



Jones wins top tourism award from Heart of NC

♣ This year's recipient of the Heart of North Carolina Visitors Bureau's Mary Joan Pugh Excellence in Hospitality Award is Friends of the Library president Dr. Frances Jones.

Jones received the award in recognition of her tireless efforts to make the Friends of the Library Sunset Signature Series successful and to keep it going during the pandemic.

"Throughout the uncertainty, demands and disappointments resulting from COVID-19, you have been a star to shine brightly in the Heart of North Carolina," said HNCVB Executive Director Amber Scarlett in presenting the award.

In addition to normally complicated negotiations that bring Sunset Series presenters and performers to town,



HNCVB Executive Director Amber Scarlett presents the Mary Joan Pugh Excellence in Hospitality Award to Dr. Frances Jones.

Jones deftly managed a complex variety of cancellations, renegotiations and re-schedulings during the pandemic.

The Sunset Series, sponsored by the HNCVB, the City of Asheboro and the Friends, is modeled on Guilford College's Bryan Series and seeks to bring high-profile speakers and performers to Randolph County to enhance cultural activities for the community and draw outside visitors.

The Mary Joan Pugh Excellence in Hospitality Award is given annually and recognizes HNCVB community partners and people in the tourism industry who have contributed to the growth of Randolph County's tourism mission. It

was named after Pugh, its first recipient, for her long service to the organization and tourism in the county.

Liberty depot to move to library's front yard

♣ The early 20th century Cape Fear and Yadkin Valley Railway depot in Liberty will move to the grounds of the library and town hall, providing a "front porch" for outdoor library events.

The Randolph County Board of Commissioners voted in October to fund the move from the county's Strategic Planning Reserve.

"Having this space will give the library and Town of Liberty a chance to create stronger community networks, offer more public events outdoors, and give the community a gathering place that incorporates the public library," says library manager Brenda Hornsby-Heindl.

Plans call for the addition of a raised platform around the building that will serve as both a performance stage and a porch for audience seating or library activities.



The early 20th century Liberty train depot at 167 Swannanoa Avenue.

The depot was built prior to 1905, and is the county's most elaborate example of a turn-of-the century train station. It has been designated as a Cultural Heritage Site by the Randolph County Historic Landmark Preservation Commission.

Norfolk Southern Railway deemed the building no longer useful in 1992 and offered it to anyone who would move it.

Jim Wilson, a Liberty attorney, took up the challenge, having it moved to the

other side of the tracks and preserving it. With Wilson's recent death, the fate of the building again hung in the balance.

The town currently is conducting a site feasibility plan for accommodating the depot on library/town hall property. Hornsby-Heindl expects the building to be moved in the spring, and in use in its new location by next fall.

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

Is 'fine-free' the future?

♣ Is it time for the Randolph County Public Libraries to eliminate overdue fines?

Our new strategic plan calls on us to “conduct a system-wide policy review in order to decrease barriers, increase access and promote consistency,” and, specifically, to “engage key stakeholders and consider the cost/benefit of adopting a fine-free model.”

Libraries large and small around the country recently have taken this step. Some 25 North Carolina libraries have eliminated fines, including Alamance, Greensboro and High Point, and two of our frequent comparison libraries, Catawba and Iredell.

It’s surprisingly easy to accrue large overdue fines. Ten books overdue just six days nets \$6 in fines (over \$5 is enough to block access to library Internet and electronic resources); five DVDs overdue five days yields \$25 in fines.

Yet items generally are not returned late for devious reasons. Usually it’s life — family and school matters, work hours, illness, transportation difficulties and other factors, that prevent timely returns.

An example from our system: an 11-year-old borrower checked out 31 books (not an unusual amount, especially for a family; it may be that mom checked out for all the kids on the child’s card). The books were no more than six days late.

The tardiness socked the borrower with \$16.50 in fines. The kicker is that all but one of the books have been returned, so all that’s left is the large, punitive fine.

Research and recent practice in the library field have shown that, contrary to popular belief, fines have minimal impact on the return of library materials.

But they do have a negative impact on library use: they hit people who can least afford it the hardest; they deter people with fines from bringing items back; they block people from use of other library resources; and — in what has been a startling revelation for librarians — they deter library use by people who fear accruing fines.

On the other hand, elimination of fines prompts the return of long-lost items; has minimal impact on return time for library material; increases the number of library visits, and increases checkouts.

It’s true that fines produce revenue for local governments, and this issue would have to be addressed. The amount, however, is modest: overdue fines for the county-operated libraries account for only six percent of the revenue we report to the county at budget time. Even so, there’s a philosophical issue at stake: overdue fines were meant to teach responsibility — *not to produce revenue or to be punitive.*

We have ample local precedent for going fine-free: we don’t charge fines for some 21,000 kids in the REAL2 student ID program; we forgive fines for adults who accrued them as children; and we levied no fines for 18 months during the pandemic. (We would, of course continue pursuing return of or payment for lost material).

It’s an issue worth exploring; let’s start the discussion!

Go local!

