



## Cabarrus turns the page

*Program encourages reading among community residents*

By Justin Vick

[jvick@independenttribune.com](mailto:jvick@independenttribune.com)

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The Cabarrus County Public Library has launched perhaps its most ambitious programming to date - a series of events centered on Clyde Edgerton's novel, "Walking Across Egypt."

The program is called "One Book One Community- Cabarrus Reads." And it's designed to broaden appreciation for literature by encouraging residents to read the same book at the same time.

The library will host five weeks worth of programming to support its efforts to boost literacy in Cabarrus County.

Terry Prather of the Kannapolis Branch Library points to a 2007 report done by the National Endowment for the Arts, which states lower literacy rates lead to fewer educational and employment opportunities, as well as civic, cultural and economic implications.

Various community organizations have partnered with the library to host events, such as Gem Theatre, Old Courthouse Theatre and Rowan-Cabarrus Community College.

Reading instructor Amelia Likin said she's glad RCCC is not only supporting the library, but also life-long learning. Edgerton will lead a creative writing course at RCCC's South Campus in one of multiple appearances throughout the series.

The series will also include book discussions and a forum on how the community can learn from reading the book.

Library director Tom Dillard said "Walking Across Egypt" represents a part of North Carolina that is slowly fading, as rural areas become more cosmopolitan.

The novel is about a 78-year-old woman who helps a teenage delinquent understand life in the small town of Listre, N.C. The novel was adapted into a 1999 movie starring Ellen Burstyn and Jonathan Taylor Thomas, which will be shown at three library branches, as well as the Gem Theatre.

Between 15 and 25 copies of the book are available at library branches in Concord, Harrisburg, Kannapolis and Mount Pleasant, Prather said. Events corresponding to the book will begin in September.

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