



# VOTE FOR US!

## *Library named finalist for Carolina Country award*



♣ The Asheboro Public Library is one of three finalists for “Best Library” in “Carolina’s Finest,” *Carolina Country* magazine’s annual reader choice awards.

The award goes to whoever gets the most votes by August 15. To vote, visit [carolinacountry.com/finest](http://carolinacountry.com/finest) or scan the code accompanying.

The magazine is offering voters a chance to win one



of three \$100 gift cards.

Voters can choose local in two other categories: the Franklinville Diner is a finalist for “Best Diner,” and Blue Mist Barbecue Sauce is a finalist for “Best Made-In-NC Product.”

*Carolina Country* is the magazine of North Carolina’s rural electric cooperatives and is distributed to 750,000 subscribers each month, reaching 2.2 million readers.

# Synchronous shows, foxfire glows

## *Bio prof to explore bioluminescent insects of North Carolina*

♣ North Carolina is home to an impressive diversity of glowing insects, including fireflies, glow worms and a really interesting little fly that lives in the mountains.

Learn about this phenomenon in a talk entitled, “Synchronous Shows and Foxfire Glows: The Bioluminescent Insects of North Carolina” by Dr. Clyde Sorensen of North Carolina State University, at 6:30 p.m. Monday, August 25, at the Asheboro library.

Sorensen will discuss the diversity of the state’s bioluminescent insects, how they make their light, and what they do with it. He also will talk about threats to the

glowing insects and what individuals can do to help them.

Sorensen is Alumni Association Distinguished Professor of Entomology at NCSU, where he has served on the faculty for 29 years. His research interests include biology, ecology, and management of insects and other arthropods in agricultural ecosystems.

He also specializes in the ecology of insects and rare and endangered plants in longleaf pine ecosystems.

For the last eight years, Sorensen has intensively studied the occurrence and distribution of fireflies in North Carolina.

Sorensen lives in Clayton, N.C.

# Free haircuts: Liberty slates back-to-school events

♣ Get a stylish trim and “taste” a book as the Liberty library helps you get ready go back to school.

During a **Community Back to School Festival**, noon-3 p.m. Saturday, August 9, students can get free haircuts from The Joani Salon in Liberty to start the new school

year. The event also will feature crafts and other activities, and free hot dogs. Free school supplies will be available.

The library also will host a **Back to School Book Tasting Café** from 3-5 p.m. Tuesday, August 19. Kids in kindergarten through fifth grade can “taste” different genres, and take home free books.

## 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, 9-7, Tues 11-7,  
Wed, 9-5, Thur 11-5  
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

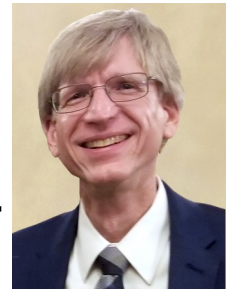
336-873-7521  
530 Old Plank Rd.  
Tues-Fri 10-6; Sat 11-3

## Extension Service

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

*from  
the  
director*

**Ross A. Holt**



# Strategic planning

## ♣ It seems like just yesterday that we embarked on our Randolph County Public Libraries 2021-2026 Strategic Plan.

But it's 2025, and as we reach the end of the cycle, it's time to look at the next five-year period, 2026-2031, and how best to keep our services in tune with our community.

During 2025-2026, we will embark on a new strategic planning process. We will soak up as much input as we can — from library users (and non-users) through public meetings/focus groups and surveys; from community leaders through interviews and group sessions; from demographic analysis; and from our staff.

We'll let all this percolate and bring forward a bold vision for the next five years.

Helping us in this endeavor will be Hall and White Library Consultants LLC. That's a fancy name for two seasoned library veterans now retired: Jeff Hall, former director of the Rowan Public Library; and Suzanne White, former director of the Catawba County Public Library.

Prior to becoming director at Catawba, Suzanne worked with Jeff at Rowan for most of her career. They also are my longtime colleagues, with whom I have shared ideas (and commiserated, when necessary) for the span of my career.

Heading up the initiative for the library will be Assistant Director Niccole Hugg, Head of Youth Services Samantha Martin, and Archdale Public Library Manager Ashley Rose. In preparation, they wrote a

successful \$32,250 federal Library Services and Technology Act grant that will support the planning process.

The project will begin in September and include:

- Collection and analysis of current demographic data and trends for Randolph County;
- Three focus groups with community partners;
- A public input session at each of the seven libraries;
- 15 one- or two-person interviews with community leaders;
- Input sessions with library staff and a staff survey;
- A community survey and analysis of the results (and yes, we'll ask different questions from those on our annual Patron Satisfaction survey!).

All these results will give us a 2026-2031 Strategic Plan that will carry on many initiatives from our current plan, but also fold in new ones as we look to the future.

In a future newsletter, I will recap results from the 2025-2026 Strategic Plan and share our progress toward those strategic priorities, goals and objectives.

So stay tuned for more information as the planning process gets underway, and start thinking about how you would like to shape your library over the next five years.

*This project is supported by grant funds from the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the federal 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.*



# Summer Reading spills into August

## ...and other activities around the county

♣ Continue to “Color Our World” as ongoing Summer Reading activities and a few big events are coming up in late July and early August.

