

FRIENDS

of the Wilson County Public Library

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NEWSLETTER - Spring 2022

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Amanda Gardner
Genevieve Baillie

Dear Friends,

I want to thank each and every one of you for supporting the Friends of the Wilson County Public Library, as we are dedicated to helping the Wilson County Public Library and their branches to serve our beautiful and growing community.

Casita Brewing Company hosted the Friends' in several fundraising events the month of March. Casita and their bartenders **graciously** offered 25% of taproom tips, providing a donation of \$2,150 to the Friends of the Wilson County Public Library! The Friends also raised almost \$2,000 in on-site book sales in the Casita taproom, a Paint & Pints event, a DIY Bookmark making event, a Silent Auction, and new Friends memberships and donations. Casita, their amazing bartenders, the local community, and out-of-town visitors provided us with the best experience the month of March. A special thanks to Genevieve Baillie for helping with so many events the month of March (e.g., Guest Bartending, Paint & Pints, DIY Bookmark making). I also want to give a shout out to our local businesses and members that donated items for our Silent Auction. Thank you all for your support!! All funds raised the month of March will be contributed back to the Wilson County Public Library, providing new media, programming, remodeling, equipment, etc., to enrich the lives of our community.

You are invited to join or renew your membership with the Friends of the Wilson County Public Library. You will find a **Friends Membership Form attached to this newsletter**. When joining or renewing your membership, please provide your email, so we can periodically communicate with you regarding updates. We would like to keep everyone as informed and involved as much as possible. Also, if you would like to volunteer your time with the Friends (e.g., accepting book donations; volunteering your time at local fundraising events), please check the Volunteer box located on the Membership Form.

If you are interested in becoming a Friends of the Wilson County Public Library Board Member, please contact me at 252-292-5454 or via email at angelahsmall@gmail.com. We would love to grow our list of Board Members!

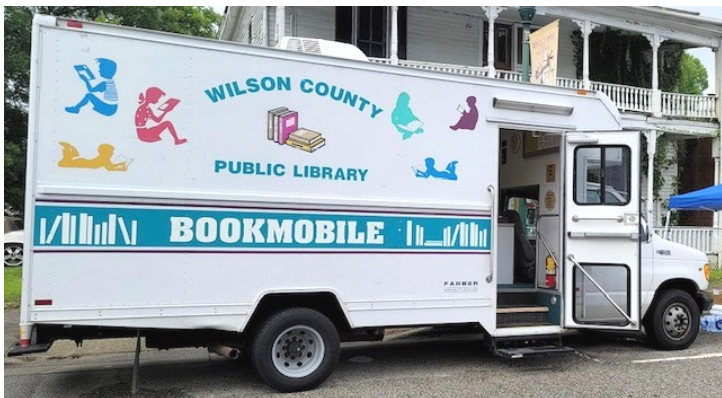
Your book donations are hard at work, as we have been replenishing the **Little Libraries** around town. If you have book donations, please email us at wilsonlibraryfriends@gmail.com.

Be on the lookout for more **Book Sales** hosted by the Friends of the Wilson County Public Library! A postcard with date(s) of events will be mailed out.

Are you on social media? Like us on our Friends of the Wilson County Public Library Facebook and Instagram pages!!

Thank you for your continued support of our local library.

Angela Small
President



From Genevieve Baillie:

"The bookmobile is back! Bookmobile service resumed in May with a new schedule and some new stops. Current stops are: first Wednesday of the month, Rock Ridge 3:00-4:00 and Sims 4:15-5:00, and fourth Wednesday of the month, White Oak 2:30-3:30. Visit the library website for detailed location information, and to stay up-to-date as future bookmobile stops are added."



Want to volunteer your time accepting and sorting through book donations, please email us at wilsonlibraryfriends@gmail.com.

From Amanda Gardner:

Wilson County Public Library offers in-person and online storytimes led by staff from across all locations. We also have storytimes for Spanish speakers and hearing-impaired patrons. For a schedule of storytimes, visit www.wilsoncountypubliclibrary.org or visit our Facebook page. Craft-to-go kits are provided at all library locations.

Don't Jump to Conclusions: Eliminating Mental Health Stigma

Thursday, May 19, 2:30 p.m.

