



Comic-Con!

Second annual comic convention returns to Asheboro library

♣ Fans of comic books, pop culture, anime and superheroes are invited to the second annual Randolph County Public Libraries Comic-Con, 9 a.m.-noon Saturday, May 18, at the Asheboro library

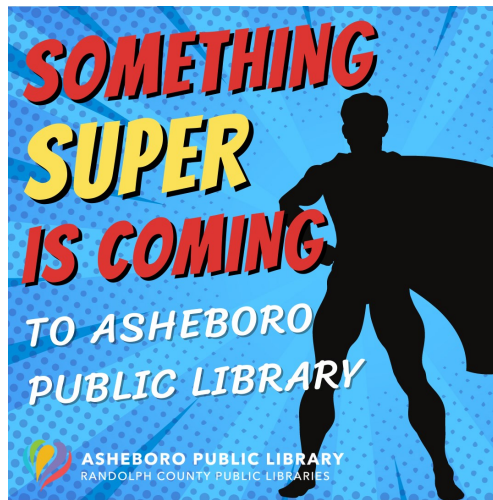
Hosted by Asheboro library Youth Services, the all-ages, family-friendly event will feature 15 comic book authors, illustrators and other creators who will demonstrate their techniques and display their work, which will be available for purchase.

Booths will include original art, rare comics, and related merchandise. There will be a special effects makeup demo, and photo ops with the Ghost Busters vehicle and the Andy Griffith car.

The event will include an origami demo at 10 a.m. and an anime character drawing demo at 11 a.m. Dress as a favorite character or superhero for a costume contest; judging by age categories will take place at 11:30 a.m.

Artists, authors and others participating include:

- Victoria Aldridge — Andy Griffith car;
- Central North Carolina Ghostbusters — cosplay fan group with Ghostbusters car;
- Chris Gairrusso — writer and illustrator of the G-Man graphic novel series;
- Dan Johnson — writer and editor at RedLine Comics



Studio and Comic-Con emcee;

- Jo Knorpp and Fern Singleton, artwork and demonstrations;
- Marshall Lakes — art demonstrations;
- Angela Lombardo — young adult fantasy author of *The Katori Chronicles*;
- Jennifer McCollom — film makeup artist (*Hunger Games*) offering special effects makeup demos;
- Hector Miray — books, stickers, merch focused on spiritual themes in geek culture;

- Rich Powell, artist and illustrator known for his *Mad Magazine* and *Highlights* work, “Wide Open” comic strip, and new book *Ignore This Singing Pig*;
- Chris Rigo — comic books, retro video games and toys;
- Gene Shanks — cartoonist, author of self-published comic series, sketches by request;
- Brian “Smitty” Smith — former Marvel and DC Comics editor, and author of *Pea, Bee and Jay* graphic novels;
- Casey Strothman-Evans — pop culture custom creations;
- Xela Strothman-Evans — digital art and hand-painted 3D prints.

Also present will be library Youth Services staff from Asheboro, Archdale and Liberty to promote the “Adventure Begins at Your Library” summer reading initiative.



We're listening –
TELL US HOW WE'RE DOING!

Take a BRIEF SURVEY at
Randolphlibrary.org/survey24 or scan the QR code.



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 9-12:30; 1:30-5:30
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 9-6
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

The library as place

♣ As you've no doubt been alerted to by our ubiquitous cute pup with his ear perked up, we're listening!

April is the month when we ask for formal feedback from our users about the library and its services via our annual Patron Satisfaction Survey.

Please take the survey at www.randolphlibrary.org/survey24. It helps us chart a course for the library, and enables us to take the pulse of our community.

The image accompanying this column is a "word cloud" from last year's survey, a graphic representation of the frequency with which individual words appeared among the comments made by over 300 respondents. Words you would expect to see (and that we hope appear!) immediately pop: books, staff, helpful, friendly.

There's another big word in the lower right corner, though, that ought to be highlighted:

Place.

As I compiled the responses last year, I noticed the number of comments that began, "The library is a place...."

Here are a few of the continuations:

"...for the community to come together to share resources, information and smiles."

"...where I can discuss books with other readers."



