



Social workers to join library staff

'Navigators' to offer individualized assistance

♦ People always have been able to find a helping hand at their libraries, and more aid is on the way in the form of a new Community Navigator service.

By February 1, three full-time navigators with backgrounds in social work will be available through all seven libraries to assist people who are having difficulty meeting basic needs, such as housing, food, employment, access to medical or mental health services, access to legal assistance, child development support and more.

The project, recently funded by the Randolph County Board of Commissioners for a one year pilot, is a partnership among the library, the Randolph Partnership for Children, the Randolph County Department of Social Services and Randolph County Public Health.

Navigators will provide needs assessment and basic counseling, identify community resources that can help, and refer clients to appropriate services. They also will follow up on their clients' progress in receiving support.

"The social workers will be immersed in the community to the point that they will have insights like, 'Tuesday afternoons are the least busy time at this agency,'" says Lisa Hayworth, executive director of the Randolph Partnership for Children.

The navigators especially will focus on support for families and children, seeking to prevent or reduce the need for intervention by other agencies such as law enforcement or social services.

They also will train library staff and others in local organizations to better respond to the social services needs of patrons and to effectively triage people in crisis, and will collaborate on obtaining grants to address local needs.

"People seek support at the libraries because we are viewed as safe spaces in the community," says Library Director Ross Holt. "The navigators will enable individuals and families to find assistance in an approachable, close-to-home environment."

Courthouse history museum gets go-ahead

♦ A county history museum on the first floor of the 1909 Courthouse has taken another step forward.

The Randolph County Board of Commissioners on November 1 voted unanimously to embark on a \$2.8 million project to establish the museum and carry out other necessary renovations to the historic building at 145 Worth Street, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is designated as a Randolph County Historic Landmark.

The first-floor museum will encompass three large, three-room suites offering 2,000 square feet of exhibit space. Artifacts in the library's collection will be displayed with explanatory information to illuminate various aspects



of Randolph County's unique history.

While the museum is the focus of the project, other major work on the building will ensure its usefulness into the future. An elevator tower will be added to the exterior of the building's east side to provide easy access to all

floors that is fully compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Other improvements include new heating and air conditioning for the basement and first floors, repair of water intrusion into the basement, and creation of fire-safe exit routes.

Hobbs Architects of Pittsboro is designing the project, which is expected to take two years to complete.

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 9-5

Randolph Room

336-318-6815
Mon-Tues 9-8
Wed-Fri 9-6; Sat 9-5

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, Wed-Sat 9-5;
Tues 9-7; Sat 9-1

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



Social work comes to the library

♦ Our innovative Community Navigator program that will get underway after the start of the new year represents a sea change in the way the libraries engage the community.

As noted on the front page, the program will embed three social workers on the library staff for at least a year. They will work intensively with members of the community to assess needs and make referrals to appropriate resources available through local agencies and organizations.

They also will be able to intervene when someone is in crisis, and will train librarians and others to interact more effectively with those in difficult situations. And they will do it all through the libraries — an approachable, safe environment for all.

The concept of social workers in libraries is not new, but it's still an emerging trend. The first program was developed in 2010 at the San Francisco Public Library as it became ground zero for a dramatic rise in the city's homeless population, resulting in needs that librarians could not address with traditional services.

Since then the practice has spread to many libraries across the country, and its constituency has expanded to include any community members in need or in crisis.

A successful program in the Richland County (Columbia), South Carolina, library is serving as our model. In North Carolina, the Greensboro and Hight Point libraries have hosted social work students from N.C. A & T State University and UNC-Greensboro a couple of afternoons each week. Libraries in

Catawba and Wilkes counties have done the same with Appalachian State University students. At the New Hanover County Public Library, a full time social work program manager coordinates student interns who interact with library patrons.

We were just beginning to explore the concept when Lisa Hayworth of the Randolph Partnership for Children spurred us to action with a proposal that would bring together the library, the Partnership, the Randolph County Department of Social Services and Randolph County Public Health to develop a library-based social work initiative.

