

randolph county public library

www.randolphlibrary.org



Volume XIV No. 6 • December 2005

news



Richard Wells



Suzanne Tate

Richard Wells named county manager; Suzanne Tate to become library director

♣ **Library Director Richard Wells will succeed County Manager William F. (Frank) Willis when Willis retires on March 31, and Assistant Library Director Suzanne Tate will become library director.**

Head of Reference Ross Holt will move into the assistant library director position, and Will Massey, one of the county's deputy finance officers, will become assistant county manager and finance officer. The Randolph County Board of Commissioners approved the changes on December 5.

Wells will move into the position of county

manager-in-transition on January 1; Tate, Holt and Massey also will move into their new positions during the transition period. On April 1, Wells will become interim county manager, and after one year he will become county manager on approval by the board of commissioners.

Wells leaves his mark on library

Wells has served as library director since November 1991. During his tenure, the Asheboro library building underwent a major expansion, a new Archdale library was built and later expanded, and a new library building recently opened in Seagrove.

continued on page 3

'Gravyboy' comic creators to appear

—see inside



Archdale

336-431-3811
 Fax 336-431-4619
 10433 S. Main St.
 Mon, Wed, Fri 9-6;
 Tues, Thur 9-8;
 Sat 9-5

Asheboro

336-318-6800
 Fax 336-318-6823
 201 Worth St.
 Mon-Thur 9-9; Fri 9-6;
 Sat 9-5

Randolph Room

336-318-6815
 Mon, Thur-Sat 9-5
 Tues, Wed 9-9

John W. Clark

(Franklinville)
 336-824-4020
 111 Sumner Place
 Mon-Fri 2-6; Sun 2-5

Liberty

336-622-4605
 Fax 336-622-4605
 239 S. Fayetteville St.
 Mon, Wed, Fri 9-5;
 Tues, Thur 9-7; Sat 9-1

Ramseur

336-824-2232
 Fax 336-824-2232
 1512 S. Main St.
 Mon-Fri 8:30-5:30

Randleman

336-498-3141
 Fax 336-498-1139
 122 Commerce Sq.
 Mon-Fri 10-6; Sat 10-1

Seagrove

336-873-7521
 530 Seagrove Plank Rd.
 Mon-Thur 1-7; Fri 12-6
 Sat 10-3

Extension Service

336-318-6816 or 336-318-6817
 Mon-Fri 9-5

Dial-A-Story

336-318-6833

**from
 the
 director**

by Richard Wells



Seagrove gets magnolia trees

♣Thanks to the efforts of Asheboro's own Johnny Appleseed, the Seagrove Library now has five Teddy Bear magnolias placed on the southern exposure.

These magnolias mature to about twenty feet, much less than their cousins who reach twice that size. These five will form a perfect buffer between the library and the school, but not a barrier.

This was due to the work of Tim Womick who is truly a tree advocate for Asheboro, the county, and indeed the world. He has planted trees around the world.

His enthusiasm is instantly contagious. There is no hidden agenda: he simply wants people to understand the important role trees play in our existence on earth and to appreciate that role.

Tim, Owen George, Mike Mahan, Chad Phillips and his young son Levi Phillips met on the day after Thanksgiving at the Seagrove library to plant the five magnolias. Since it was cold, and the ground was very hard, I had formed an image of a small backhoe or gas-powered hole-digger on



Levi Phillips chips in to plant Seagrove trees

a trailer behind the truck carrying the trees.

I was wrong! I was handed a shovel and told to dig a hole three times the size of the container and three times as deep. Ninety minutes later, all five were properly planted, watered and mulched. I had completed a good workout and actually had something to show for it!

Ten years from now, when I am retired and looking for something to do, I plan to ride down to Seagrove and enjoy seeing the Teddy Bear magnolia I planted. It should be approaching twenty feet by then.

And I will thank Tim Womick and friends for the experience and the trees.

**randolph county
 public library**
news

The Randolph County Public Library NEWS is published monthly by the Asheboro Randolph County Public Library and the Friends of the Library. To subscribe, join the Friends by returning the membership application on page 4.

Richard Wells, Director • Carol Rich, President, Friends of the Library • Ross Holt, Editor
 Printing by Hunsucker Printing Co.

Library leadership to change

continued from page 1

The library was computerized countywide, and this month replaced its original automation system with a vastly more advanced upgrade.

Wells has built relationships with governments at all levels for the benefit of library service. In the mid-1990s, he was instrumental in successful efforts by the North Carolina Public Library Directors Association (NCPLDA) to increase state funding for local libraries by almost 50 percent over four years.

Locally, he worked with governments in Seagrove and Archdale to establish those libraries as full branches with a county-paid staff; persuaded county government to support the new Seagrove library building; and hammered out an agreement with Randolph Community College that made the Archdale library the official library of RCC's Archdale campus.

When Wells was hired as library director, Willis told him that the library should be "a showcase of what government can do." Wells took that idea to heart, and declaring that he would be "coach of a team," quickly turned around a demoralized library system.

Within three years the Asheboro library had been renovated and expanded, and within two more years the library was automated.

A strong advocate of library education and professional participation, Wells ensured support for four staff members who either earned or are working toward masters degrees in librarianship while employed at the library. He also has strongly supported staff participation in the North Carolina Library Association and on his watch, a second Randolph County librarian served as president of that

organization.

