APLS Director Nancy C. Pack joins other state, county, and community leaders to celebrate the Alabama Counts 2020 Census Initiative kickoff event led by Gov. Kay Ivey and Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA) Director Kenneth Boswell on April 4.
More than 200 mayors, county commissioners, legislators and other community leaders from across Alabama joined Gov. Kay Ivey on April 4 to kick off the Alabama Counts outreach initiative aimed at maximum participation among Alabamians in the 2020 census.

With a little less than one year until the U.S. government’s 10-year census count in spring 2020, the governor urged the local leaders to join her in raising awareness of the importance of the state’s performance in the census to the state’s future.

“We as Alabamians have a tremendous opportunity to positively affect the future of our state and our children by simply taking about five minutes to say ‘I Count’ and completing our census forms in 2020,” Ivey said. “Our goal with Alabama Counts is maximum participation, and we are going to be working hard over the next year to attain that goal, so we can secure a brighter future for our communities.”

The governor unveiled the Alabama Counts logo, introduced the state’s official census website—www.census.alabama.gov—, and named the state’s 2020 census theme of “I Count.” She was joined by members of the Alabama Counts 2020 Census Committee, Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA) Director Kenneth Boswell and representatives from the U.S. Census Bureau for the event at the State Capitol.

The stakes are high for Alabama in 2020. Many Alabamians directly benefit from the federal programs with funding allocations that are determined in part by census data. In fact, it represents federal funding of about $1,600 per person in Alabama, according to a George Washington University study. Completing a census form will help ensure that Alabama receives its fair share of funding. The federal government also will use 2020 census data to allocate the nation’s congressional seats. Many projections currently have Alabama at-risk of losing one of its seven congressional seats.

Starting in mid-March 2020, Alabama households will receive a letter from the U.S. Census Bureau with instructions on completing 2020 census forms. The Census Bureau is encouraging an online response but will have a toll-free number for households to complete their information over the phone or request a traditional paper form. The Census Bureau plans to mail paper forms to households in rural areas with potentially low internet access. The information collected during the census is confidential and cannot be used against a person by any group or agency.

“The 2020 census is very important to the future of our state, and Alabama Counts is designed to get the word out far and broad, but we need the help of every mayor, county commissioner and community leader in Alabama to take it to the grassroots level,” Boswell said. “We want to equip our local leaders to help us spread the message of how important the census is to our state and ask the Alabamians in their areas to help us by fulfilling a simple, civic duty and completing a census form.”

Formed by a governor’s executive order last August, the Alabama Counts 2020 Census Committee is an advisory group of agencies and organizations committed to working together to ensure that each Alabamian is counted. For the past six months, the Committee—which is chaired by Boswell—and its eight subcommittees have provided input and insight into the development of the statewide initiative. The group will continue to meet throughout 2019 and into 2020. The outreach campaign will include a paid media component, and ADECA has issued a request for proposals today.

The new Alabama Counts website is designed to serve as an information and resource hub for community leaders, groups and individual Alabamians. New features and resources will be added regularly over the next year. Information will also be shared on social media through the dedicated Alabama Counts Instagram, Facebook and Twitter accounts.
BPL archivist named 2019 Eminent Librarian

Longtime Birmingham Public Library Archivist Jim Baggett received the 2019 Eminent Librarian Award on Thursday, April 4, during the Alabama Library Association annual conference in Point Clear. The recognition is in honor of his many contributions to the library industry in Alabama as head of BPL’s Department of Archives and Manuscripts, and as archivist for the City of Birmingham. Baggett holds a Masters of Library and Information Studies degree at the University of Alabama and a Master’s Degree in Public History from the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

Baggett has served as president of the Society of Alabama Archivists, Chair of the Jefferson County Historical Commission, and as a trustee for several historical associations. Known for his knowledge of the civil rights movement in Birmingham and other historical events in Alabama, Baggett has presented lectures across the United States and Europe.

