

# randolph county public library

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# NEWS

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## Ragsdale, friends take "A Lane Holiday"

♣ Fresh from a run as Coggsworth, the tightly wound clock, in RSVP's production of *Beauty And The Beast*, Lane Ragsdale and his accompanist and musical arranger Max Blizzard will bring an all new cabaret show entitled "A Lane Holiday" to the library.



Lane Ragsdale

The performance will take place at 7 p.m. Thursday, December 21, at the Asheboro library. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library, it's free and the public is invited.

A collection of songs, stories and readings both humorous and poignant, the show will feature Ragsdale and guests from *Beauty And The Beast* as well as past cabaret shows.

Among the musical guests are Patrick Osteen, John Brown, Ashley Wicker and Brenda Pulliam. Tunes will include "O Holy Night," "Ave Maria," "In the Bleak Midwinter," "The Christmas Song," "White Christmas," "I'll Be Home for Christmas," and many more.

This is the fourth library cabaret show for Ragsdale, an Asheboro native who studied voice in the New York City studio of renowned Metropolitan Opera soprano Dr. Patricia Craig.

He is also travel and industry manager for the North Carolina Zoological Park.

## Busted!

### Collection agency to pursue chronic overdue scofflaws

♣ Beginning in December, the library will turn over to a collection agency the accounts of borrowers with fees for lost material or fines for long-term overdues.

The stepped-up pursuit of tardy material is due to losses suffered by the library — and taxpayers — which amounted to \$6,000 in the first three months of this fiscal year alone. Often, material that is checked out and not returned is among the most in-demand.

Currently, the library tries three times by phone and mail to retrieve overdue material, with a final notice mailed at 60 days. The final notice includes a letter from the Randolph County attorney alerting borrowers that they may be subject to legal action.

Under the new arrangement, the library will try for 45 days to prompt return of overdue material or payment of outstanding overdue fines. At 45 days, the library will bill the borrower for the cost of the material or the outstanding fines.

If at 60 days the material remains unreturned or the lost fee remains unpaid, or overdue fines remain unpaid, the library will send the borrower's account to Unique Management Inc., an Indiana-based collection agency that specializes in library retrievals. Unique Management will make further attempts by phone and mail to reclaim the material, fees or fines, ultimately credit reporting borrowers who do not respond.

The collection agency will not handle financial transactions — borrowers will clear up their accounts directly with the library.

Only accounts with fees or fines in excess of \$25 at 60 days will be turned over to the collection agency.

LATE BREAKING NEWS... LATE BREAKING NEWS... LATE BREAKING NEWS...

**Local musicians Richard Johnson, Norman Grey and friends will perform Christmas songs and oldies, 7 p.m. Thursday, December 14, at the Asheboro Public Library**

**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 Suzanne Tate

## Historical house occupied library site

♣ **The Randolph Public Library location at 201 Worth Street is the site of the former Worth-McAlister house, a Greek Revival**



**structure built by Dr. John Milton Worth and his wife Sarah Dicks Worth around 1855 and demolished in 1958.**

For 100 years, the Worth-McAlister house was home to some noteworthy citizens who made contributions to Asheboro and Randolph County as well as to the state of North Carolina.

Worth moved to Asheboro after serving two terms in the state legislature from Montgomery County. He came to join his brother, Jonathan Worth, Governor of North Carolina from 1865-1868, in various business ventures. Dr. Worth was appointed salt commissioner during the war years, in charge of securing and rationing salt, a precious commodity at the time. After the war, he served several terms in the legislature, and was elected state treasurer for two terms. He was instrumental in construction of the Plank Road, building the Asheboro section. He founded Worth Manufacturing Company in Worthville and had a major interest in

Deep River textile mills.

After construction of the original home in 1855, a one story wing was added around 1870. In 1890, Worth's business partner

Colonel Alexander Carey McAlister and his wife, Adelaide Cornelia Worth McAlister, Worth's daughter, added an Eastlake-style porch and a polygonal-bay dining room. The entrance hall, parlor and music room were enhanced with walnut wainscoting. Garlands of flowers, centered around a plaster rosette which held a brass chandelier, adorned the entrance ceiling. A most interesting feature of the house was a secret staircase, accessed through a wardrobe, which McAlister, according to local tradition, used to escape the Yankees during the Civil War.

McAlister succeeded Col. William L. Sanders in command of the 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina Regiment of the Confederate army after attaining the rank of lieutenant colonel in the 46<sup>th</sup> Regiment, NC Infantry, in the Army of Virginia. He was acclaimed for his "cool courage under fire." Later in life, he was chairman of the Randolph Democratic Party for 25 years, chairman of the Randolph County Board of Education, and one of the

*continued on next page*

# New Seagrove library draws crowds

♣ A dramatic increase in use of the Seagrove Public Library has borne out the need for the new library building that opened a year ago.

