

RANDOLPH COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY *news*

Randolph County
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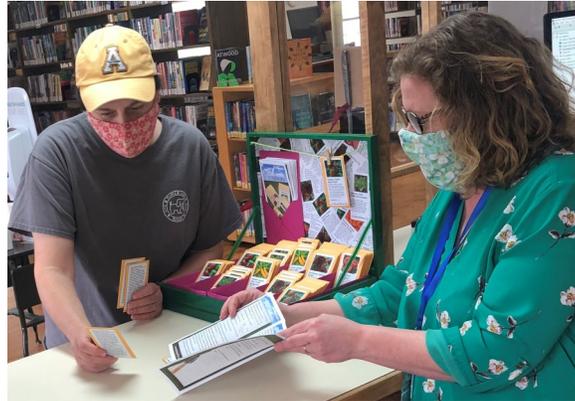
Seed libraries take root in Franklinville, Seagrove

♣ In addition to books, DVDs and audiobooks, visitors to the Seagrove and Franklinville libraries now can “check out” seeds for their gardens and yards.

Each branch is offering a Seed Library, a seed lending and swapping initiative that features a variety of heirloom and open-pollinated seeds, from sunflowers to tomatoes and more. Anyone who wishes to try out their green thumb can “borrow” seeds to take home and grow, harvesting the produce for themselves and their families.

Once the growing season is over, the borrowers collect seeds from the plants and produce, and share them with the Seed Library.

“The Seed Library is a way to cultivate community and give folks the tools they need to grow, save and share food for generations to come,” says Franklinville/Seagrove



Library Manager Charity Neave Johnson talks about the Seed Library at Franklinville with Celia Harris.

library manager Charity Neave Johnson. “Through seeds, we are preserving our past, present and future.”

Borrowing seeds requires no library card, and there are no due dates or overdue fines.

Each library will host classes and workshops to help along the way. Two programs for adults and teens are scheduled at each library in May:

- **Seed Saving 101:** Franklinville, 11 a.m. Tuesday, May 4;

Seagrove, 11 a.m. Wednesday, May 12. From peppers to cosmos — learn the basics of seed saving and check out seeds from the Seed Library.

- **Seed and Plant Swap:** Franklinville, 2-4 p.m. Sunday, May 23; Seagrove, 12-3 p.m. Saturday, May 22. Do you have more lilies than you know what to do with? Are your walking onions walking away? Bring them by the library and trade for something new.

Study for courthouse museum gets go-ahead

♣ A history museum in the first floor of the Historic 1909 Randolph County Courthouse is a step closer to reality as a feasibility study gets underway.

The Randolph County Board of Commissioners on April 5 approved funding for the study, which will assess costs, facility needs, exhibit design needs, and Americans with Disabilities Act accessibility issues.

Hobbs Architects PA of Pittsboro will carry out the study. Hobbs last year completed a similar study for potential relocation of the Randolph Room to the old county administration building next door to the Historic Courthouse.

Hobbs designed the conversion of the Chatham County Courthouse into a museum, and the Fort Macon State Park Visitor Education Center and Exhibit Pavilion. The group also oversaw repairs and restoration at Fort Macon following Hurricane Florence.

The new study is part of an overall plan to relocate the Randolph Room to a more spacious location and establish a long-desired history museum to tell Randolph County’s story through its artifacts. The first floor of the courthouse provides three large, three-room suites comprising about 2,000 square feet of potential exhibit space.

The study is expected to be completed in a few months.

What would history museum exhibits look like? — see page 2

Archdale
336-431-3811
Fax 336-431-4619
10433 S. Main St.
Mon-Thur 9-8;
Fri 9-6; Sat 9-5

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-Fri 9-5;
Tues 9-7; Sat 9-1

Ramseur
336-824-2232
Fax 336-824-2232
1512 S. Main St.
Mon-Fri 8:30-5

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



Inspiring through history

♣ **We've talked about a county history museum in the abstract for a while now.**

But how, concretely, would a museum tell Randolph County's story?

I've visited plenty of small history museums that just display old stuff without much context. Interesting to see once, but not something that keeps you coming back or generates "must see" word of mouth.

When I go to a museum I want my visit to educate me, to tell me a story. I want to see exhibits that consist of interrelated artifacts, documents, photographs, reproductions, reconstructions, and supplementary information.

We own some compelling artifacts from various eras of the county's history. On exhibit, however, they could seem a hodgepodge without careful curation.

So let's see how we might leverage a set of related assets into a focused exhibit.

Take our 1804 set of official county weights and measures with the original invoice from London. Add early documents, such as the court records hand-written by Andrew Jackson, who practiced law here in the late 1780s. Add the sheriff's desk from the 1839 courthouse. Add a blow-up of our 1886 photograph of that courthouse. Add a large-scale reproduction of the original county charter. Then there's the courthouse belfry bell. Now you have a cogent exhibit on the origin of county government. Add a couple of explanatory panels on the wall – maybe how our early system of government originated in medieval England, and how we

went from the Justice of the Peace system to the county commissioner system, and you have an exhibit that tells a story, provokes curiosity and invites further exploration.

We also want to offer a combination of permanent and temporary exhibits. Permanent does not necessarily mean eternal, but exhibits with a powerful enough draw that they don't wear out their welcome, and continue to bring in new visitors. Our sizeable arrowhead collection, contextualized with other elements that tell the story of Native American life in Randolph County, likely would be a long-term exhibit. Similarly, the collection of Clarence Lewallen carved birds invites a story about the county's natural history.

Temporary exhibits might be collections on loan from local collectors or other museums; traveling exhibits from the Smithsonian, the Library of Congress, or Cultural Resources; exhibits tied to a local anniversary or event; or some other topic local curiosity or interest.