Our chief goal is to provide a highly-accessible resource that can help people short-circuit a slide into more intensive need, especially for children. We were startled to learn, for example, that the number of youth referred to the county's Child Protective Services jumped from 119 in 2019 to 655 last year.

With libraries often referred to as "second responders" — the places people turn to rebuild their lives after a trauma (or sometimes in the midst of one), we're building capacity to address such needs. Our navigators will become experts in the resources available, and create connections not only between those in need and the groups that can help, but among the groups themselves to optimize support.

One navigator will serve Franklinville, Liberty and Ramseur; one will serve Asheboro and Seagrove; and one will serve Archdale and Randleman.

Asheboro to host 'Virtual Santa Storytime' and more activities at libraries around the county

• Watch Santa and Mrs. Claus read a timeless Christmas classic live during "Virtual Santa Storytime," 11 a.m. Saturday, December 18 at facebook.com/randolphlibrary.

Send letters to Santa before December 18, and he might read your wish list on the air. Letters can be sent via Santa's Librarian Helpers at Asheboro Public Library, 201 Worth Street, Asheboro, NC 27203, or deposited in library book drops. The event will be recorded and posted online for anyone who can't join the live feed.

Santa Craft and Treat Bags

Beginning Monday, December 13, through Thursday, December 23, stop by the Asheboro Children's Room and pick up a special treat bag from Santa's Librarian Helpers. The bags include hot cocoa, cookies and a simple ornament craft for children age 4 and up, while supplies last. Perfect for sharing with the family during "Virtual Santa Storytime."

Festivus at Franklinville

With a nod to Jerry Seinfeld, celebrate Festivus from 6:30-8 p.m. Thursday, December 23, with traditional fare such as Feats of Strength, Festivus Miracles, Airing of Grievances and more! Bonus points for dressing as your favorite Festivus characters.

Arts and crafts galore!

Franklinville, Liberty, Randleman and Seagrove libraries are offering seasonal arts and crafts events for all ages.

For adults and teens: At Seagrove, make **Natural Ornaments**, 1-3 p.m. Saturday, December 4; at Franklinville, it's **Paper Ornaments**, 2-4 p.m. Sunday, December 5. At Liberty, make ornaments with pages from recycled books, 2 p.m.

Wednesday, December 8.

At Franklinville and Seagrove, school age kids can learn about **North Carolina Christmas Trees** with Randolph County 4-H; find out about the life cycle of a fir tree, smell live fir trimmings and make a Christmas tree craft. Franklinville: 4 p.m. Wednesday, December 8; Seagrove, 4 p.m. Wednesday, December 15.

Liberty will host **Cookies, Canvas and Cocoa!** for all ages at 1 p.m. Saturday, December 18. Join local artist Michelle Ravenell for an afternoon making a fun painting while enjoying cocoa and cookies. Call 336-622-4065 to sign up.

Gift wrapping workshops

Take the stress out of readying that special gift with how-to gift wrapping events at Liberty, Seagrove and Franklinville. Chat with others while you wrap and put fun and pleasure back into gift giving.

At Liberty, it's "Holiday Wrapping Fun" from 10 a.m.-noon Saturday, December 11. Bring your gifts to the library and learn how to wrap them with special bows, ribbons and various wrapping techniques. Wrapping paper and supplies will be provided, but you also can bring your own paper.

Adults and teens in Franklinville and Seagrove can learn how to "Wrap It Up," a hands-on gift-wrapping tutorial. Franklinville: 4-7 p.m. Wednesday, December 15; Seagrove, 4-7 p.m. Thursday, December 16.

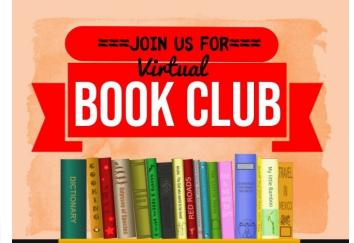
Take home crafts at Randleman

Adults and teens at Randleman can take home craft kits. For ages 16-up, make a Book Christmas Candle and Wooden Gift Tags. Teens and tweens 11-15 can make a Christmas Coaster and Wooden Gift Tags. Call 336-498-3141 to reserve a kit.

