
#checkitout



## Lost Souls By Poppy Z. Brite



Van's Pick: ★★★★★

"Poppy Z. Brite is the professional name of a New Orleans author who wrote several popular novels that have become cult classics. His writing has been called a combination of exotic horror, splatter punk, & southern Gothic. *Lost Souls* is a vampire novel unlike most. It was named Best Horror Novel by the Horror Writer's Association. Brite's vampires are different from traditional vampires. They have incredible healing powers, heightened senses, abnormal strength, & abnormal life spans. This novel, though not heavy on plot, is descriptive & atmospheric. There is quite a bit of gore & drug usage, so it is not for the light of heart. The characters are exceptionally well-written. The author has lived in both New Orleans & North Carolina, so his knowledge of the two locations is extensive. For an exceptional southern Gothic horror, plus a novel about an unusual coming-of-age outsider, this novel will not disappoint."

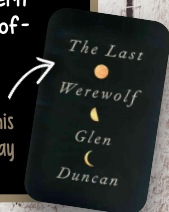
GENRE: Horror

THEME: Body Horror; Vampire Menace

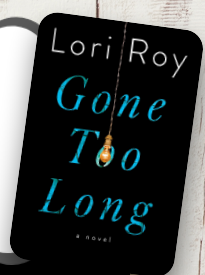
CHARACTER: LGBTQIA Diverse

TONE: Atmospheric; Gruesome; Steamy

If you like this book, you may also enjoy ...



## Gone Too Long By Lori Roy



Brooke's Pick: ★★★★★

"Set against the backdrop of the KKK in present day southern Georgia, Lori Roy's *Gone Too Long* is a dark & haunting tale of family, secrets, & survival. When Imogene's father dies, secrets from his life as the leader of the local Klan group begin to unfurl. The most disturbing of all is a child locked in the basement of her father's getaway - a child that has connections to a young girl whose family was a target of Klan activity & who went missing seven years previously. As Imogene tries to uncover her father's connection to this child, her family's secrets come back to haunt them in ways no one saw coming. *Gone Too Long* is a taut, suspenseful thriller told in viewpoints alternating from present day to the past. Evocative & emotional, *Gone Too Long* is a story about the sins of the father & the long-held secrets people keep. Lori Roy has written an atmospheric novel, steeped deeply in suspense. Recommended for those who enjoy suspenseful stories with a literary flair."

GENRE: Multiple Perspectives; Thrillers & Suspense

WRITING STYLE: Compelling

TONE: Suspenseful

If you like this book, you may also enjoy ...



## Want More Staff Picks?

Visit [www.lafourche.org](http://www.lafourche.org) & click the "News & Staff Picks" button for more of the books we are loving!

## How We Rate Our Reads: A Guide to Stars

★★★★★ Loved It

★★★★ Really Liked It

★★★ Liked It



Check out our cloudLibrary & hoopla apps for eBooks & eAudiobooks!



## Healthy Homemade Dog Treats By Serena Faber Nelson



Shannon's Pick: ★★★★★

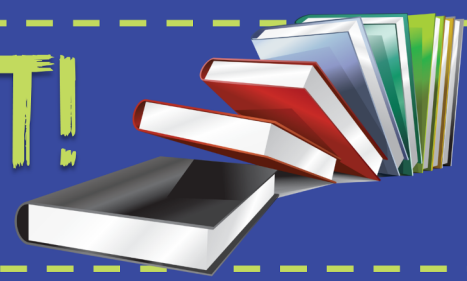
"Pet lifestyle expert Serena Faber-Nelson puts the fun back in dog treats - with easy, everyday recipes for go-to pet treats you'll actually be bothered to make. These nutritious, delicious, budget-friendly, & oh-so-simple-to-make dog treat recipes include: Tasty Kong stuffers & healthy chews to keep your pup entertained while you go to work. Easy, no-bake bliss balls that pull double duty as training treats. Yummy biscuits that help freshen your doggie's breath. And, of course, a whole section devoted to birthdays, holidays, & special occasions. With a huge variety of treats to reward, train, & pamper, every recipe is designed to make life easier & sweeter for you & your dog."



## Do You Love to Read & Write?

Meet local authors at our annual Louisiana Authors Book Fair!

Thibodaux, Sat. 12/07, 10 AM - 2 PM



**TOP PICK**

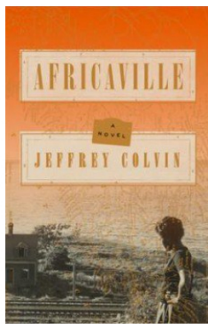
*Such A Fun Age*  
by Kiley Reid  
(G.P. Putnam's Sons)

"Full of nuanced characters and a very current plot about race and privilege, *Such a Fun Age* will keep you slightly off-balance and questioning how you would react. Emira is a character that you'll love for her feistiness and strength of character. Perfect for fans of *Americanah*, *Red at the Bone*, and *An American Marriage*."