Wells served as president of the NCPLDA in 1999, and was named director of the year by the organization in 1993.

A Winston-Salem native, Wells worked at the library in the 1970s delivering material to homebound patrons while earning a masters in library and information studies degree from UNC-Greensboro. He served as director of the Learning Resources Center at RCC from 1977-1987 before founding a car dealership, Wells Cargo.

Tate takes the reigns

A 31-year library staff member, Tate was the first professional librarian hired by longtime Library Director Charlesanna Fox in 1974. She has risen from reference librarian to head of reference, to Asheboro librarian and then assistant director, and now to director.

In 1990-91, she served as interim director, stabilizing the library during a difficult time.

She is known at the library for a sixth sense that allows her to size up and understand any situation almost immediately, and arrive at a solution embraced by all. In 2004, she received the William H. Roberts award for outstanding library service from the Public Library Section of the North Carolina Library Association.

"She has served as a quiet example of the best in a public library: dedication, civility and a strong work ethic, someone the staff seeks to emulate in word and deed," Wells wrote in his newsletter column.

Holt, employed with the library for 19 years, has served as head of reference since 1994, and as systems administrator since 1997.

During 2001-2003, he was president of the North Carolina Library Association.

Bledsoe in Feb.

Author Jerry Bledsoe and RF Micro Devices founder Jerry Neal will return to the Asheboro library for a Friends of the Library program at 7 p.m. Thursday, February 16.

The two are promoting their new book, *Built on a Rock: a Memoir of Family, Faith and Place*, a biography, of sorts, about Neal's fantastic northwestern Randolph County residence.

Look for more details in next month's newsletter.

Christmas gifts

Need a last-minute Christmas gift? Make a minimum \$10 donation to the library in honor of someone.

The honoree will receive a seasonal card acknowledging the gift. For more information, call 318-6810 or 318-6818

Computer class

Library Internet, email, advanced Internet and word processing computer classes are on hold through the holidays, but will resume in January.

Book sale

The Friends of the Library book sale will take a holiday this month, but will resume from 9-3 p.m. Saturday, January 28, at the Friends Book Store off the Asheboro Public Library parking lot.

Friends receive Grassroots Grants from NC Arts Council

The Friends of the Library has received a \$1,500 Grassroots Grant from the North Carolina Arts Council via the Randolph Arts Guild for the Summer Reading

Program.

The Friends will combine the grant money with their own funds to sustain local program, in which 3,969 kids participated in 2005.

Friends of the Randolph Public Library

YES! I'd like to become a Friend and support the wonderful programs sponsored by the Friends each year:

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

- ☐ Student \$2
- ☐ Adult \$10
- ☐ Family..... \$15
- ☐ Patron \$25
- ☐ Bookworm..... \$50
- ☐ Benefactor..... \$100
- ☐ Lifetime..... \$250
- ☐ Corporate Sponsor..... \$_____

Mail to: Friends of the Library
P.O. Box 2806
Asheboro, NC 27203
Memberships are tax deductible

YES! I'd like to help: ____Program planning____Program Receptions ____Book Sales____Membership

Randolph County Public Library

201 Worth Street
Asheboro, NC 27203

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Asheboro, NC 27203
Permit No. 50

3RD PRE-SORT

Call us!

Renewals..... 318-6801

Children's Services..... 318-6804

Randolph Room..... 318-6815

Reference & Information.. 318-6800

memorials & donations

In Memory of: Judy Dixon Adams
By: Phyllis D. Scott

In Memory of: Treva Lynch Ellis
By: James T. Ellis

In Memory of: Pat Schroder
By: Dianne and Steve Wrenn

In Memory of: Gordon Leonard Brady, Sr.
By: Sally Brady

In Memory of: Colon Ellison
By: Bill and Jackie Smith

In Memory of: Howard Caviness
By: The Circle Hwy 22 Flower Fund

In Memory of: Ralph and Ruby Hayes
By: Chris Griffin

In Memory of: Julia M. Crickenberger
By: Sally Brady

In Memory of: Herman Andrew John
By: Office Staff of Michael D. Lininger, MD

In Memory of: Mozelle Dixon
By: Sally Brady

In Memory of: Betty Burns Page
By: David and Lillie Suggs

'Gravyboy' creators to talk comics in library program

♣ "Your mom told you never to play with your food... she never said you couldn't fight evil with it!"

That's the message of *GravyBoy* comic book, the story of Philbert Pharmac, who, by a tragic mistake, is given the power to manipulate gravy instead of gravity.

Marty Blevins, the writer, lives in Liberty, and Brian Shearer, the artist, lives in McLeansville.

They met at UNCG, where they conceived the story of Philbert and his many adventures.

Blevins and Shearer will visit the Asheboro library at 7 p.m. Thursday, January 19, for a program entitled "Four-Color Panels: Comics, Cartoons and the Graphic Novel." The duo will share some of their favorite titles, demonstrate a little bit of drawing, and



'Gravyboy' comic book writer Marty Blevins (l) and artist Brian Shearer (r), by Shearer.

tell us all about the world of comics and cartooning.

The free program, aimed at teens, is free and everyone is invited. The library has been slowly building a comic and graphic novel collection, and circulation has been great, so don't miss this event!

Learn more about the comic at www.gravyboy.com.