Cobb County Public Library System staff are gearing up for the launch of their 2016 Summer Reading Program. People of all ages are invited to participate in the community program.

The program officially began in May and runs through Friday, July 22. The Library System has scheduled hundreds of events and activities to encourage reading and promote physical and mental fitness.

The Summer Reading Program Kickoff Party is scheduled for 5-7 p.m. Saturday, June 4, from at the Switzer Library in downtown Marietta. The party will feature a reading pep rally followed by a live puppet show, music, dance and many other fun games and activities.

Themes for the 2016 Summer Reading Program are:
- Children, from birth to 5th grade: “On Your Mark, Get Set, Read”
- Middle and high school students: “Get in the Game - Read”
- Adults: “Exercise Your Mind - Read”

The high-energy themes of the program are reflected in the lineup of summer reading events, said Lisa Cleary, community engagement manager for the Cobb County Public Library System.

“Everybody will be in motion at Cobb County libraries for a fun and fit summer,” Cleary said. “We’re encouraging everyone to get a head-start on planning for an active summer reading 2016.”

The library system has partnered with several organizations to offer special events, including Scholastic, Cobb County PARKS, the National Park Service, Cobb County Police Department, Cobb County Fire and Emergency Services, UGA Cobb Extension, Cobb and Douglas Public Health, Kennesaw State University, Northwest Family YMCA and several area fitness and health groups.

Prizes will be presented to summer reading library patrons of all ages, including free books, Kindle Fire HDs and Atlanta Braves and Atlanta Hawks tickets.

Fitness and movement activities scheduled for the Summer Reading Program include dance, Tai Chi, yoga and more. Several crafts programs are scheduled, including opportunities to create science and tech objects. For more information about events and programs, visit cobbcat.org.

Participate in the future of Cobb County through public workshops

Cobb County Community Development will host a series of public workshops to discuss more information related to Cobb County’s 2040 Comprehensive Plan. The interactive, four-hour open house workshops are designed to establish priority needs and to collect feedback on the proposed vision, goals and policies of the 2040 Comprehensive Plan. In addition, there will also be discussion regarding the county’s Future Land Use guidelines.

- 3-7 p.m. Thursday, June 2
  East Cobb Senior Center, 3332 Sandy Plains Road, Marietta

- 3-7 p.m. Thursday, June 9
  Atlanta Area Council, Boy Scouts of America, 1800 Circle 75 Parkway, Atlanta

- 3-7 p.m. Tuesday, June 14
  West Cobb Regional Library, 1750 Dennis Kemp Lane, Kennesaw

The 2040 Comprehensive Plan is a long-range, community designed growth strategy that will continue to make Cobb County an attractive place to invest, conduct business, and raise a family.

If you have any questions regarding the 2040 Comprehensive Plan please call 770-528-2018 or email comdevplanning@cobbcounty.org.
**Kids can visit farm for summer camps**

Hyde Farm will host two, week-long day camps, focusing on nature and the great outdoors. Many camp hours will be spent outside and campers will learn about nature through activities such as a creek hike, an amazing eco race, conservation games, identifying wildlife and a two-mile hike through National Park Service land surrounding Hyde Farm.

• Hyde Nature Week for rising third through fifth graders will be held 8:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m., **June 20-24**. The cost is $65 for the week and registration online at cobbcounty.org/PARKS using activity code 7068.

• Hyde Nature Week for rising sixth through eighth graders will be held 8:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m., **July 11-14**. The cost is $65 for the week and registration is available online at cobbcounty.org/PARKS using the activity code 7069.

A camper is responsible to bring a reusable water bottle, daily snack, small backpack, sunscreen and sturdy, closed toe walking shoes. Cameras are welcome, but not required. Hyde Farm is located on Hyde Road, about one mile from the Johnson Ferry Road/Lower Roswell Road intersection. For more information, or to register, contact Kevin Hill at 770-528-8829 or kevin.hill@cobbcounty.org.

**Mabry Park breaks ground**

County officials recently celebrated the groundbreaking of Mabry Park in East Cobb. The 26-acre tract, scheduled to open in 18 months, will feature a playground, trail system, gardens, pavilions, tree houses and a wetlands area. The land was originally purchased with funds from the 2006 parks bond, and most recently the 2016 Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax made funding possible for public road access. The park is located near the corner of Sandy Plains Road and Wesley Chapel Road.

**Seniors can learn more about home safety**

The Cobb County Safety Village will host a series of Senior Safety Days this June and July designed to highlight hazards in the home. The free program includes fall prevention, home security, identity theft and fraud tips.

Sessions will take place 10 a.m.-noon, **June 1, 2, 6, 20 and 27** as well as **July 7, 12, 18, 20 and 28**. To register or learn more, call 770-852-3270 or contact safetyvillage@cobbcounty.org. The Safety Village is located at 1220 Al Bishop Drive, Marietta.

**Support your canine officers**

Help support our public safety officers and service dogs during the 5K for the Sheriff’s K-9s Saturday, **June 11**. The Northeast Cobb Business Association 5k9 will begin at 8 a.m. at Piedmont Church and the registration fee is $25.

Proceeds from the event will help support the Sheriff’s Office’s K-9 Unit. Bring your dogs to this run/walk. Visit active.com to register for the race. For runner or sponsor information, visit northeastcobbba.com or call 770-423-1330.

**Dispose of hazardous waste safely**

Keep Cobb Beautiful will hold a Household Hazardous Waste Amnesty Day 9 a.m.-1 p.m. **June 25** at Jim R. Miller Park in Marietta. Online registration is required for the event, which is only for Cobb County Water System residential customers. Login to your water system account to register. Substances accepted include paint, cooking oil, auto batteries, mercury-containing devices, lawn care products, cleaners and fluorescent tube bulbs. For more information, call 770-528-1135 or email keepcobbbeautiful@cobbcounty.org.

Dispose of hazardous waste safely