—Linda Quinn, Fairfield Public Library, Fairfield, CT  
Novelist read: *That Kind of Mother* by Rumaan Alam

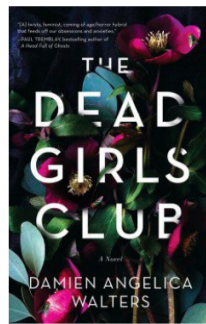


December 2019 - The top ten books published this month that librarians across the country love.



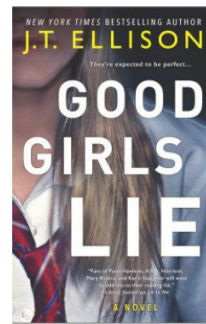
*Africaville*  
A Novel  
by Jeffrey Colvin  
(Amistad)  
"Africaville is a settlement of Jamaican people run out of their homes by the British and dumped in cold, foreign Canada. Colvin weaves the story of Kath Ella and her family through decades of ongoing racial prejudice and injustice, portraying the love among characters and the tenacity of some determined to find happiness. For readers who enjoyed *Homegoing* and *The Underground Railroad*."

—Lisa Casper, Highlands Ranch Library, Highlands Ranch, CO  
Novelist read-alike: *Dominion* by Calvin Baker



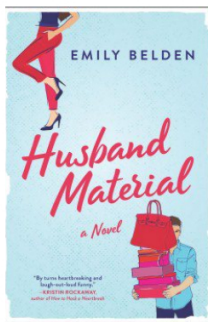
*The Dead Girls Club*  
A Novel  
by Damien Angelica Walters  
(Crooked Lane Books)  
"An engaging story, full of twists and turns. Chapters alternate from Heather's childhood experiences to her present to form the whole story. More creepy than scary, pick this up if you want a story full of dread, suspense, childhood memories, death, and plenty of surprises. For fans of *The Turn of the Key* and *The Silent Patient*."

—Rebecca Kelley, Richland Library, Columbia, SC  
Novelist read-alike: *The Last Time I Lied* by Riley Sager



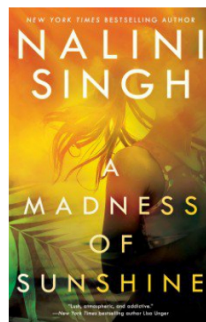
*Good Girls Lie*  
by J. T. Ellison  
(MIRA)  
"Sinister and atmospheric, this page-turner elevates the thriller genre with descriptive writing and well-drawn characters. Ash arrives at the Goode School with secrets of her own. Following an honor code is difficult enough (no lies allowed), but throw in secret societies and overly privileged students, and the scene is set for murder. For readers who liked *The Secret History* and *Watching You*."

—Douglas Beatty, Baltimore County Public Library, Baltimore, MD  
Novelist read-alike: *The Secret Place* by Tana French



*Husband Material*  
by Emily Belden  
(Graydon House)  
"Charlotte, a young widow, is thrown for a loop when her husband's ashes appear at her door. As a coder for social media influencers, she develops an app to help find a mate but uses it to keep potential dates away. And then a secret from her husband's past threatens to destroy the tenuous ties of friendship and love she has found. A fun read for fans of Kristan Higgins and Sophie Kinnsela."

—Suzanne Christensen, Spanish Fork Public Library, Spanish Fork, UT  
Novelist read-alike: *The Garden of Small Beginnings* by Abbi Waxman



*A Madness of Sunshine*  
by Nalini Singh  
(Berkley)  
"With a well-drawn cast of characters and a vivid New Zealand setting, this book slowly draws you in, picks up speed, and takes you on a dark, twisty ride. For fans of *Then She Was Gone* and *All the Missing Girls*."

—Sheryle Gouker, Redstone MWR Library, Huntsville, AL  
Novelist read-alike: *The Dry* by Jane Harper



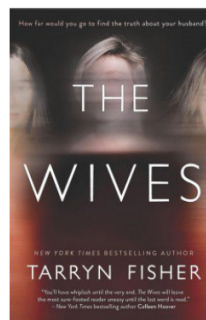
*Meg and Jo*  
by Virginia Kantra  
(Berkley)  
"Little Women's March family is brought into the present day. Here Marmee is a North Carolina goat farmer, Mr. March an idealistic and often absent Army chaplain, and Jo a NYC food blogger and frustrated writer. For readers who loved *A Thousand Acres* by Jane Smiley."

