



Storywalks debut in Franklinville, Liberty

♣ Children visiting parks in Franklinville and Liberty can burnish their early literacy skills with the debut of library Storywalks in May and June.

"A Storywalk is a unique way to read a book," says Franklinville/Seagrove Library Manager Charity Neave Johnson, who spearheaded the project. "Two pages of a picture book are posted 20-30 feet apart. Readers walk from one to the next, getting a snippet of the story each time. In this way reading becomes an active experience that is engaging for children and adults."

The Franklinville installation, winding through Riverside Park along the Deep River, will kick off with a Storywalk Festival from 1-3 p.m. Saturday, May 21, with music, face-painting, activity stations and tasty treats. Magician Fish the Magish will make an appearance at 3 p.m. Each child who completes all the activities can enter to win a scooter.

Liberty will kick off its Storywalk in Paul Henry Smith Park as part of a community Juneteenth celebration from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, June 19, with vendors, food, music, games and prizes.

The first book in the Franklinville Storywalk will be *Pete the Cat: I Love My White Shoes* by Eric Litwin and James and Kimberly Dean. In Liberty, it's *Hello Ocean* by Pamela Muñoz Ryan.

New books will be placed in the Storywalk panels monthly. The panels also will include information about early literacy and resources in Randolph County. All books will be presented in bilingual English/Spanish format.

The project is a partnership between the library, the Randolph County Partnership for Children, and the towns



Franklinville/Seagrove libraries manager Charity Neave Johnson with a storywalk panel in Riverside Park on the Deep River in Franklinville.

of Franklinville and Liberty, and is funded with a \$12,000 Library Services and Technology Act grant.

This grant is made possible by funding from the federal Institute of Library and Museum Services (IMLS) under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) as administered by the State Library of North Carolina, a division of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (IMLS grant number LS-250229-OLS-21).

In the coming year, additional Storywalks around the county are anticipated.

Community Navigator program launches

Need help finding help? Reach out to the Randolph County Public Libraries Community Navigators, veteran social workers who can guide you to local resources that can help with needs such as housing and rent, food and clothing, employment, child support, child development, medical/mental health assistance and more. Call 336-318-6825 or email navigators@randolphlibrary.org, or contact your local library. The navigator program is a partnership among the library, the Randolph Partnership for Children, the Randolph County Department of Social Services, and Randolph County Public Health.



Navigators Angi Polito and Dana Nance, both veteran social workers.

Archdale

336-431-3811
Fax 336-431-4619
10433 S. Main St.
Mon-Thur 9-8;
Fri 9-6; Sat 9-1

Asheboro

336-318-6800
Fax 336-318-6823
201 Worth St.
Mon-Thur 9-9; Fri 9-6;
Sat 9-1

Randolph Room

336-318-6815
Mon-Fri 9-5:30
Sat 9-12:30

Franklinville

336-685-3100
111 Sumner Place
Mon-Thur 10-6; Sun 1-5

Liberty

336-622-4605
Fax 336-622-2665
239 S. Fayetteville St.
Mon-Tues 9-7
Wed-Fri 9-5
Sat 9-3

Ramseur

336-824-2232
Fax 336-824-2232
1512 S. Main St.
Mon-Fri 9-5
Sat 9-1

Randleman

336-498-3141
Fax 336-498-1139
142 W. Academy St.
Mon-Fri 9-6;
Sat 9-1

Seagrove

336-873-7521
530 Old Plank Rd.
Tues-Fri 10-6; Sat 11-3

Extension Service

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

*from
the
director*

Ross A. Holt



Strieby dedicates Literary Landmark

♣ **Randolph County is now the home of a Literary Landmark — one of only two in North Carolina and some 120 in the nation.**

The landmark is the Strieby Church and community in southwestern Randolph County, for its association with the Rev. Islay Walden. Becoming free of enslavement after the Civil War, Walden walked from Randolph County to Washington, D.C., to gain an education and get treatment for his bad eyesight.

In addition to being ordained as a minister, he became a poet of note before returning to Randolph County to establish a church, school and post office in the community of color then known as Hill Town. Walden adopted the name Strieby in honor of a Congregational Church leader.

