



Fine Free!

Libraries abolish overdue fines for most items

♣ **Borrowers with late books, DVDs and other items checked out from the Randolph County Public Libraries can return them without fear or penalty as overdue fines become a thing of the past.**

The Randolph County Public Libraries Board of Trustees voted unanimously on Thursday, January 13, to abolish fines on overdue library materials except for loaned technology such as mobile hotspots.

The change takes effect immediately: overdue fines on items checked out will not accrue and past overdue fines are forgiven. Fees for replacement of lost library cards also were eliminated.

“We believe — and evidence shows — that becoming fine free will make the library easier for everyone to use and get more people in the community reading, while promoting better stewardship of library resources,” says Library Director Ross Holt.

The move comes as research and practice in the library

field increasingly shows that fines do not have much of an impact on return of library materials, but do deter people from using libraries, often hitting people who can least afford them the hardest.

On the other hand, eliminating fines increases library visits and checkouts, but does not significantly lengthen return time of checked out material. Elimination of fines also prompts the return of long overdue items.

In recent years, 27 library systems in North Carolina have abolished fines, including Alamance, Greensboro and High Point. The trend is nationwide as well, with libraries small and large going fine-free.

Some fees will remain in force and will be pursued by the libraries, including those for items lost by borrowers or declared lost after 45 days overdue, and damaged items. Fees for computer printouts, photocopies and faxes also will continue.

Due dates will remain, and borrowers will continue to receive automated reminders when items are overdue.

Libraries offer new digital literacy resource

♣ **Want to brush up your skills using the Internet, Word, Excel and other computer basics, but don't know where to start?**

Try Northstar Digital Literacy, a new online learning resource available through the libraries.

Northstar lets you assess your computer skills, then provides learning modules to build your skills based on the results of your assessments.

Access the assessments on your own, or visit the library for a proctored test, which can earn you certificates or badges to present to employers or potential employers.

Assessments and courses include essential computer skills, such as computer basics, Internet, email, Windows



and Mac OS; software such as Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Google Docs; and using technology in daily life, including social media, information literacy and career search skills.

Start taking assessments instantly at www.digitalliteracyassessment.org, and visit or call the library at 336-318-

6803 to create a unique learner account to save and view your work.

The library expects to begin offering in-person classes using Northstar curricula soon.

Northstar is a program of Literacy Minnesota, an internationally-recognized non-profit leader and driving force behind the latest developments in literacy learning.

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

Digital literacy redux

♣ **When mention is made of “bridging the digital divide,” the first thing that comes to mind is high speed Internet connectivity — or lack thereof.**

The digital divide — the gap between those who can effectively use modern technology and those who face barriers doing so — actually includes three spheres: access, adoption and aptitude. Access means extending coverage so that all people can easily participate online.

Adoption is a person’s willingness to engage once access is available. A key factor in adoption is aptitude — the capability and confidence to navigate the online world.

In other words, digital literacy.

From the time we began providing public Internet access in 1998, the libraries have been at the forefront of digital literacy in the community. As needs have shifted over time, so have our efforts.

For more than 10 years, we offered one-hour classes, often two times each week, covering computer basics, Internet, email and Microsoft Word. Many attendees were seniors, learning to email or chat with adult children, or pursue hobbies.

As the number of Hispanic and Latino immigrant workers surged, our classes helped them gain new skills. After 9/11, we saw people seeking to communicate with loved ones serving overseas.

The Great Recession hit at the same time employers moved to online job applications. Many workers who were laid off by traditional industries had limited computer skills, but had to re-educate

themselves to seek new jobs. The critical time was not a scheduled class, but the point of need. Our librarians often spent entire desk shifts working intensively with computer users, helping them gain mouse dexterity, understand usernames and passwords, and fill out online applications.

At the same time, ebooks proliferated as did the types of Internet-accessible devices. So we began offering one-on-one sessions tailored to the user’s needs.

In spite of these efforts, digital literacy needs continue to accelerate. Fortunately, we have a new tool to advance our services to help meet the ever changing needs.

Northstar Digital Literacy, featured on the front page, gives us (and you) a multi-pronged approach to developing computer and Internet skills. It is provided to us through the State Library of North Carolina.

Users can sign up through the library and build skills — and receive certificates and badges that they can present to current or potential employers. Northstar also provides curricula that library instructors can use to teach in-person or virtual classes, at the libraries or remotely. We’re offering one of these classes this month.

Meanwhile, we will continue providing customized, one-on-one assistance.

We also will continue to deploy our staff and resources to enable you to learn at your convenience, at your own pace, and at the point of need.

If your organization would like to schedule a computer or Internet class, contact Digital Services Librarian Harris Mason, hmason@randolphlibrary.org or 336-318-6824.

Podcast is back with teen author Moone

♣ **The library's Dave and the Borrowers Podcast is back with teen entrepreneur and author Haelee Moone.**

The Podcast of the year will go live on February 24 at dave-and-the-borrowers.simplecast.com and other podcast platforms.

Haelee Moone is the 14-year-old CEO and Founder of The Rules of a Big Boss LLC, alongside her father Dedrick. Her company

provides empowerment books, products, and services for young people and families.

Haelee has penned several books, including *The Rules of a Big Boss: A Book of Self-love*, *The Rules of a Little Boss*, and *Don't Let it Ruin the Life of the Party!*

She is co-author of *The Unexpected Journey: Fire and Gold*, with her father. The two have been featured in many news outlets, television shows, magazines and podcasts.