"...for my son to grow and explore. He has made friends and learned about borrowing books."

"...where we can go, find books to escape. A place of quiet in a world of so much noise."

And, "A library is a place to learn to

achieve goals and to be free to live the American Dream."

Closely related was the word "home": "The library feels like home to me. It is a place my family gathers and explores." And, "It does my heart good... it feels like home. I went as a child and still go as a senior citizen."

These concepts are expressed in the idea of a "third place," a term coined by sociologist Ray Oldenburg in 1989. A place that's not home (the first place) and not work or school (the second place), each of which has its own necessities and pressures.

The library is a place to explore, learn, collaborate, meet friends, study, join in a community conversation or convene one of your own, play, work away from "work," escape, or just contemplate. Or something else. A home away from home. No pressure.

Such spaces are essential, Oldenburg says. The library as place is one of our key roles.

Or as one of our survey respondents last year put it, "It is vital to our community and a free society."



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

Ross A. Holt, Director • A. Owen George III, President, Friends of the Library •

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Gem expert to talk about geodes

♣ Learn about “Geodes: The Rocks with a Crystal Surprise Inside” at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 14, at the Asheboro library.

Nondescript on the outside and easily overlooked, geodes once cracked open reveal a glittering array of colorful crystals.

Join Stephen Smith, a lifetime honorary

member of the Greensboro Gem and Mineral Society, to find out how geodes form, what they’re made of, and what you can and can’t find inside them. Smith will have geodes and agate nodules on hand for the audience to hold and examine.

Smith’s talk is free and the public is invited; best for 4th grade and up.

Hannah novel highlights Wall visit ...and more activities around the county

♣ Library book clubs and other local reading groups are focusing on Kristin Hannah’s *The Women* this spring in preparation for a community remembrance of the Vietnam War.

From June 20-23, The Wall That Heals, a three-quarter scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, and a mobile education center, will visit Asheboro on the grounds of South Asheboro Middle School, 523 W. Walker Avenue.

Hosted by Randolph County Veterans Services, the Wall’s visit is its only stop in North Carolina this year.

Hannah’s novel focuses on women who served in the U.S. Army Nurse Corps in Vietnam. Library and community book clubs are reading and discussing it now or have done so recently; in May, Asheboro Reads has added an evening session, and Franklinville and Seagrove library book clubs also will consider it (see “Book Discussions” schedules at right).

Book clubs for kids, teens

Asheboro TeenZone: Bring Your Own Book Club: 4 p.m. Monday, May 6.

Liberty: Manga Meet-Up at the Library, 1 p.m. Saturday, May 18, Ages 11 and up. Crafts, activities, treats and videos related to manga and comic books.

Randleman: Teen Talk Book Club, 3:30

p.m. Friday, May 17, 6th-8th graders. Bring a book you’d like to share with others.

Seagrove: Books and Banter, 4:30 p.m. Thursdays. Meet with other teens to talk about what you’re reading and find new books. Special book discussion: *Healer of Water* by Brian Young, 4:30 p.m. Thursday, May 9.

Successful gardens in Liberty

The Liberty library will host “Walk This Way: Essential Steps for a Successful Garden” at 3 p.m. Thursday, May 9. Join the Master Gardeners of Alamance County to learn about preparing for a successful summer garden bounty.

Watercolor for kids

School age kids in Franklinville and Seagrove can create an abstract painting while learning the basics of color theory in a “Watercolor Class for Kids.” While the art dries, listen to *Monet’s Cat*, a story about the famous French impressionist (and his cat). Seagrove: 4 p.m. Wednesday, May 29. Franklinville: 4 p.m. Thursday, May 30.

Free Comic Book Day

Liberty will celebrate “Free Comic Book Day at the Library!” from 1-3 p.m. Saturday, May 4. Find free comics to take home; meet comic book artists; and dress up as your favorite comic book superhero!



Book discussions

Asheboro Reads, Afternoon Edition: *The Women* by Kristin Hannah, 2 p.m. Tuesday, May 28.

Asheboro Reads, Evening Edition: *The Women* by Kristin Hannah, 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 28.