I was honored to be invited to be the keynote speaker at a ceremony on Saturday, April 9, to dedicate the landmark. It was a wonderful event presided over by Margo Lee Williams, author of a recent biography of Walden and two other books about the community, its notable historical figures, and their descendants.

Margo pursued the Literary Landmark Designation, which is awarded by United for Libraries, the division of the American Library Association for Friends, trustees and foundations.

The afternoon included a blessing of the landmark dedication marker. Asheboro author Thomas Rush, a Walden descendant, delivered a thoughtful and moving reflection on behalf of the family.



Strieby Church trustee Elbert Lassiter (right) reads the Literary Landmark Designation as Bishop David Miller and historian Margo Lee Williams stand by.

Recitations of poems by Walden, including “Cast Your Cares Upon the Lord” and “Call to Sabbath School,” punctuated each section of the program.

Strieby descendant Sojourner Kincaid Rolle, Poet Laureate Emerita of the City of Santa Barbara, California, pre-recorded an original poem for the event, “The Promised Land.” The Promised Land School was the original name of the school founded by Walden at Strieby.

Strieby descendants and area residents packed the small, hilltop church. Magnolia 23 provided a generous spread in the Fellowship Hall after the ceremony as neighbors gathered for conversation.

The Strieby story is a little-known but important part of Randolph County history, and as I said in my talk, we owe Margo a debt of gratitude for shining a light on it.

Strieby is a Randolph County Cultural Heritage Site; learn more about it at randolphlibrary.org/hlpc/strieby. Find out more about Literary Landmarks at tinyurl.com/litlandm.

Learn about bearded irises, garden wildlife management, in library classes

♣ **Learn about wildlife management in your garden or yard at the Asheboro library, and about bearded irises at Archdale, in upcoming classes.**

Asheboro will offer **Wildlife Management in Your Landscape** at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 10, with Horticultural Agent Annie Mills of Randolph County Cooperative Extension. Learn the basics of creating healthy wildlife habitat strategies for reducing damage from animals commonly encountered in lawns, gardens and landscapes.

The discussion will cover attracting animals like songbirds, small mammals and amphibians, while managing damage from

deer, moles, voles, birds and other animals.

Archdale will offer **Bearded Irises for the Home Landscape** at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, May 26, with Master Gardener Heather Haley.

Learn the basics of properly planting and caring for irises in the home landscape. This perennial plant is typically low maintenance, will re-bloom year after year, and comes in many colors and forms making them a rewarding addition to any landscape.

Attendees will receive an invitation to join the American Iris Society at a reduced rate and can pick up a free iris at the Cooperative Extension office located at 1003 S Fayetteville Street, Asheboro.

Liberty to host 'Free Comic Book Day' and more activities at libraries around the county

♣ **The Liberty library will promote literacy and diverse stories through comic books and graphic novels during a "Free Comic Book Day," 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, May 7.**

Featuring comic book giveaways, crafts, activities and more, the day is intended to dispel the myth that comics and graphic novels are not valuable for reading and development of literacy skills.

In fact, they often have a higher vocabulary than some "regular" books, and were some of the first places that brought diverse characters to a broader audience.

Asheboro adds storytimes

Tuesday storytimes for ages 0-6 at the Asheboro library are so popular that the Children's Room is adding one on Wednesdays during May. Storytimes now will take place on both days at 10 a.m.

May Day Giving Baskets

Celebrate the tradition of giving a May Day Giving Basket with a craft bag from the Asheboro Children's Room. From Monday, May 2, to Saturday, May 14, pick up a bag with all the pieces necessary to create a Giving Basket to fill with goodies for your family, friends or neighbors. Best for ages four and up.

Hatching Eggs

School age kids can learn about chick incubation at the Seagrove and Franklinville libraries in May. Set eggs in an incubator at 4 p.m. Tuesday, May 3 in Seagrove, and follow their progress at @sgpubliclibrary on Instagram and Facebook, or on the library's website. Watch them hatch at 4 p.m. Tuesday, May 24 in Seagrove. The chicks will be on display Tuesday-Friday, May 24-27 at Seagrove, and Tuesday-Wednesday, May 31-June 1, at Franklinville.