### Rockstar Magic!

Three libraries will host **Rockstar Magic** on Tuesday, July 29. The large-than-life personalities of magician duo Chris and Neal will dazzle audiences with jaw-dropping illusions, hilarious tricks, live doves and a rabbit, upbeat music, flashy costumes and non-stop audience participation that will keep the energy sky-high.

- Archdale, 10 a.m.
- Asheboro, 6 p.m.
- Liberty, 2 p.m.

### Animal ambassadors

Get up close with animal ambassadors from **Wild Tails NC** when they visit three more libraries:

- Franklinville, 10:30 a.m. Monday, August 4.
- Ramseur, 10:30 a.m. Thursday, July 31.
- Seagrove, 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, August 6.



### Art opening, sculpture reveal

Liberty will host an opening reception from 1-3 p.m. Friday, August 8, for an exhibition of painting by local artists who picked up a miniature canvas from the library in July. The event will include the grand reveal of a sculpture created by children who worked with artist Ethan Morrow in June as part of the Giving Garden Collaborative Art Project.



Chris and Neal of Rockstar Magic

The sculpture will be permanently on display in the library's garden space.

### Tie Dye at Liberty

Bring a cotton t-shirt or any other 100 percent cotton item to the Liberty library at 2 p.m. Monday, August 4, and tie-dye it. Supplies will be provided and items will go home with participants in a plastic bag to be rinsed and washed.

Best for ages 8 and up (anyone younger must be accompanied by an adult). Call 336-622-4605 or visit the library to sign up.

### Museum spotlight

Archdale's Museum Spotlight at 5 p.m. Thursday, August 28, will feature the High Point Museum. Museum staff will be on hand to share stories, answer questions, and provide information about exhibits and programs you can explore.

### Starlab comes to Liberty

The Starlab Portable Planetarium will visit the Liberty library, 5-6:30 p.m. Monday, August 4, and 3-4:30 p.m. Wednesday, August 6. See the stars and learn about space inside the inflatable viewing dome.



### Book discussions

**Asheboro Reads:** *The Golden Spoon* by Jessa Maxwell, 2 p.m. Tuesday, August 26.

**Archdale Book Break:** Returns in September.

**Franklinville: Snippets Book Club.** Discuss articles from *The Sun* magazine, 12:30 p.m. Monday, August 18.

**Liberty Book Club:** *Symphony of Secrets* by Brendan Slocumb, 6:30 p.m. Thursday, August 21.

**Liberty Readers Meet-Up:** *Upside Down* by Danielle Steel, 1 p.m. Monday, August 18, Liberty Senior Center.

### BYO book groups

Talk about books that you've read recently.

**Archdale: Book Bites,** 2 p.m. Tuesday, August 12.

**Archdale: Silent Book Club,** 10 a.m. Saturday, August 23.

**Ramseur Page Turners,** 2 p.m. Tuesday, August 5.

**Randleman Readers Recommend,** 3:30 p.m. Friday, August 1.


**Randleman Teen Talk Book Club,** 3:30 p.m. Friday, August 15, ages 11-15.

**Seagrove: Un-Book Club.** 6 p.m. Tuesday, August 26.

## Learn to crochet at Franklinville, Seagrove

Learn to crochet simple but colorful scrapghan squares at Seagrove and Franklinville libraries. Whether you make a few for potholders or a few hundred for an afghan, you'll brighten your home

with this quick, easy and fun pattern. Seagrove, 6 p.m. Tuesday, August 19; call 336-873-7521 to sign up. Franklinville, 3 p.m. Thursday, August 21; call 336-685-3100 to sign up.



**BE A FRIEND!**  
*The Friends of the Randolph County Public Libraries is an amazing group of people just like you, who believe in, support and value making our library the very best.*

Complete this form and mail with dues payment to: Friends of the Library, P.O. Box 2806 Asheboro, NC 27204. *Or scan the code to join online at [randolphfriends.org](http://randolphfriends.org)* ►

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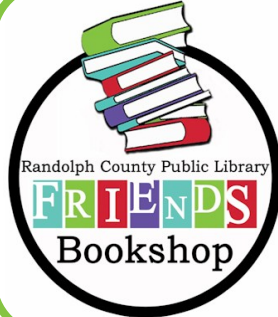


## Randolph County Public Libraries

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**10 a.m. -2 p.m.**

**Tuesdays,  
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Saturdays**

**226 Sunset Ave.  
Asheboro**

*[randolphfriends.org](http://randolphfriends.org)*

## memorials & donations

**In Memory of: Donna Ruth Brown**  
 By: Linda Shirley

**In Memory of: Margaret B. Gaddy**  
 By: Myra Gaddy

**In Memory of: Julia Garner**  
 By: Ashley Britt and Amy Meador

**In Memory of: Joan S. Redding**  
 By: W. Edward Bunch

**In Memory of: Jessica Anne Wells**  
 By: Patsy Callicutt  
 Linda Shirley  
 Suzanne Tate and Philip Shore

### *To the Friends of the Library*

#### **To the Friends of the Library**

By: Bill Collins  
 Ann Hoover  
 Bob and Peggy Morrison  
 Dr. James and Carol Rich

**In Memory of: Donna Ruth Brown**  
 By: Susan Rice

**In Memory of: Jessica Ann Wells**  
 By: Randolph Senior Adults Association

### **Donna Brown**

**We remember retired library staff member Donna Brown, who passed away on June 7. Donna joined the library's administrative office staff after a career as an accountant.**