



Summer 2023 Friends of the Hall County Library System

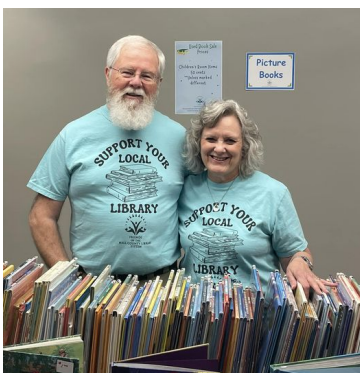
Blackshear Place Branch Library gets a facelift

The Blackshear Place Branch library first opened its doors in the early 1990s. For the last 30 plus years, the branch has served thousands of patrons for a variety of library services. The Blackshear Place Library is now also one of the top passport acceptance locations in the north Georgia area. In 2022, the Blackshear Place Library conducted over 5,700 passport acceptances. The carpet, paint, and much of the furniture in the branch was original when the building opened. It was time for an update! Using funds from the county and the library system, as well as maintenance and repair grants from the state, the Blackshear Place Library got a much needed update. Three study rooms were constructed and added to the building. Two passport offices and a special waiting area were also constructed in order to make getting a passport more efficient. More staff work areas were also created. The branch got new flooring and a fresh new coat of paint. The county also installed cost and energy efficient LED lights. Key furniture pieces such as a circulation desk, study tables, computer tables, and teen furniture were also added. The Friends voted to buy new furniture for the staff's break room. The library staff are very thankful to the Friends for their support and contribution.



April used book sale raises over \$3,500!

Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers and the book sale committee for all of their hard work. The sale was Saturday April 29th and Sunday April 30th. The Friends raised over \$3,500 which will go to support the library system and its programs. A lot of people were extremely excited for the book sale. Books that did not sell went straight to ThriftBooks, which is our used book sale consigner. Please remember that Friends used book stores and carts are open year round at all library branches. Gently used donated books go into the library's collection, are sold in the Friends store, or are sent to ThriftBooks. All donations benefit the Friends and the library!



President's Message

Happy summer—Hope you're doing a lot of fun summer reading! When you're finished with a book, we hope you'll donate it to the Library. We had a very successful Big Book Sale in the spring, but have experienced a slump in book donations since the sale. Please tell your family and friends we are definitely accepting donations at all our locations.

The Friends group is doing well. We had lots of volunteers at the Big Book Sale, some for the very first time. Every week, volunteers are at Headquarters sorting donated books, replenishing our Friends store books, and packing books for next year's Big Book Sale and to go to Thrift Books. If you haven't joined Friends, we need you! The minimum membership fee is only \$25, and all you have to do is be a member! There is strength in numbers, especially when we go to our County Commissioners or State legislators for funding or support for special projects. Our next Friends meeting is August 8th at 3PM, in the Community Meeting Room at Headquarters. At this meeting, we will adopt the budget for next year.

Look for information on our upcoming Dark and Stormy Nights storytelling event in this newsletter. Friends members get ticket discounts and the opportunity to buy tickets ahead of the general public. Another reason to join us!

Thank you for your support of our Library system,
Ruth Bruner

Dark and Stormy Night Fundraiser goes on sale to Friends August 1st

Tickets will be \$20 for Friends members and \$25 for non Friends members. Friends can get their tickets at

www.hallcountylibrary.org/friends or
calling 770-532-3311 ext. 126

Gainesville Library serves as a free summer lunch site

Summer at the library is always busy. The buildings are filled with kids and adults coming for their next summer read, to sign up for the Summer Reading program, or to attend a program. The Gainesville Library is now adding another service during the summer: lunch with enrichment! Hall County Library System teamed up with Hall County Schools to provide a free lunch to all kids and teens one day a week. Before lunch a storytime is offered for families to enjoy. After lunch, families can stay for the special after-lunch activity, such as reading to therapy dogs, crafts, big games, and STEAM activities. The library and schools serve between 25 to 65 lunches each week at the Gainesville Library. The program has been so successful, they hope to expand to more branches next summer.