In this Zoom webinar, mental health professionals from Therapeutic Alternatives will discuss how to eliminate stigma surrounding mental health. Registration is required. Visit <https://cutt.ly/8FgfSAO> to register. For questions, contact Therapeutic Alternatives at 919-523-5120 or Naija Speight, Adult Services Librarian, at 252-237-5355 ext. 5074 or nspeight@wilsoncountync.gov.

Local History & Genealogy Programs

Tracking Down the Past

Wednesday, May 25, 7:00 p.m.

Join us for an interview with historian/photographer Brian Grawburg as he explains the process of finding and documenting lost and forgotten cemeteries. This program will be available on Facebook and YouTube. For more information, contact Tammy Medlin at 252-237-5355 ext. 5029 or tmedlin@wilsoncountync.gov.

Teen Advisory Board Meeting

Thursday, May 26, 4:00 p.m. • Main Library Teen Room

Ages 12-19. TAB gives teens the opportunity to share ideas and plan programs and services offered to their peers by the library. Members of TAB attend monthly meetings and assist in at least one teen program each school year. Participation may count toward school and National Honor Society service hours!

Wilson County Public Library engages the community and enhances the minds of all ages with programs, lectures, classes, and entertainment. For questions about the library, call 252-237-5355 or visit www.wilsoncountypubliclibrary.org.



Your book donations hard at work!

Several books have been placed in the Free Little Libraries in Wilson.



Demetrius Smith, our Literary CosPlay winner at one of our events at Casita. Demetrius also graciously donated several paintings for our Silent Auction. Thanks Demetrius!!



Literary CosPlay participants at one of our events at Casita Brewing Company.



Amanda Gardner spoke on behalf of the Wilson County Public Library at our Annual Meeting at Casita.



Susan Kellum presented at our Annual Meeting regarding upcoming and exciting changes to our beautiful downtown Wilson.

In the Middle

Molly Westmoreland, Director
Wilson County Public Library

Another Wilson County department head said this to me recently about our Library. “My department,” he said, “sees the people who need our specialized services, but your department sees everyone. The library is in the middle of everything.” Well, it certainly feels like it, not only because of who we serve, but recently because of where we are, or at least, where our Main Library is – on the same block that is undergoing a radical transformation.

In December of 2020, the two eight-story BB&T towers were demolished right next door. We met with experts beforehand to learn if the implosion would pose a threat to the 1939 section of our building a few hundred feet away, and to be assured it would not. Still, we closed the day of to protect our customers and staff by keeping them away from the area. When the dust settled, all was well.

We watched the clearing of what was left on the land and witnessed the rising of the brand-new, beautiful YMCA. We lived with the noise and dust of construction, and sometimes with strange vibrations that rattled our windows, with a sense of excitement. We prepared for the coming partnership to provide Middle School After-School programming funded by the Wilson Healthcare Foundation. We created a Teen Room and two Study Rooms in addition to our Maker Space to have the room and the technologies, many of them grant-funded, to support the innovative programming our young people need.

The new parking garage is nearly completed next door, and ground has been broken for the new combination residential and retail buildings beyond it – residential above, retail below. The entire block will be brand new except for the Main Library, built in 1939, added onto in the seventies and again in 2005. Like the City of Wilson, our Main Library building is a comfortable mix of the new and the old, a metaphor in brick of how we travel confidently into the future without abandoning the past.

With a Main Library firmly grounded in a city block undergoing sweeping changes, the Wilson County Public Library has a presence beyond the city limits with branches located in Elm City, Black Creek, Lucama, and Stantonsburg, as well as the East Branch in east Wilson. Our bookmobile currently travels to Sims, Saratoga, and Rockridge while we investigate future stops to bring us into underserved areas to the east for our new, grant-funded bookmobile due to arrive in early 2023. We are exploring adding smart lockers to allow customers to pick up requested items outside of our regular hours and outside of our buildings. We have received grant funds to put tablets into the hands of the elderly and homebound to connect them to the Internet, to their families, and to our library programs and services. We continue to provide programs virtually out of a newly refurbished “studio,” also grant-funded, as well as welcoming our customers back into our buildings for in-person programs.

All of this is happening because of where we are, in an environment that values and supports public library service through local funding, grants, Friends, and volunteers. Yes, we are in the middle of things in more ways than one. And in Wilson County, that is exactly where we want to be.