Archdale Book Break: *The Golden Spoon* by Jessa Maxwell, 2 p.m. Tuesday, May 21.

Franklinville: Snippets Book Club, *The Women* by Kristin Hannah, 12:30 p.m. Monday, May 20.

Liberty Book Club: *Mother Daughter Murder Night* by Nina Simon, 6:30 p.m. Thursday, May 16.

Liberty Readers Meet-Up: *The Mostly True Story of Tanner and Louise* by Colleen Oakley, 1 p.m. Monday, May 13, Liberty Senior Center.

BYO book groups

Talk about books that you’ve read recently.

Archdale: Book Bites, 2 p.m. Tuesday, May 14.

Ramseur Page Turners, 2 p.m. Tuesday, May 7.

Randleman Readers Recommend, 3:30 p.m. Friday, May 3.

Seagrove: Un-Book Club, 6 p.m. Tuesday, May 28. Special this month: *The Women* by Kristin Hannah

Get ‘Intro to Genealogy’ in class

Whether you’re a newcomer to genealogy or have dabbled in family history research, get a comprehensive roadmap to kickstart your exploration in “Introduction to Genealogy: Tracing Your Family History” at 4 p.m. Tuesday,

May 7, and 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 14, at the Asheboro library. Led by Randolph Room Genealogist Kendra Lyons, the sessions will dive into basic concepts, empowering attendees to piece together their family narrative.

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SCAN ME

memorials & donations

In Memory of: Cornelia (Neil) Rankin
 By: Bill and Susan Milner

In Honor of: Ross Holt
 Little Gate Garden Club

To the Friends of the Library

In Honor of: Roy and Joyce Garner
 By: Jerry and Susan King

Archdale slates book sale

♣ Attention all bookworms!

The Archdale library's spectacular Book Sale will take place May 9-11 at the library.

Visit the sale for three days packed with excitement as you browse shelves brimming with treasures from your favorite authors. From gripping mysteries to heartwarming tales, there are books to suit every taste and interest.

And the best part: prices vary and drop daily.

The schedule is as follows:

- **Thursday, May 9**, 9 a.m.-7 p.m., full price for all items, nothing over \$1.
- **Friday, May 10**, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., \$5 for a bag or regular price on individual items.
- **Saturday, May 11**, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m., \$1 per bag.

'Into the Burning Sea'

Researcher Duffus to explore harrowing rescue of NC coast

♣ During World War I, on August 16, 1918, the German submarine U-117 torpedoed the British freighter S.S. Mirlo off the Outer Banks of North Carolina.

As the freighter sank, six courageous Coast Guardsmen of the Chicamacomico Lifeboat Station at Rodanthe, under Capt. John Allen Midgett, sped to the rescue.

The crew's heroic effort to save the lives of the 51 British sailors is the topic of "Into the Burning Sea: the 1918 Rescue of the Miro," a talk by researcher and author Kevin P. Duffus at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 7, at the Asheboro library.

The talk is free and the public is invited.

The Mirlo's cargo was gasoline, forcing the rescuers to enter a hellish inferno of explosions and toxic fumes, and a maze of black smoke, imperiling their lives to save strangers in distress.

Duffus is a noted North Carolina author, filmmaker and



Author, filmmaker and historian Kevin Duffus; Capt. John Allen Midgett of the Chicamacomico Lifeboat Station.



research historian who has made numerous discoveries. At age 17, he found, explored and identified a sunken Confederate gunboat in an eastern North Carolina river.

In 2002, he found the 1853 Cape Hatteras Lighthouse Fresnel lens, missing since the Civil War. His book *The Lost Light: A Civil War Mystery*, tracks the light's 150-year odyssey.

Duffus also is author of *Shipwrecks of the Outer Banks: An Illustrated Guide* and *The Last*

Days of Blackbeard the Pirate. In 2012, he penned *War Zone: World War Two Off the North Carolina Coast*, which won the Willie Parker Peace Award.

Television documentaries he has produced have received the George Foster Peabody Award, the World Hunger Media Award, the Edward R. Murrow Award and the National Education Award.

Named North Carolina Historian of the Year in 2014, Duffus will publish his fifth book, a history of Bald Head Island and Cape Fear, on June 1.