Statistics from the fiscal year that ended June 30 show a 77 percent increase in the number of visits to the library and a 45 percent increase in the number of items checked out compared to the previous year, the library's last in the cinderblock Seagrove Grange building that housed it for 30 years.

The number of people who obtained library cards jumped by almost 20 percent over the previous year, and requests for reference assistance skyrocketed 76 percent.

The figures compare to a 2.4 percent increase in visits for the Randolph County Public Library system overall, a 2 percent decrease in the number of items checked out and a



**The Seagrove Public Library holds its grand opening on October 15, 2005.**

seven percent increase in the number of library cards issued.

The Randolph County Board of Commissioners provided \$750,000 for construction of the new building on land donated by the Randolph County Schools. Seagrove area donors and other library supporters funded furnishings and enhancements.

The 5,000 square-foot facility was an expanded version of the Archdale Public Library as built in 1992. The City of Archdale donated the blueprint, and architect Dean Spinks donated the site plan.

## Noted house occupied library site

(continued from previous page)

original trustees of State Normal College. One of the McAlister sons, Alexander, was instrumental in founding Pilot Life Insurance Company, developing Irving Park and Sedgefield country clubs in Greensboro. Their daughter, May, was a charter member of Randolph Book Club, Asheboro's first such organization.

The inspiration for this column came from the library's newest employee, Brad Foley, who holds masters degrees in history and library science. He is in the process of transcribing the letters

that McAlister and his wife wrote to each other during the Civil War. He plans to have these letters published in a year or so. Later this month, McFarland Company will publish a book which Brad co-authored with J. Timothy Cole entitled *Collett Leventhorpe: The English Confederate*. Leventhorpe was General of the NC Home Guard and was involved in the roundup of deserters in Randolph County in 1864. (Brad also has received an award from the North Carolina Genealogical Society for another project — see the story below).

## Better calls

Telephone notification about items you have on hold should be easier on the ears from now on. The message has been re-recorded by the vendor, and glitches such as garbled library names and wrong held-until dates have been fixed.

## Seagrove seeks

The Seagrove library is seeking newspaper articles about the Seagrove area. A display of donated articles has garnered so much interest that the library would like to add to the collection.

For further information or to submit an article, contact branch Manager Barbara Luther at 873-7521.

## Asheboro Reads

Next up for Asheboro Reads is *Evensong* by Gail Godwin, 2-3:30 p.m. Tuesday, November 28. There's no meeting in December, but the title for January 30 is *Labyrinth* by Kate Mosse. Asheboro Reads meets at the Asheboro library on the last Tuesday of each month.

## Book sale

The Friends of the Library book sale will take place from 9-3 p.m. Saturday, November 25 at the Friends Book Store off the Asheboro Public Library parking lot.

## Foley receives state genealogical award for newspaper index

Reference librarian Brad Foley has received a North Carolina Genealogical Society Excellence in Publishing award for *The Greensboro Patriot Index: 1847 to*

*1856*, which Brad created while a staff member at the Greensboro Public Library. Brad also authored two previous volumes indexing the newspaper from 1826 to 1846.

# 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:

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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

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Renewals..... 318-6801

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

Randolph Room..... 318-6815

Reference & Information.. 318-6800

## memorials & donations

**In Memory of: William Hayworth Alcon**  
By: Roy and Joyce Garner  
Leo and Jane Layne  
Neighbors of Ronnie and Kathi Sewell

**In Memory of: Francis J. "Nos" Alman**  
By: Inez C. Spence

**In Memory of: Inez Wrenn Coward**  
By: Sally Brady

**In Memory of: J. Paul Cox**  
By: Asheboro Library Staff

**In Memory of: Bob Edward Croft**  
By: Hal and Marion Davis

**In Memory of: Raymond Francis O'Brien, Jr.**  
By: Asheboro Reads

**In Memory of: Margery Edwards Ross**  
By: Arthur Ross III

**In Memory of: Sudie Zelda Morgan Smith**  
By: Circulation Department-Randolph Public  
Library

**In Honor of: Gordon Brady, Jr.**  
By: Sally Hart Brady

**In Honor of: Cara Clark**  
By: JoAnne Luck and Rebecca York

**In Honor of: Maggie Jane Kern**  
By: Ashlyn Trotter

**In Honor of : Maggie Grace Lowe**  
By: Ashlyn and Kearns Trotter

**In Honor of: Suzanne Tate**  
By: Ramseur Library Board of Trustees and  
Library Staff

**In Honor of: Richard Wells**  
By: Ramseur Library Board of Trustees and  
Library Staff