Thank You

Casita Brewing Company

for your

generous donation!



Pictured: Mahalia Witter-Merithew, owner of Casita Brewing Company. Angie Cato, Vice President of FOWL (Friends of the Wilson County Public Library). Angela Small, President of FOWL.



Silent Auction at Casita the month of March. We want to thank the following for their donations, as we raised monies to support and benefit the Wilson County Public Library.

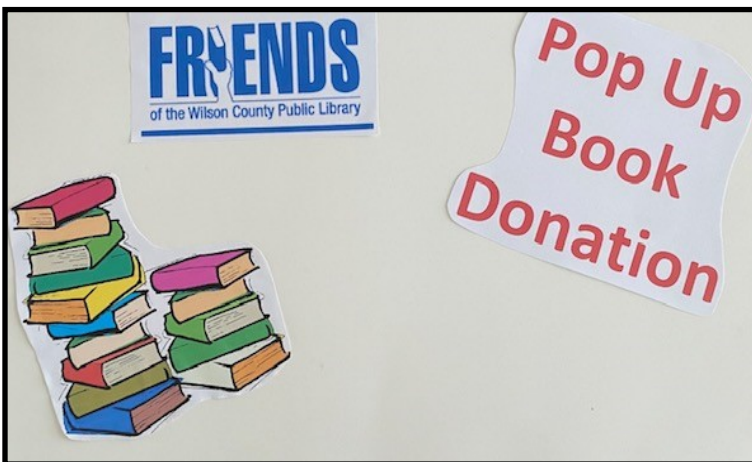
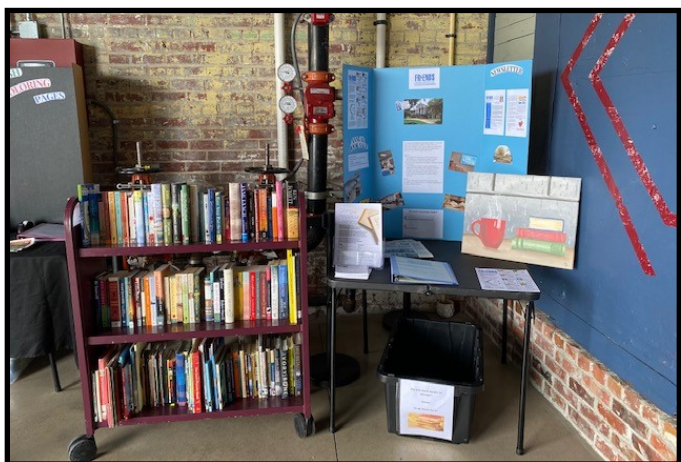
Sue Dail, Dick's Hot Dog Stand, Artisan Leaf, Agnes Cherry, The Nook, A+ Graphics, Joan Satterly, Tate Design Group, Gracie's Village Shops, Demetrius Smith, Nelly Roney, and Megan Oteri of Brick Scholars Consulting.

Guest Bartender Night at Casita with a special thanks to Genevieve and Scott for helping out!!

The Paint & Pints event at Casita.

Thanks Genevieve for being an amazing librarian AND artist!!





On Site Book Sales at Casita the month of March was a huge hit! Thank you again for your book donations.

Would you like to become a Board Member for the Friends of the Wilson County Public Library? Our next meeting will be held at the Wilson County Public Library Thursday, June 16, 2022 from 12:00-12:45PM in the Assembly Room. Light refreshments will be provided.



Stay tuned for information regarding the Wilson County Public Library's Summer Reading Program and Kickoff! Check out the Wilson County Public Library's Facebook page and website for more information. <https://www.wilsoncountypubliclibrary.org>

**LOVE YOUR
LIBRARY
BECOME A FRIEND**



P.O. Box 1022
Wilson, North Carolina 27894-1022
www.wcplfriends.org

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Write in tax-deductible donation amount here \$ _____

- NEW MEMBER RENEWAL
 VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Make checks payable to Friends of the Wilson Co. Public Library.

CONTRIBUTION LEVELS	
\$ 5 - \$ 49	Bookmarks
\$ 50 - \$ 99	First Editions
\$100 - \$249	Signed First Editions
\$250 - \$499	Best Sellers
\$500 and up	Pulitzers

We are totally funded by your voluntary contributions. Levels vary widely, but every FRIEND counts.

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