Archdale invites you to 'Bridgerton'

Greetings, dear readers!

Lady Whistledown here, with a most scandalous announcement to brighten your day. It seems our esteemed Archdale library is hosting a Bridgerton-inspired event fit for the most discerning of Regency-era London enthusiasts, at 11 a.m. Saturday, May 25.

Prepare yourselves for a morning of elegant activities and delightful crafts all set within the charming environs of our beloved library. Whether you are a devoted admirer of romance or simply seeking a delightful diversion, this activity promises to captivate hearts and minds alike.

And what's this? Attendees are encouraged to attire themselves in their finest Bridgerton-inspired Regency ensembles, though such dress is by no means mandatory, and prepare for a morning of romance, creativity, and just a hint of scandal.

Join in for an experience that promises to be as enchanting as any of the soirees in the ton. Until then, we bid you adieu, and we eagerly await the whispers of gossip that surely will follow this delightful affair.

Yours, in anticipation,

Lady Whistledown

Liberty to host Storywalk fest at P.H. Smith Park

♣ Celebrate the two-year-old Storywalk at Paul Henry Smith Park in Liberty at a “Storywalk Festival,” 1-3 p.m. Saturday, May 11.

The park is located at 519 W. Brower Avenue.

The celebration encourages people to get outside, enjoy nature and enjoy a book.

Storywalks are panels featuring consecutive pages of a children’s book placed sequentially along an outdoor



Liberty cuts the ribbon to open the Storywalk at Paul Henry Smith Park in June 2022.

path. The Paul Henry Smith Park Storywalk is one of five in the county.

During the celebration, Randolph County Trails Coordinator Mary Joan Pugh will talk about North Carolina’s efforts to be the “Great Trails State.” Other community organizations will be present, and attendees can join in a DIY trail mix activity.

The library also will host a Storywalk Celebration at Freedom

Park on Saturday, June 29. Look for details in next month’s newsletter.

StarLab brings galaxy to Archdale library in May

♣ Step into the enchanting world of astronomy when the StarLab portable planetarium visits the Archdale Library May 14 and 16.

Explore the cosmos through projected images within the immersive environment of the giant, inflatable StarLab dome as follows:

Tuesday, May 14, 6 p.m.: Family event, all ages;

Thursday, May 16, 10 a.m.: Storytime with StarLab (ages 0-6);

Thursday, May 16, 4 p.m.: Third Thursday StarLab (ages 7-12).

The StarLab portable planetarium was invented in 1977 by a middle school teacher in Massachusetts for his students. The dome now uses a computer and projector to display various stellar and physics-related experiences for visitors.

In 2018, the State Library of North Carolina purchased a StarLab to share among the state’s libraries .

Get advice on wills, directives, inherited property

♣ Learn about estate planning and inheriting in “Wills, Advance Directives and Heir Property” at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, May 23, at the Asheboro library.

Tiffany Smith of the Disaster Relief Project of Legal Aid of North Carolina will discuss the requirements to make a will in North Carolina, living wills and powers of attorney, and health care powers of attorney.

Smith also will talk about what happens to property

when there is no will and the laws of intestacy take over, and how heir property and family land works.

Smith has been an attorney in civil litigation for more than a decade and has extensive business and legal experience, both practicing and teaching. In her current capacity, she does disaster law, outreach and community education.

Her talk is free and the public is invited.

Try cardboard loom weaving at Franklinville

♣ Try your hand at weaving using a variety of materials on a cardboard loom at 6 p.m. Thursday, May 23, at the Franklinville library.

All material will be provided for the event, which recognizes the textile heritage of Franklinville’s Randolph Manufacturing Company, the county’s first to produce cotton fabric “from bale to bolt.”

Learn about cloud storage in Asheboro tech class

♣ What does “in the cloud mean”?

Learn about a different, hugely popular way to make your photos, contacts and documents quickly accessible online in “Learn Cloud Storage,” 3:30 p.m. Thursday, May 9, and 11 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Thursday, May 16, at the Asheboro library. Find out how cloud storage works, avoid using up storage on your physical device, and identify options that you can try before you buy.