



SPRING 2023 | SUPPORTING THE JOHNSON CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY

FRIENDS NEWS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF THE
JOHNSON CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY



Valentine's Day Love Your Library Celebration!

Love was in the air Valentine's Day February 14th for the Friends' Love Your Library celebration! Friends of the Library hosted a table decorated with colorful helium balloons in the library lobby, and handed out chocolates and lollipops, as well as Friends' Bookmarks and Imagination Library Books. The library's digital display showcased the many ways that the Friends support the library by funding materials, programs and staff recognition. Library patrons of all ages stopped to write on heart shape notes why they love our Johnson City Public Library, filling up a large white board with their comments.



Spring Book Sale

It is almost time for the Friends' semi-annual Spring Book Sale! Thanks to the wonderful response of our community to the Monthly Book Donation Events, we have a great selection of high quality used books (and puzzles, CDs DVDs, LPs), covering a broad selection of categories. All proceeds from the sale go to the support of the library, so shop generously and invite a buddy to become a Friend also! We will host a special Friends Appreciation event in conjunction with the Preview Sale on the evening of April 28, 5:30-7:00PM. The sale for the general public continues on Saturday, April 29, 10:00AM - 3:00 PM, and our Sack Sale will take place on Sunday, April 30, 1:00 - 3:00 PM. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Volunteer Opportunities

There are opportunities for you to donate your time to support the upcoming Spring Book Sale! Volunteer activities include receiving books at the Donation events, assisting with the Book Sale set up, providing baked goods for the Friends Appreciation Preview Sale, and boxing up books at the conclusion of the book sale. If you are interested in volunteering, please send an email to Friends@JCPL.org and include the best way to reach you: email, telephone or text. Sharon Burke, Friends Volunteer Committee Chairperson, will contact you to answer any questions you may have and to schedule you to join other Friends of the Library in activities to support the upcoming Spring Book Sale.



Book Donation Drop-Off

The Friends are conducting a Book Donation Drop-off the first Saturday of every month, and EACH April Saturday (April 1st, 8th, 15th, and 22nd) leading up to the book sale Weekend. Please bring items you want to donate to the library's parking lot near the curbside pickup spots between 11:00AM - 1:00PM. You will see a Friends' Volunteer there who will unload your donations. Please place items in bags or boxes that one person will be able to carry. Acceptable donations include books (with exception of textbooks, reference materials, Reader's Digest, and magazines) as well as puzzles, audio CDs and LPs, Audiobooks, DVDs and Blue-Rays.

The Beloved Leader of Children's Library is Retiring



Described by a co-worker as “the driving force behind the Children’s Library machine,” Betty Cobb is retiring this spring after 20 plus years of service. Betty described three main goals she set to accomplish this year before retiring. One was to revitalize the Book Buddy program after COVID, and she is pleased to see the program is going well again, with all the child care centers who requested a volunteer now being served. A second goal was to add VOX Books to the Children’s Library, which was enabled by a donation from the Friends of the Library. VOX Books are audio books that live within print books. The permanently attached VOX Reader transforms an ordinary print book into an all-in-one read along, with no need for computers, phones or CDs. Betty is proud to say, “VOX books are flying off the shelf! The patrons love them!” Lastly, Betty wanted to get STEM backpacks circulating. “We now have 11 Math Backpacks that contain books and games for the children to use to improve math skills in the elementary grades.”

Recent comments from a co-worker sum up Betty’s contributions perfectly: “I don’t think Betty has any concept of just how many lives she has touched and influenced in her time here at JCPL. Several times throughout the course of a year, people who are fully grown that had her for Story Times as a child will come in and reminisce and ask after her. They remember their time in the library as a child fondly, and that is in large part, due to Betty. Not only has she impacted our patrons, but she has been a guiding force for many of our staff members. She has set the tone for the Children’s Library and helped grow and mold it into what it has become. Any changes that come after will only happen because she laid the groundwork for a fabulous department that works well together and has a passion for the work they do. I think we will have people coming in to ask about Ms. Betty for another 20+ years because of all the time, love, and enthusiasm she has poured into the kids in our community.”

Congratulations on your retirement, Ms. Betty! We will miss you!

Ongoing Book Sale

The opportunity to peruse and shop for used books with each visit to the library has proven to be highly popular with library patrons. The proceeds generated from the Ongoing Book Sale are used to fund the access to electronic materials through the library's digital service called Hoopla as well as support other library programs. Thanks to the generous outpouring of books donated by our community, the Ongoing Sale tables and shelves are continuously refreshed. Be sure to visit the Ongoing Book Sale with each visit to the library!

FOL Officers for 2023

President Julia Swanson
Vice-President Stacie Fox
Secretary Nina Marchioni
Treasurer Linda Gallagher

Connect with the Friends of the Library

Facebook:

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