—Beth Mills, New Rochelle Public Library, New Rochelle, NY  
Novelist read-alike: *The Spring Girls* by Anna Todd



*Reputation*  
A Novel  
by Sara Shepard  
(Dutton)  
"Set in an elite private school, with a large cast of characters, this book has it all: scandals, affairs, and murder. I love the way the multiple perspectives intersect and intertwine. For fans of *Gossip Girl* and *Big Little Lies*."

—Aryssa Damron, DC Public Library, Washington, DC  
Novelist read-alike: *Just Between Us* by Rebecca Drake



*The Wives*  
A Novel  
by Tarryn Fisher  
(Graydon House)  
"Fisher has a knack for telling you a story where there's no anticipating the twists and turns, and *The Wives* was no exception. A psychological thriller so immersive that I consumed it in a single sitting. For fans of *The Wife Between Us* and *The Silent Wife*."

—Brie Hopkins, Newport Public Library, Newport, RI  
Novelist read-alike: *The Last Mrs. Parrish* by Liv Constantine



*Would Like to Meet*  
by Rachel Winters  
(G.P. Putnam's Sons)  
"Evie recreates famous movie meet-cutes as a way to inspire a jerk client to write a screenplay, and learns a lot about herself in the process. For fans of *Meg Cabot* and *Jennifer Crusie*."

—Kassie Etefagh, High Point Public Library, High Point, NC  
Novelist read-alike: *Waiting for Tom Hanks* by Kerry Winfrey





# PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS



# Ten Locations to Serve You!

## **BAYOU BLUE**

Mon - Fri: 10 AM - 6 PM  
Sat - Sun: Closed  
Phone: 985-580-0634  
Fax: 985-580-9640

## **CHOCTAW**

Mon - Fri: 10 AM - 6 PM  
Sat - Sun: Closed  
Phone: 985-633-6453  
Fax: 985-633-8873

## **GHEENS**

M, W, F: 10 AM - 6 PM  
Tue & Thu: 2 - 6 PM  
Sat - Sun: Closed  
Phone & Fax: 985-532-2288

## **GOLDEN MEADOW**

Mon - Fri: 10 AM - 6 PM  
Sat - Sun: Closed  
Phone: 985-475-5660  
Fax: 985-475-4517

## **LAROSE**

Mon - Fri: 10 AM - 6 PM  
Sat - Sun: Closed  
Phone: 985-693-3336  
Fax: 985-693-3978

## **LOCKPORT**

Mon - Thu: 9 AM - 7 PM  
Fri & Sat: 9 AM - 5 PM  
Sun: Closed  
Phone: 985-532-3158  
Fax: 985-532-0270

## **RACELAND**

Mon - Fri: 10 AM - 6 PM  
Sat - Sun: Closed  
Phone: 985-537-6875  
Fax: 985-537-2292

## **SOUTH LAFOURCHE**

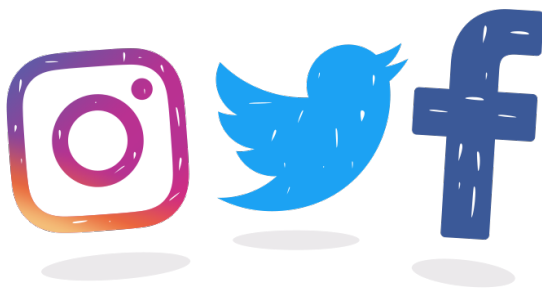
Mon - Thu: 9 AM - 7 PM  
Fri & Sat: 9 AM - 5 PM  
Sun: Closed  
Phone: 985-632-7140  
Fax: 985-632-4963

## **THIBODAUX**

Mon - Thu: 9 AM - 7 PM  
Fri & Sat: 9 AM - 5 PM  
Sun: Closed  
Phone: 985-447-4119  
Fax: 985-449-4128

## **HEADQUARTERS**

Mon - Fri: 9 AM - 5 PM  
Sat - Sun: Closed  
Phone: 985-446-1163  
Fax: 985-446-3848



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  - ▶ Hand-held Games
  - ▶ STEAM & STEM Activities
  - ▶ Meeting Rooms
  - ▶ Reference Services
  - ▶ Storytimes
  - ▶ Book Clubs
  - ▶ Outreach
  - ▶ Programs for All Ages
  - ▶ Summer Reading
  - ▶ Guest Authors
  - ▶ Baby Times
  - ▶ Lap Time Storytime
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  - ▶ Playaway Launchpads
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- .... And the List Goes On

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Where we educate, enrich and entertain Lafourche Communities

BRANCH LOCATIONS: HEADQUARTERS, THIBODAUX, CHOCTAW, BAYOU BLUE, RACELAND, GHEENS, LOCKPORT, LAROSE, SOUTH LAFOURCHE, GOLDEN MEADOW, AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH AREAS



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