Books on county history for sale in Randolph Room

♣ Just in time for Christmas, a new supply of books by local authors is on sale in the Randolph Room.

The titles include the two *Randolph County Memories* volumes published by *The Courier-Tribune*, and other local-interest books, including:

- *Letters Home: The Civil War Correspondence of Lieutenant Colonel A.C. McAlister* by Bradley R. Foley;
- *A Man of Restless Enterprise: The Diary of Simeon Colton, 1851-1862* by Ross A. Holt;



- *Randolph County: A Brief History* by L. Barron Mills Jr.;
- *Sketches of My Asheboro* by Sydney Swaim Robins;
- *Reality's Pen: Reflections on Family, History and Culture* by Thomas D. Rush;
- *Randolph County, North Carolina* by L. McKay Whatley Jr.

- *From Hill Town to Strieby* by Margo Lee Williams; and
 - *The Miles Lassiter Family (Miles Lassiter, circa 1777-1850) of Lassiter's Mill, Randolph County, North Carolina* by Margo Lee Williams.
- The Randolph Room can accept cash or checks only for book purchases.

Liberty to host jigsaw puzzle tourney and more activities at libraries around the county

♣ How fast can your team assemble a 500-piece jigsaw puzzle?

Find out as the Liberty library celebrates National Puzzle Day with a Jigsaw Puzzle Tournament, 1-3 p.m. Saturday, January 29. Register in teams of two to three people to compete, or join a team before the competition begins. Each of six teams will complete a different puzzle made by the same company.

Casual puzzling will be available on the sidelines while you root for your team.

Snow Science

School-age kids at Seagrove and Franklinville can learn about winter weather and how it is measured in "The Science of Snow" in two sessions at each

library. The activity is in partnership with Randolph County 4-H.

In "Measuring Temperature," make a thermometer from a bottle, straw and other items. Franklinville, 4 p.m. Wednesday, January 5; Seagrove, 4 p.m. Wednesday, January 12.

In "Snow Formation," learn how snow forms and make snow out of regular household items. Franklinville, 4 p.m. Wednesday, January 12; Seagrove, 4 p.m. Wednesday, January 26.

Basics of Papermaking

Adults and teens in Franklinville and Seagrove can try their hand at making paper in a free, hour-long class. Seagrove: Noon, Saturday, January 15; Franklinville, 1 p.m. Sunday, January 16.



Book discussions

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

Liberty Book Club: *The Kitchen Front* by Jennifer Ryan, 6:30 p.m. Thursday, January 20. Call 336-622-4605 or stop by the library for copies of the books.

STEAM event

Have you ever played jumping games on your phone to pass the time? Join the Asheboro Children's Room for a "STEAM Day Event: Code a Jumping Game on Scratch," 4:30 p.m. Friday, January 28. Learn how to make your very own game through block coding on Scratch.

Easy step-by-step tutorials will lead participants through creating a simple game. Best for ages 8 and up. Call 336-318-6804 or visit the Children's Room to reserve a computer.

Tails to Read

Would you like to see your child's reading skills improve? Bring them to the Asheboro Children's Room to read to a certified therapy dog. Call 336-318-6804 to sign up. Best for ages 5 and older.

Liberty 'Manga Party' to include meet-up, movie, snacks

The Liberty library will host a "Manga Party" for teens and rising teens at 1 p.m. Saturday, January 22. Participants can watch a manga movie on the big screen, make candy sushi

rolls, try some bubble tea, and meet other manga readers. It also will be an opportunity to check out new additions to the library's manga collection.



NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

YES! I'd like to become a Friend and support the wonderful programs sponsored by the Friends each year.

Mail to: Friends of the Library

P.O. Box 2806

Asheboro, NC 27204

Memberships are tax deductible

Adult \$20

Family..... \$30

Patron \$100

Benefactor..... \$250

Lifetime..... \$500

YES! I'd like to help: ___Programs ___ Hospitality ___Book Sales ___Membership

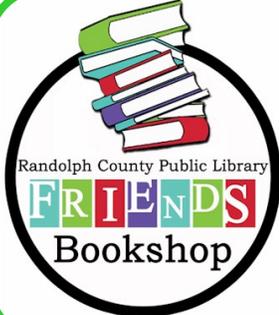
Randolph County Public Libraries

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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 required

memorials & donations

In Memory of: Jim Culberson
By: Virginia Dean

In Memory of: Jonna Libbert
By: Connie Weaver

To the Randolph County Public Library
By: Philip Looney

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

In Memory of: Marie Dunn Sapp
By: Seagrove High School Class of 1968

In Memory of: Baby Magnolia Trogdon
By: Diane Trogdon

In Memory of: Paul Woodell
By: Roy and Joyce Garner

To the Friends of the Library

In Memory of: Hazel Rich Hobbs
By: Robin and Allen Liles

Randleman issues Winter Reading Advisory

*...from January 3-March 31
for ages 16 and older*

**Keep warm this winter with
your favorite books at the
Randleman library!**

**Every book read is an entry
into a drawing for two \$50
Walmart gift cards.**

Call 336-498-3141 for more
information.