Asheboro to celebrate Chinese New Year and more activities at libraries around the county

♣ **Celebrate the Year of the Tiger with the Asheboro Children's Room, 4-5 p.m. Tuesday, February 1.**

Walk through activity stations and information booths throughout the library to learn all about Chinese New Year — which celebrates the Lunar New Year — highlighting Chinese culture and history. Craft a red lantern for good luck, gift a red envelope to family and friends for good luck, and enjoy colorful displays.

Best for ages five and up.

Basics of Seed Starting

Now is the perfect time to start seeds indoors. Learn the basics of the practice and pot some up at Seagrove and Franklinville. For adults and teens; all materials provided.

Seagrove: 11:30 a.m. Saturday, February 19; Franklinville: 1 p.m. Sunday, February 20.

More Snow Science

The study of snow for school-age kids continues at the Franklinville and Seagrove libraries, with activities in partnership with Randolph County 4-H.

In "Snow Building," learn about snow crystals and build your own with

marshmallows and toothpicks. Seagrove: 4 p.m. Wednesday, February 2. Franklinville: 4 p.m. Wednesday, February 23.

Then find out how "Animals in Winter" adapt to cold and snowy weather. Franklinville: 4 p.m. Wednesday, February 9; Seagrove: 4 p.m. Wednesday, February 16.

Count birds at Liberty

Join the Great Backyard Bird Count, and learn about the study of birds, at the Liberty library in February.

Pick up a bird identification packet to participate in the count, a community project to collect data and numbers on wild birds. The packets, which include an owl mask craft, include identification information and participation worksheets.

Packets are available February 4-12, with the count taking place February 11-14. Call 336-622-4605 to reserve a packet or stop by the library.

On Saturday, February 12, kids of all ages can visit the library for "Introduction to Ornithology" with the Greensboro Science Center at 1 p.m. Learn how to use the ecoEXPLORE program to become a citizen scientist, study plants and animals, and earn prizes while you do it.



Book discussions

Asheboro Reads: *The Maidens* by Alex Michaelides, 2 p.m. Tuesday, February 22.

Liberty Book Club: *The Once and Future Witches* by Alix Harrow, 6:30 p.m. Thursday, February 17. Call 336-622-4605 or stop by the library for copies of the book.

Frankentoy

Teens and rising teens can visit the Liberty library for an "Anti-Valentines Day Frankentoy Workshop," 4-7 p.m. Tuesday, February 8. Drop in anytime to learn basic sewing techniques. Bring your own stuffed animals to make new creations; a button maker will be available to make buttons for your new Frankentoy. Take home kits also are available.

Bearded Irises

Join Master Gardener Heather Haley for "Bearded Irises for the Home Landscape," 6:30 p.m. Monday, February 7, at the Asheboro library. Attendees can pick up a free iris at Randolph County Cooperative Extension, 1003 S. Fayetteville Street in Asheboro.

Liberty library to host Snow Day!

Haven't had enough snow this winter? Join the Liberty library for "Snow Day!" at 1 p.m. Saturday, February 5 for all ages. Make polymer clay snowmen, learn how to make

snow at home, and enjoy other activities at various stations. Dress warmly, as most of the activities will be outside (with hot cocoa inside).

'Leap into Science' with shadow puppeteer Sandbank

♣ Explore light and shadow with the Asheboro Children's Room during National Leap Into Science Week, February 21-27.

Shadow puppeteer Matt Sandbank will present a virtual show to highlight the scientific principles of light and shadow in the form of storytelling.

His performance will debut at 4 p.m. Thursday, February 24 at [facebook.com/randolphlibrary](https://www.facebook.com/randolphlibrary) and at [randolphlibrary.org](https://www.randolphlibrary.org), and can be viewed for one week following the premier.



Shadow puppeteer Matt Sandbank

At 4 p.m. Friday, February 25, activity centers will be available throughout the Children's Room with experiments for the whole family, as well as a projector to explore shadow puppet stories.

All during the week, Light and Shadow Bag take-home kits with a fun light and shadow experiment are available in the Children's Room.

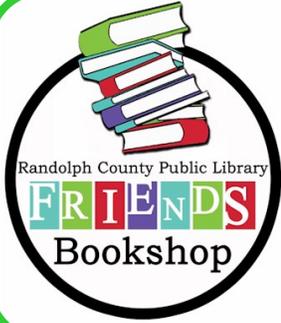
The activities are funded in part with a \$1,000 Leap Into Science Mini-Grant from the Franklin Institute, a science education center and museum in Philadelphia, PA, that honors the scientific legacy of Benjamin Franklin.

Randolph County Public Libraries

201 Worth Street
Asheboro, NC 27203

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Asheboro, NC 27203
Permit No. 50



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

memorials & donations

Gift to Extension Services
By: Ruby Lucas

In Memory of: Martha Green Cox
By: Wally and Sandy Hiatt Jarrell

In Memory of: Jonna Busey Libbert
By: Ramseur Library Friends — Sandra Livingston, Sandy Jarrell, Tammy Crotts

In Memory of: David Overman
By: Bobby and Denise Lowe-Burgess

In Memory of: Eddie Pugh
By: Sam and Missy Rankin

In Honor of: Ralph Hardison
By: Jennifer Hardison Walters

In Honor of: Toni Marley on
Her 100th Birthday
By: Diane Trogdon

In Honor of: Cynthia Pierce
By: Susan Coltrane

Jazz, Gesso, Movie

♣ Help paint a jazzy scene on canvas and listen to jazz music at the Liberty library, 1 p.m. Saturday, February 26, in recognition of Black History Month.

Stay after the painting to watch the 2001 film RESPECT, about Aretha Franklin, on the big screen. Free popcorn and water provided.

Call the library at 336-622-4605 to sign up for painting.