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NEWS

Volume XVI No. 4 • October 2007



The Whynot Minstrel Troupe will perform at 7 p.m. Thursday, November 8, at the Asheboro library.

Whynot Minstrels to bring back folk

♣ The Whynot Minstrel Troupe will return with a unique blend of folk, oldies, gospel and pop at 7 p.m. Thursday, November 8, at the Asheboro Public Library.

The performance, sponsored by the Friends of the Library, is free and the public is invited.

Organized by Whynot resident Bob Vetera, the group specializes in close harmonies accompanied by guitars. Members are Vetera, Connie Vetera, Lenny Brooks, Richard Church, Carol Church and Willia Perry.

The 90-minute, 26-song set will include songs from the 1940s to the 1970s such as "Sweet Georgia Browne," "Oh, Pretty Woman," "Que Sera Sera," "Stand By Your Man," "When Irish Eyes are Smiling," "Just a Closer Walk with Thee," "How Much is that Doggie in the Window," and more.

"...and the award goes to..."

Wells, library, Friends win statewide recognition

♣ County Manager and former Library Director Richard Wells has received lifetime achievement awards from two statewide library organizations, and programming by the library and the Friends of the Library continues to gain recognition.

Wells received the North Carolina Library Association (NCLA) Life Membership Award at the association's biennial conference in Hickory this month. The award is given to librarians no longer in the profession whose contributions to the state and the profession were especially notable.

Wells also will receive the North Carolina Public Library Directors Association (NCPLDA) Lifetime Achievement Award at the organization's meeting in November. The award recognizes a library director retiring or leaving the public library profession who has, by his or her creativity, fidelity, leadership and professionalism, increased the quality of library service to all patrons in his or her community.

"Race to the Library," staff development

The directors' organization also will recognize the "Race to the Library" library card registration



Richard Wells

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RCPC, library to begin "Raising a Reader" program — see page 2

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*from
the
director*



Library, RCPC to help raise readers

♣ **The Randolph County Partnership for Children has received one of 5 Raising a Reader Grants awarded in 14 North Carolina counties for fiscal years 2007-2008 and 2008-2009.**

Raising a Reader is a national program which began in 1999 in Silicon Valley to promote literacy through the introduction of books into the homes of low income families where parents may be poor readers or do not speak English well and have children 3 to 5 years of age.

Raising a Reader works through existing community networks, such as RCPC, the library and child care centers to coach parents and children in a "read aloud" strategy designed to improve literacy skills, make children lifelong readers and encourage them to become regular library users.

The coordinator, key to the success of the program, will be based here at the library under the guidance of the Extension Department. The Extension Department has been providing outreach to children in Randolph County for over 60 years and to child care centers for over 32 years.

The 20 hour a week coordinator will rotate a set of 26 numbered bright red book bags, each filled with four award winning titles, on a weekly basis to over 150 children in qualifying child care centers. Children take these bags home

to share with parents. Having completed the 26 week rotation, each child will receive his or her very own blue canvas bag to take on visits to the library.

The coordinator also is charged with training child care center professionals in the "read aloud" technique to stimulate brain development and language acquisition. These professionals then train the participating parents.

Charlotte Routh, Supervisor of the Extension Department, is excited about the opportunity to participate in this pilot program. "In preparation for this grant, we were reminded that Randolph County has a lower than state average educational attainment rate and higher than average high school drop out rate. It surprised us to learn that in a US Department of Education study in 1996, 61 percent of low income families had no children's books in the home. With this program, participating children will have books to take home, read with parents and have the responsibility of returning. Reading aloud to children from birth is the single most important activity for building skills essential for reading success. For child care centers that meet the requirements of the grant, this is also a wonderful opportunity for them."

Funding for the first year of the program is being provided by the Duke Energy Foundation.

Charlotte Routh contributed to this column.

**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.

Suzanne Tate, Director • Ann Pugh, President, Friends of the Library • Ross Holt, Editor
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Meeting Ms. Maron

On an Asheboro Reads field trip to UNC-Greensboro, Eleanor Herrick, Kari Baumann and Betty Reed hobnob with mystery author Margaret Maron (second from right).

Wells, Friends, library get awards

continued from page 1

campaign of September 2006 with an award for Outstanding Public Relations Project, medium-sized libraries.

"Get A Clue' Staff," a progressive luncheon in April 2007 in which staff from throughout the library system visited all the libraries to learn about each one's planned Summer Reading Program activities, will receive a NCPLDA Outstanding Staff Development Program award, medium-sized libraries.

Friends garner acclaim

Meanwhile, the Friends of the Library received the Frances B. Reid Award from the Friends of North Carolina Public Libraries, the umbrella organization for the state's local

Friends groups, for programming including the Teen Corner project and a luncheon featuring literature maven Elliott Engel.

The award recognizes exemplary performance by a Friends group in such areas as special programming, membership drives, fund drives, library advocacy or volunteerism.

Teen Corner

In another nod for the Teen Corner, promotional material created by graphic artist Brian Shearer and teen services librarian Amy Keith Barney received an honorable mention in the State Library of North Carolina's "Swap and Chat," an event held at the NCLA conference that enables libraries to share copies of their promotional material with their colleagues.

Summer Reading scores with kids

♣ More than 3,000 kids checked out 41,402 books during the mystery-themed 2007 Summer Reading Program, "Get a Clue @ Your Library."

A total of 3,044 children signed up at the seven libraries, and 2,452 read a pre-established number of books,

pages or hours, depending on the library, to complete the program. The children reported having read for a total of 13,310 hours.

Meanwhile, the libraries hosted 248 programs with a total audience of 10,032.

During the first year of the Teen Summer Reading Program, 69 teens signed up and completed the program.

Coming up...

The Hospice of Randolph Festival of Trees will again take root at the Asheboro library, from November 16-December 2, and will include a number of events in between.

Lane Ragsdale will return for a holiday concert in mid-December.

Look for details on these and other events in next month's newsletter.

Computer class

Asheboro library computer classes take place at 9:30 a.m. Thursdays and occasional Saturdays. The free classes alternate among basic Internet, email, advanced Internet/NC LIVE, Word and PowerPoint. Classes in Spanish are available on request. Space in each class is limited; to sign up, call 318-6800 option 4.

Asheboro Reads

Next up for Asheboro Reads is *The Camel Bookmobile* by Masha Hamilton, 2:30 p.m. Tuesday, October 30; for November 27 it's *Consequences* by Penelope Lively.

Book sale

The Friends of the Library book sale will take place from 9-3 p.m. Saturday, October 27, at the Friends Book Store off the Asheboro Public Library parking lot.

Rotary Club donates book in honor of former District Governor Morris

The Randolph Rotary Club has donated a copy of *A Century of Service: The Story of Rotary International*, signed by author David C. Forward, in honor of Phil

Morris. Morris, assistant director of the High Point Public Library from 1976-1999, was 2005-2006 District Governor of Rotary District 7690.

Friends of the Randolph Public Library

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In Honor of: Juanita J. Kesler
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In Honor of: Jonna Libbert
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In Honor of: Phil Morris
By: Randolph Rotary Club

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