Liberty to host birthday party and movie screening

To celebrate 55 years in its current home, the Liberty library will throw itself a birthday party in conjunction with a Fourth Friday Free Movie featuring *Elf*.

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Friday, December 17 and the movie begins indoors at 7 p.m. The event also will feature games, prizes and treats.



Book discussions

Asheboro Reads: *The Dutch Girl* by Robert Matzen, 2 p.m. Tuesday, January 25.

Liberty Book Club: Take your pick of several titles including *Mr. Dickens and His Carol*; *Unholy Night*; *The Stupidest Angel* and *Afterlife of Holly Chase*, 6:30 p.m. Thursday, December 16. Call 336-622-4605 or stop by the library for copies of the books.

Liberty Diverse Book Night: A holiday party complete with treats, games, and a special visit from Santa. Local authors also will be joining the group for a book fair. 5-7 p.m. Tuesday, December 7.

Diabetes podcast

The current edition of the library's "Dave and the Borrowers" podcast focuses on "Diabetes Awareness for All" and features Melissa Thomson of Randolph County Public Health. Thomson is a national board certified health and wellness coach.

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

Liberty to offer 'Food for Fines,' more holiday activities

♣ A can of chicken soup will pay off \$1 in overdues as the Liberty library offers a "Food for Fines" swap from November 15-December 20.

One non-perishable food item will return \$1 in overdue credit. Items donated will go to the Liberty Association of Churches Food Pantry to help those in need. Anyone who does not have fines can donate as well, with the credit going to pay someone else's fines.

Items especially needed are cereal, canned pork and beans, canned meats such as tuna and chicken, rice, soups, fruit juice, canned tomato products, mac and cheese, peanut butter, cooking oil, pasta, and canned pinto beans. Please contribute items in good condition that are within

their use-by dates. Food items can be exchanged for overdue fines only, but not for damaged/lost fees.

Also on tap for the season:

- **Book Tree Fundraiser:** Honor or memorialize someone by donating \$5; the honoree's name will go on a large book tree. Proceeds go to the library and the food pantry.
- **12 Books Before Christmas/Kwanzaa:** Register by December 6 and the library will check out to you 12 specially wrapped, surprise books.
- **Wishing and Gratitude Tree:** Ring in the new year by sharing your gratitude and wishes on cards that will hang on a small tree in the library.

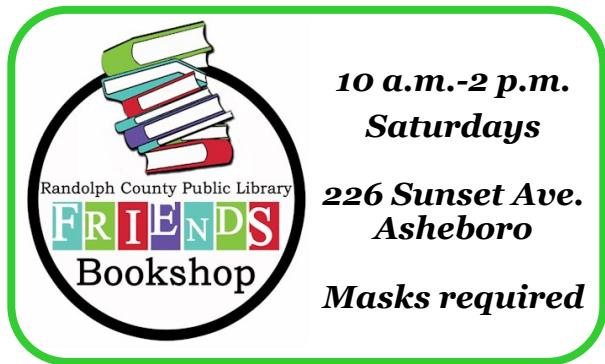
For further details, call the library at 336-622-4605.

Randolph County Public Libraries

201 Worth Street
Asheboro, NC 27203

Return Service Requested

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**10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Saturdays**
**226 Sunset Ave.
Asheboro**
Masks required

memorials & donations

In Memory of: Joan Haynes
By: Sorosis Club

In Memory of: Eddie Pugh
By: Ed and Nancy Bunch
Anne and Reynolds Neely

In Memory of: Camille Redding
By: Sorosis Club

To the Friends of the Library

In Memory of: Eddie Pugh
By: Bob and Jane Darwin



RANDOLPH COUNTY
PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Libraries get new logo

On the front of this newsletter and elsewhere, you will begin to see the library's colorful new logo. The design was created by graphic artist Jamie Harris of Archdale, who also served as a member of the Randolph County Strategic Planning Steering Committee. The abstract image evokes the county's tourism branding as the "Heart of North Carolina," and county government's slogan, "Serving with Heart from the Heart of North Carolina."