Finally, programming would be tied to museum exhibits, with speakers and experts brought in to provide further context and enlightenment. The library has hosted dozens of speakers on history-related topics lately, so library programming can tie in with museum exhibits as well.

Visitors should leave a museum inspired to want to learn more, and that's what we want to do with ours. Our museum should be a living, breathing continually relevant local institution.



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

Ross A. Holt, Director • **Dr. Frances Jones**, President, Friends of the Library •

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Liberty to host Community Conversations

♣ **What does community mean to you? What does your ideal community look like?**

The Liberty Public Library will offer area residents a chance to answer these questions in a series of Community Conversations in May and June.

Sessions will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, May 15, at Freedom Park (entrance off Butler Ave.); and 1 p.m. Saturday, May 29, at Paul Henry Smith Park (entrance off W. Dameron Avenue).

Two more sessions in June will be announced at a later date.

Although called “conversations,” the

gatherings are intended to be listening sessions that will help the library further connect with and better serve the community.

The Community Conversations are part of the library’s “Libraries Transforming Communities” grant project through the American Library Association and the Association for Rural and Small Libraries, and a grant from the Rural Libraries and Social Wellbeing Program.

Other project activities include establishing a reading area for children in the Coin Laundry at 509 S. Greensboro Street.

What do stuffed animals do overnight? And other events around the county...

♣ **Kids— have you ever wondered what your stuffed animals do overnight?**

Find out what silly antics they get up to when they sleep over at the library!

Drop off your favorite stuffed animal (or one you can part with for a few nights) at the Asheboro library anytime from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Thursday or Friday, May 13-14, and the Children’s Room will host a big sleepover party for them. Library staff will take pictures so you can follow the adventures.

Pick up your animals on Saturday, May 15 between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m., and receive a little gift for their participation.

Call 336-318-6804 for details.

Seagrove Sidewalk Book Sale

The Seagrove library will host up a Sidewalk Book Sale, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, May 18-21; and noon-2 p.m. Saturday, May 22. Pick up a classic or new favorite starting at 25 cents.

Spring Flowers

Franklinville and Seagrove libraries will offer a Spring Flowers Storytime on their Facebook pages for children birth through age 5. Listen to rhymes and songs, and pick up a spring flower craft at the libraries.

Find the storytimes at facebook.com/fvlibrary or facebook.com/seagrovepubliclibrary.

Outdoor movie at Liberty

Visit the Liberty library for an Outdoor Movie on the Lawn featuring Disney’s *The Princess and the Frog* on Saturday, May 29. The site will open at 6:30 p.m. and the movie will start at 7:30 p.m. Bring a picnic or enjoy a meal from a food truck. Arrive early to make a glowing firefly craft. All ages welcome.

Pick-up craft

The Liberty library’s pick-up craft for May features weaving designs onto old CDs. Pick up supplies while they last in the yellow bin. Bring your artwork back to the library for display on the new gallery wall.



Virtual Book Clubs

Asheboro: Join us for a book club using the library’s Go-To-Meeting online conference tool, 6:30-8 p.m. Thursday, April 29.

To sign up and receive a meeting link, contact Meghan Carter, mcarte@randolphlibrary.org. You will receive a link to the conference.

Liberty: *Citizen 865* by Debbie Cenziper, at 6 p.m. Thursday, May 20. Email library@townoflibertync.org for a link to the live, interactive discussion, and call 336-622-4605 or stop by the library for a copy of the book.

Vietnam service

The next “Dave and the Borrowers” podcast will feature Philip Shore III ruminating on his experiences during the Vietnam War. Shore served in the Personal Property Depot associated with the U.S. Army Mortuary in Saigon, where he sorted the personal effects of soldiers whose remains passed through the mortuary. The podcast will appear at dave-and-the-borrowers.simplecast.com by April 26.



WEAR



WAIT



WASH

COVID-19: STAY INFORMED!

randolphcountync.gov/Departments/Public-Health/COVID-19

Facebook.com/RandolphCountyPublicHealth

Pollination Station comes to Asheboro library

♣ Add local butterflies, bees, birds and other pollinators to those getting a boost from the library.

Occupying the millstone near the front entrance of the Asheboro Public Library, there's now a "Pollination Station" provided by the NC Zoo as part of a grant-supported series called *Living with Nature*.

Filled with native plants, the station aids in the development of pollinating insects and avians. Children and parents assisted with the



NC Zoo educator Kathy Osborne and helpers set up the Pollination Station.

installation on Tuesday, April 13. Zoo educator Kathy Osborne explained to the families the importance of planting native host plants in order to help pollinators in Randolph County.

Plants included in the pollination station include stokes aster, mountain mint, butterfly weed (a host plant for monarch butterflies), rattlesnake master, brown-eyed Susan and blazing star.

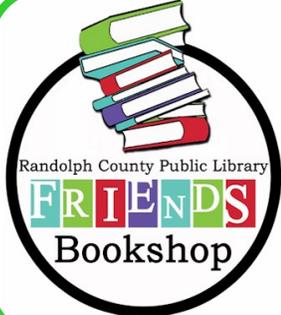
The recycled plastic planter will be decorated at a later date, with the help of more young library patrons.

Randolph County Public Library

201 Worth Street
Asheboro, NC 27203

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Saturdays
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Asheboro
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memorials & donations

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By: Charlotte Mecklenburg Community Foundation

In Memory of: Henrietta L. Menius
By: Cecilia B. Grimes

To the Friends of the Library

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RCPL TikTok gets nod from James Patterson

♣ A library TikTok video caught the eye of author James Patterson.

In the video, staff member Emily Ledbetter tours all the places in the library that Patterson's books and videos can be found.

Patterson then posted the video to his Instagram story.

Find the library on TikTok at the account [RandolphCountyLib](#).