RANDOLPH COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY *news*

Randolph County
Serving with Heart from the
Heart of North Carolina

Every **CHILD**
Ready to **READ**
@ your library

randolphlibrary.org

Click and Collect
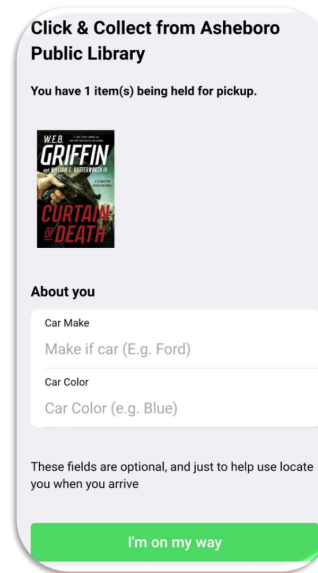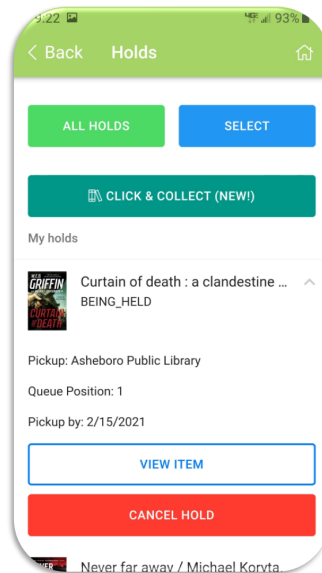## *Enhancement to library mobile app makes picking up requested items easier*

♣ **A new feature of the Randolph County Public Library mobile app makes arranging a pickup of books or other held items a snap.**

"Click and Collect" enables users who have been notified that requested items are available to alert the library when they are ready to pick up their items.

Library staff then will have the items checked out and ready to go when the user arrives — and can be alerted, either by click or automatically via GPS, when the user pulls up at the library.

The new service is available at all seven libraries.

The mobile app can be found in the Apple and Google Play (Android) app stores (search for Randolph County Public Library). Through it, users can search the catalog and place holds, and download ebooks and e-audiobooks. They can also access their accounts to manage holds and renewals, among other features.

To use Click and Collect, users go to the requested items in their holds list that are ready for pick-up, and press the Click and Collect button. Users can describe their vehicle for library staff.

After pressing the "I'm on my way" button, the user can provide the library with an estimated time of arrival and press an "I'm Here" button on arrival, or let GPS do it if it is enabled on the user's device.

For those already using the library app, the app must be updated before Click and Collect appears; find the update in the app stores. Click and Collect also is available for use with web browsers at librarycollect.com/

E-magazine collection goes into OverDrive

♣ **The library's e-magazine collection is moving to the OverDrive/Libby platform.**

The collection already is available through OverDrive and its Libby app, but also remains on the former RB Digital (ZINIO) platform through March 31. After that date, the magazines will be available solely though OverDrive/Libby.

The move is the completion of a shift begun last summer when the two companies merged and consolidated all digital media in OverDrive.

The library's e-magazine collection includes current and back issues of over magazine 3,000 titles accessible via the Libby App or the web from iPads/tablets, phones and desktop/laptop computers. Titles include *US Weekly*, *National Geographic*, *Good Housekeeping*, *Vanity Fair*, *Rolling Stone* and more.

All magazines are available for simultaneous use, so there's no waiting on hold for an issue.

Find the Libby app in your app store — versions are available for Apple and Android devices.

Library gets Chromebooks for student check-out — see back page

from the director
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Ross A. Holt
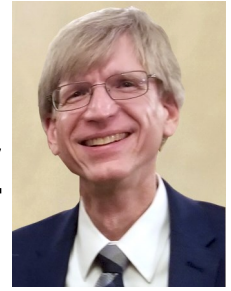
No bridge too far

♣ **If there's anything that the move to remote learning during the pandemic has brought into stark relief, it's the "digital divide."**

That's the gap between those who have access to robust broadband and devices capable of completing necessary tasks online, and those who don't.

In many cases, the divide is due to individuals' inability to afford services. Sometimes it's a skills gap. It can be geographic, with Internet service to rural areas often not cost-effective for providers to construct.