Baggett has been featured on Alabama Public Television, Alabama Public Radio, National Public Radio, and C-SPAN. Baggett has written two books about Alabama history, edited three others, and written dozens of articles in various publications. Baggett also writes the “Reading Birmingham” book column for the online news site BirminghamWatch.

Alabama Bicentennial quilt

The Joy Quilt Guild, which meets at the Jacksonville Public Library each month, recently completed a one-of-a-kind quilt in honor of Alabama’s bicentennial.

At a recent meeting, Wendell Jensen, president of the quilting guild, announced that the Bicentennial quilt will be on display at the Jacksonville Historic Cemetery Stroll in October, and will be given away in a special drawing on Dec. 14 — Alabama’s 200th birthday.

Have story ideas or suggestions for upcoming issues?

Contact Ryan Godfrey at rgodfrey@apls.state.al.us or 334-213-3909.
Having Easter fun

The Odenville Public Library recently hosted their annual British Tea Party. The party featured scones, Devonshire cream, assorted finger sandwiches, petit fours, fruits, muffins, and a wide selection of different teas.

Guests were encouraged to wear their favorite hat or fascinator. The event is a great time to dress up, relax, and enjoy a spot of tea with friends. The library has held the event for the past three years, and it has grown and only gotten better each year!

Easter fun!

Tupper Lightfoot Library in Brundidge celebrated Easter on April 13 with a storytime, a craft, an egg hunt, and a visit from the Easter Bunny.
White Smith Memorial Library in Jackson held a lunch and learn program on Nat King Cole. The program was led by Daphne Simpkins (second from left), a writer and instructor at Auburn University Montgomery.

Cole was born in Montgomery on March 17, 1919. His birthplace home is adjacent to the campus of Alabama State University.

Winfield Public Library celebrates Dr. Seuss’s birthday

The Winfield Public Library filled with Seuss fans of all ages when the library held a special birthday celebration honoring the classic children’s author on March 4.

The party featured food, fun, games, crafts, and a story time.
The Satsuma Public Library received a $10,610 grant to renovate its building from the Alabama Historical Commission. A picnic to celebrate the completion of the project occurred on April 5, which also included a book signing by local author Lauren Denton.

The two-phase library restoration began in January with the city replacing old boards. The second phase, which started on Feb. 11, included repainting the building. The entire project was completed by the end of March.

“The paint was just peeling off, and the library was just getting in bad shape,” said Satsuma Library Director Tiphani Clearman. “Seeing this building—which holds so many memories for the community of Satsuma — restored to its original glory is something we are all excited to witness.”

Originally constructed in 1936 as a school house, the building housed first through 12th grades until the 1950s, when new schools were built. Decades later, the building was temporarily used to house Satsuma High School business classes until 1983. The building was transformed into the Satsuma Public Library in 1994.

During the renovation, the library also planted a tree and built a bench in the library’s Memorial Garden. The garden was established in 2002 by Bob and Carolyn Brown in memory of their daughter, Kathy Brown Jones. The bench in the garden is also dedicated in her name.
Mobley celebrates 30 years at Abbeville library

This Library Workers’ Appreciation Day proved to be a special one for Abbeville Memorial Library staffer Annie Mobley.

On behalf of the city and staff, Mobley was presented with a clock by Abbeville Library Director Paul McNamara to recognize her 30 years of service. Mobley was also presented a faux book which was given to her by Abbeville Library Board Chair Catherine Killebrew.

While she was honored for her many years of service, Mobley is not retiring. Rather, she chooses to keep providing the many patrons of Abbeville’s library the same dedicated, selfless service which she has always done.

GOVERNMENT SHADOWS IN ALABASTER

Six members of Alabaster’s Teen Council visit with Nan Abbott, director of the Albert L. Scott Library. The March 13 visit was part of Government Shadow Day. While at the library, the students watched a PowerPoint presentation, ‘A Day in the Life of the Albert L. Scott Library,’ toured the facilities, had a question and answer session, and enjoyed refreshments. The teenagers went to all city departments to learn first-hand about the diverse functions of municipal government.