Meeting Dates for 2023

August 8th

Gainesville Library Meeting Room
3PM

November 14th

Gainesville Library Meeting Room
3PM

Friends Board 2023

Ruth Bruner--President
Jim Wise-Vice President
Janet Ordway-Treasurer
Mari-Ann Wise-Secretary

Hall County Library System receives 3 million dollar building grant for future East Hall Library Branch

Governor Brian Kemp signed the FY2024 state budget on May 5, 2023 which included three million in funds from the state towards the construction of the new East Hall Branch Library. These state funds will go along with three million in SPLOST local funds the county has raised towards the branch library. The Friends of the Hall County Library System made sure to let Hall County's state delegation know about the importance of public libraries in Hall County and the East Hall area. Friends board members attended Georgia Library Council's "Hot Dog Day" at the state Capitol in February to talk to Hall County state delegation about the East Hall project as well as funding for public libraries. Included in the state's FY2024 budget is increase in state funds for books, maintenance grants for library buildings, library technology funds, and continued support for state wide library services.

A final location of the East Hall Branch Library has not been determined yet. However, library administration plans on making sure the library is equipped with books, computers, printers, and special items for check out. Programs, storytimes, and more are also part of the plan.



Our membership/renewal form is located on the back of the newsletter. If your name is not listed, we have not recorded your renewal for 2023. If you feel we have omitted your name in error, or if we have misspelled your name, please call Adrienne Junius at 770-532-3311 ext. 126. All membership renewals are based on the calendar year and due in January.

FRIENDS OF THE HALL COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM 2023

Lifetime Members

Joyce Branch	LaFarge North America
Anne Chenault	Liberty Utilities
Bob Conner	Lifestyle Real Estate by Dominai Reeves
Bernice and Carlyle Cox	Carolyn and Jim Mahar
Leslie and Chip Frierson	Abit and Kayanne Massey
Kathy and Lamar Gailey	John and June McPherson
Gainesville Phoenix Women's Club	Irene Michaud
Gainesville Newcomers Club	Adrian and Susan Mixson
M. Jane Goodrich	Cara Mitchell
Virginia and Jim Hale	NE GA Health System
MyGeorgia Credit Union	Rushton Accounting and Business Advisors
Grady Young Foundation	Chris Sanders
Barbara J. Hermann	Laura Sheperd
James and Julie Howell	Turner, Wood, and Smith Insurance
Jackson EMC	Sandy Wilbanks
Bonnie and Harley Jones	Grover and Janice Young

Sponsors

Patrons

Lisa Altman
Ruth Bruner
Elizabeth Dyarmett
Denise Lee

Families

Mr. & Mrs. George Budzinack	Sandra Martin
Judy Chasey	Janet and George Ordway
Shelley Collins	Millie Schiehl and Anna
Hildreth Davis & Ron Bourne	Marie Coopersmith
Adrienne and Christopher Junius	Olivia and Fred Skey
Gabriele Koecher and Robert Copeland	Teresa Strayhorn
John and Karen Hickey	Tom and Suzanne Walsh
Gail and Mike Hogan	Jim and Mari-Ann Wise
Jane Hollingsworth	

Individuals

Rosalyn Baldwin	Lisa MacKinney
Eileen Berkowitz	Elaine Martin
Ginny Boyd	Mary Ellen Murray
Maryellen Cosgrove	Amy Nierodzik
Mary Jackson	Ronda Sanders
Anita Jobson	Wayne James Schrader
Stacey Kemp	Susan Shenefield
Emily Kirkman	Daniel Ulrich

Lifetime: \$500 one time payment
Sponsor: \$150 annual
Patron: \$100 annual
Family: \$50 annual
Individual: \$25 annual

Membership dues help support the Hall County Library System and literacy in the community.

Membership payments can be made online, calling 770-532-3311 ext. 126 or send a check to

Attn: Friends of the Hall County Library System
127 Main St. NW
Gainesville, GA 30501



127 Main Street NW
Gainesville, Georgia 30501
(770) 532-3311

Join Friends of the Hall County Library System and enjoy your membership through the year 2023.
With your help, we can expand our library activities and services throughout Hall County.

Individual \$25 Family \$50 Patron \$100 Sponsor \$150 Lifetime \$500

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

EMAIL _____

Please send me the newsletter by U.S. mail _____ Please send via email only _____

I would like to help with: Library book sales _____ Author programs _____

Fundraising _____ Service on the Board _____

My check for \$ _____ is enclosed.
Pay to FOHCLS, 127 Main Street NW, Gainesville. GA 30501