The gap hit home anew for us when our Parents as Teachers (PAT) coordinators reported that half the families they serve lacked a smartphone or tablet to get the most out now-virtual home visits. Thanks to the recent SLNC CARES grant, PAT now has 20 iPads on loan to those families.

The digital divide is not new; it has been around as long as the Internet has been widely available. Libraries have been on the forefront of efforts to bridge the divide.

We began offering public Internet in mid-1998. The need was such that our door count increased 48 percent within one year. For the next 10 or more years, we also offered computing and Internet classes that almost always were full.

When the Great Recession hit, layoffs drove jobseekers to the library in great numbers; many lacked basic familiarity with computers so our staff shifted to in-depth one-on-one instruction at the point of need. As the recession settled in 2009-2010, some 500 people were using our computers each day.

At about that time, a shift from desktop computers to personal devices — laptops, tablets and phones — caused us to deploy WiFi networks, and to add electrical outlets and rearrange seating to be near them.

Despite all those efforts, not everyone on the "have not" side of the digital divide has the ability to visit a library. Since 2018, we have circulated mobile hotspots; to date our 10 hotspots have checked out 361 times, with an always lengthy waiting list.

(Interestingly, 18 percent of the checkouts were through the Liberty library and 11 percent through Seagrove, suggesting areas of significant need in those parts of the county).

With the shift to remote learning, efforts statewide to address the digital divide have accelerated. Each of our libraries recently became hosts for robust parking lot WiFi through the NC Student Connect program.

We also have received three Chromebooks for check-out to students as part of the BAND-NC initiative. Spearheaded locally by Randolph County Cooperative Extension Director Kenny Sherin, the project also is providing Chromebooks for students in the Randolph County School System and the YMCA's Y-Academy (see back page for more on the initiative).

The project also will include creation of a Digital Inclusion Plan to help equalize access in Randolph County.

When it comes to bridging the digital divide, there's no bridge too far.

Asheboro offers St. Patrick's Day crafts

And other events around the county...

♣ **A lucky leprechaun left behind St. Patrick Day treat bags at the Asheboro library — and now the library is making them available to kids during the month of March.**

The bags include a rainbow craft, treats, a scavenger hunt and more. It's free fun for the whole family.

No sign-up is required; the bags will be available during regular library hours beginning March 8, and are best for ages three and up. Limit one per child please.

More take home crafts

The March round of take home craft kits at Liberty and Randleman include activities for children and teens/adults.

In Randleman, anyone age 16 and up can make a set of cork coasters for those cold summer drinks. Teens ages 11-15 can create and explore wind chimes; those who check out a book and submit a review will have a chance to win a weather station STEM kit. "March Madness: Seuss on the Loose" is the Activity Pack for children K-8th grade.

Call the library at 336-498-3141 to sign up for a kit.

In Liberty, teens and adults can make clay-based seed bombs to create a wildflower garden in fields and hard-to-reach areas of their yards. Children and families can create a string art flower card.

Pick up kits in the yellow bin to the left of the book drop.

Windy Days in Seagrove

Explore kites and the wind that makes them soar with the Seagrove Public Library. Look for a virtual storytime at facebook.com/seagrovepubliclibrary and a fun craft to pick up curbside during the month of March.

Franklinville book sale

Pick up an old favorite or a new classic at the Franklinville library's Sidewalk Book Sale, March 14-18 outside the library.

Library TikTok

The Randolph County Public Library now has a presence on the social video sharing site TikTok to enhance outreach to teens and tweens.

Staff will post at least weekly; find us at RandolphCountyLib.

Library Facebook Pages

Randolph County Public Library: facebook.com/randolphlibrary
Archdale: facebook.com/archdalelibrary
Franklinville: facebook.com/fvlibrary
Liberty: facebook.com/LibertyNCLibrary
Ramseur: facebook.com/RamseurLibrary
Randleman: facebook.com/randlemanpubliclibrary
Seagrove: facebook.com/seagrovepubliclibrary

Liberty library to ask, "She Did What?"

♣ **Live via Zoom, the Liberty library will present "'She Did What?': Wild and Fascinating Women from History" at 3 p.m. Thursday, March 18.**

Join a discussion about women from American history with museum curators and scholars who study objects made by women, events influenced by women and particular trailblazers from our past.