Book discussions

Asheboro Reads: *The Water Dancer* by Ta-Nehisi Coates, 2 p.m. Tuesday, May 31.

Archdale Book Break: *Queen Bee* by Dorothea Benton Frank, 2 p.m. Tuesday, May 17.

Book Bites (Archdale): Talk about the most exciting or interesting book you have read lately; share a second if time permits. A list of all books shared will be posted online for reading inspiration. 2 p.m. Tuesday, May 10.

Liberty Book Club: *I'll Be Gone in the Dark* by Michelle McNamara, 6:30 p.m. Thursday, May 19. Call 336-622-4605 or stop by the library for copies of the book.

Computer classes

Learn about the **Android OS** smartphone operating system in classes at 3 p.m. Wednesday, May 18 or 10:30 a.m. Monday, May 23, at the Asheboro library.

Powerpoint classes will be offered at 10:30 a.m. Monday, May 9, or 3 p.m. Wednesday, May 25.

Call 336-318-6803 to register or for more info.

Hub editor Ray Criscoe sits down with Dave and the Borrowers

Veteran journalist Ray Criscoe, editor of the *Randolph Hub*, sits down one-on-one with Dave of the *Dave and the Borrowers* podcast for a new installment debuting May 26. The two

will talk about what the future of community journalism looks like.

Find the podcast at dave-and-the-borrowers.simplecast.com, and on your favorite podcast platforms.

Hicks, Manring to return with Irish, American folk tunes

♣ Join Travis and Amelia Hicks and Scott Manring for an evening of Irish and American folk music on a mix of string and wind instruments at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 24, at the Asheboro library.

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

Hicks, a professor of interior architecture at UNCG, will return for an encore performance on the Irish bagpipes and tin whistles, with daughter Amelia on guitar. They will be joined by Scott Manring, a Triad multi-instrumentalist, teacher, and performer on a variety of string instruments.

In addition to his academic pursuits, Hicks grew up playing piano and singing in church. Inspired by Irish piper Paddy Moloney of The Chieftans, he took up traditional Irish music.



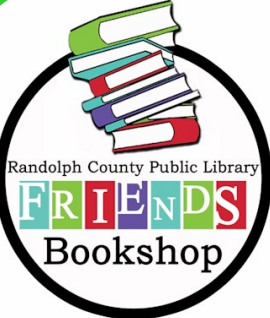
Travis Hicks

Randolph County Public Libraries

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Asheboro, NC 27203

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10 a.m.-2 p.m.
**Tuesdays,
Thursdays,
Saturdays**
**226 Sunset Ave.
Asheboro**
Masks optional

memorials & donations

In Memory of Susan D. Coltrane

By: Sue Pugh

Ramseur Library Staff & Friends (Sandy Jarrell, Tammy Crofts, Sandra Livingston)

In Memory of Felicia Cox Hayes & Brad Cox

By: Ray & Cheryl Isley

In Memory of Flossie Kidd Ferree

By: Wally & Sandy Jarrell

In Memory of Pat Pate

By: Bobby & Denise Lowe-Burgess

In Memory of Louise Wright

By: Bobby & Denise Lowe-Burgess

In Memory of Judy Elsner Maness

By: Wally & Sandy Jarrell

Justin & Jennie Jarrell Santiano

In Memory of Evan Michael Jessup

By: Ramseur Library Staff & Friends (Sandy Jarrell, Tammy Crofts, Sandra Livingston)

In Memory of: Janice Walton

By: Joan Allred

To: Asheboro Public Library

By: Shirley Harrington

In Honor of: Ralph Hardison

By: Jennifer and Brett Walters

In Honor: Shirley Lane

By: Bobby & Denise Lowe-Burgess

In Honor of Story Time Kids

By: Ron Roguski & Emily Thompson

In Honor of Summer Readers

By: Coleridge Lions Club

Jean Vollrath

We remember retired librarian Jean Vollrath, who passed away on March 30. Jean served as Digital Literacy Librarian and head of Extension Services.