

FRIENDS NEWS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF THE JOHNSON CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY



LIBRARY CURBSIDE SERVICE A HIT

The library is currently in the process of a phased reopening. They began curbside pick-up on June 1 and what a busy day that was! Over 900 items were delivered that day safely to the vehicles of some very happy patrons.



Xander Murray delivers items curbside

"We've enjoyed seeing everyone" said Julia Turpin, library director. The pick-up process is constantly being adapted to run more smoothly for everyone; for instance, the number of holds a patron can have at one time has been increased to 40 items. "We've also added some treats for our furry friends" said Turpin. It seems that lots of dogs enjoy curbside pick-up too!

If you need information on how to pick up materials curb-side visit the library's website at www.jcpl.org or call 423-434-4450.

WHEN, OH WHEN IS THE NEXT BOOK SALE?

We know, we're anxious too! Our next book sale is currently scheduled for October 29 - November 1. We hope to do a sale in some form that weekend. We are working with the library staff to see when the building and its meeting rooms will open again.

We will post information as soon we confirm a date. We also hope to begin accepting donations soon.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- 125TH BIRTHDAY BEER LAUNCH
- SUMMER READING PROGRAM
- BOOK REVIEWS

SUMMER READING PROGRAM

Kicks into gear....a little differently this year

Contributions to the Friends of the Library have helped support the summer reading program for many years. Although the library building remains closed, summer reading has begun! This year's registration, reading challenges and events will take place online. People can learn more at www.jcpl.org/summer-reading and register for the program now.



Megan shows off her summer reading craft, a dragon tail!

Summer Reading is an annual nationwide program that encourages people of all ages to spend the summer reading. Participants register and set reading goals for themselves, then spend the summer tracking their progress, winning prizes, and attending events.

The program is divided into three age divisions: children, teens and adults. This year's Summer Reading theme is "Imagine Your Story," so reading challenges and events for the different age divisions all focus on topics like fairy tales and epic journeys.

COMMEMORATIVE BEER RELEASE



A peek at the commemorative label

The Johnson City Brewing Company has something special brewing. On June 25 at 5:30, it will release "The 1895," a commemorative beer that the Company has made in honor of the library turning 125. A portion of the proceeds from beer sales will go to the library.

The beer is crafted as a pre-Prohibition Era style lager, and the Johnson City Brewing Company will be using heirloom grains to make it. Julia Turpin, Library Director, got to help with the start of the brewing process.

The 1895 will be available packaged and on draft until it runs out. You can order some for curbside pickup by calling 423-930-4186.



Julia Turpin helping start the brew

Before the pandemic we asked our Friends of the Library board what they've been reading lately, and here were their replies:

***The Body* by Bill Bryson**

No one can accuse Bryson of shying away from difficult subjects. The author of *A Short History of Nearly Everything* has taken on the tremendously complex subject of the human body. Literally going from head to foot, Bryson explains difficult physiological concepts in layman's terms while sprinkling in enlightening and often amusing anecdotes from the history of medicine. Don't let the length of the book scare you – it's an entertaining read.

***The Splendid and the Vile* by Erik Larson**

This is another example of Larson's ability to weave together large historical events and intimate personal stories to create a riveting narrative. Larson takes us through one whole year (May 1940 to May 1941) in which England was fighting for its very survival against Nazi Germany. It was also the first year of Winston Churchill's term as prime minister. By focusing on Churchill's personal and political struggles, while also detailing the bombing, air raids, and international intrigue intermixed with it, Larson has produced a very readable history.

***I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness* by Austin Channing Brown** is an engaging and thought-provoking memoir. This book taught me a lot about growing up black in the United States, systemic racism, and how much well-meaning white people (such as myself) have to learn.

***A Long Way Home: A Memoir* by Saroo Brierley**

The powerful, heartbreaking, and heartwarming story of Saroo, who was lost from his family at age five, placed in an orphanage, adopted by an Australian couple, and as an adult searches to find his birth mother in India. Saroo's remarkable journey will stay with you long after reading his story.

***Maybe You Should Talk to Someone* by Lori Gottlieb**

A quick and easy read. The author, a therapist, does a great job of telling stories about her clients while also opening up about her own issues. Lots of psychology insights.

***Ordinary Grace* by William Kent Krueger**

Told from the point of view of 13-year-old Frank Drum, it is the story of one long difficult summer growing up in a small Minnesota town where several tragic events occur. The writing is very good and the character development is exceptional.

***Gilgamesh: The Life of a Poem* by Michael Schmidt**

Schmidt, an expert in ancient languages and culture, explores this epic from several different angles. While the story of Gilgamesh is best known to western readers because of its similarities to the Biblical account of Noah, the author shows that this ancient poem includes much more than that. He explores not only what it might have meant when it was assembled thousands of years ago but how it evolved and how it has been recovered.

***American Oligarchs: The Kushners, the Trumps, and the Marriage of Money and Power* by Andrea Bernstein**

Bernstein presents an exhaustive study of the personal and financial histories of the Kushner and Trump families including the many instances of unscrupulous and dishonest dealings. Beyond that, however, she exposes how this is part of a larger story of increasing economic inequality and warns that this disparity of wealth is threatening the concept of democracy in America.

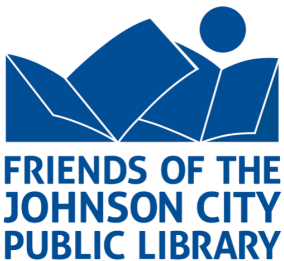


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