The meeting ID is 977 4704 6900, and the passcode is 629770.

Email library@townoflibertync.org for more information.

Virtual Book Clubs

Asheboro: *The Girl in White Gloves* by Kerri Maher, 6:30-8 p.m. Thursday, March 25.

To sign up and receive a meeting link, contact Meghan Carter, mcarter@randolphlibrary.org. You will receive a link to the conference.

Liberty: *Unbelievable: The Story of Two Detectives' Relentless Search for the Truth* by T. Christian Miller and Ken Armstrong, at 6 p.m. Thursday, March 18. Email library@townoflibertync.org for a link to the live, interactive discussion, and call 336-622-4605 or stop by the library for a copy of the book.

Podcast returns

The library's "Dave and the Borrowers" podcast returns in late February, featuring a talk with Lisa Hayworth, executive director of the Randolph Partnership for Children.

The podcast reflects on questions of history, literacy, current events and librarianship. Listen via your favorite podcast service or at Dave-and-the-borrowers.simplecast.com.

Initiative yields Chromebooks for checkout

♣ **Grants obtained by Randolph County Cooperative Extension will provide the library with three Google Chromebooks for checkout to students.**

The grants, one for $5,000 from the BAND-NC initiative and another $5,000 from the Southern Rural Development Center, also will provide another 20 laptops to the Randolph County School System and the Randolph-Asheboro YMCA Y-Academy.

The effort, spearheaded by Cooperative Extension Director Kenneth Sherin, is intended to ensure that as many county students as possible have access to the tools they need to succeed in a remote learning environment.

Sherin reported in his grant proposal that eight percent of county students lacked broadband access to the Internet, and 34 percent lacked adequate devices.

The project also will include development of a local Digital Inclusion Plan.

The Chromebooks received by the library will help spur technology lending initiatives, says Library Director Ross Holt. The library began lending laptops in-house in 2019, with an eye toward eventually expanding the program to external lending.
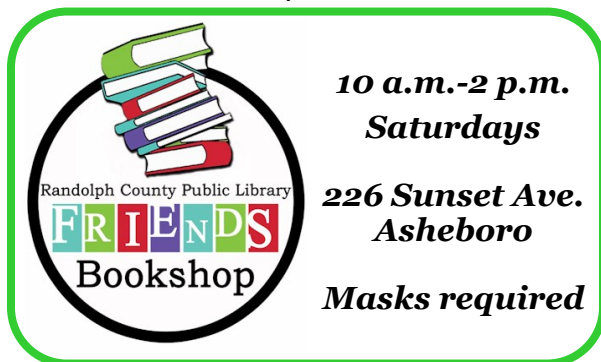
BAND-NC (Building a New Digital Economy in NC) is an initiative of the Institute for Emerging Issues at North Carolina State University.

Randolph County Public Library

201 Worth Street

Asheboro, NC 27203

Return Service Requested

Randolph County Public Library
FRIENDS Bookshop

10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Saturdays

226 Sunset Ave.
Asheboro

Masks required

memorials & donations

In Memory of: Our Parents — Gordon L. Brady Sr. & Sally H. Brady
By: Celeste Brady Byrnes and Gordon L. Brady, Jr.

In Memory of: Vivian Burress
By: Peter and Deloris Peterson

In Memory of: Bruce Davis
By: Claire and J.B. Davis

In Memory of: Janice Kivett Frazier
By: Ramseur High School Class of 1954

In Memory of: Maebelle Jessup Lord
By: Diane and Steve Wrenn

In Memory of: Jo Anne Wright Luck
By: Ramseur High School Class of 1954

In Memory of: Marjean Lane McDonald
By : Ramseur High School Class of 1954
Bill & Emily Johnson

In Memory of: Evangeline Parks
By: Ann Mc Glohon

In Honor of: Extension Services
By: Ruth Emery

In Honor of: Sandra Livingston
By: Ann Mc Glohon

To the Friends of the Library

In Memory of: Christopher Humphrey
By: Hurleen Maffett

To the Friends of the Library
By: Charles and Susan Swiers