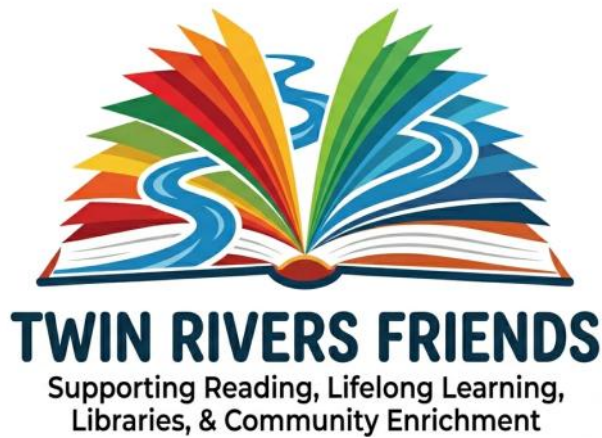




Shelf Life

August 2026

A Message from the TRF President

Dear Friends,

I can't believe that it is August already! The coming fall months are very busy ones for us, and for most local nonprofits.

Calendar of Events

And speaking of being busy, we have enhanced the calendar in our newsletter to include dates that we accept donations at our storage unit as well as reading, literacy, and community enrichments events for both our TRF and other aligned organizations. Check it out on the last page.

Senior Programs

We have launched our [Senior Programs](#). We distributed a program guide to appropriate facilities and organizations and have begun to schedule activities. We have four events scheduled between now and the end of October. We have also reached out directly to most of our members (and some prospective members) to help us run the events, to supply prizes, and to prepare refreshments. See page 3 for details and to sign up. The facilities we are working with are very excited to be able to bring something new to their residents and program participants. This program aligns with the CPRL goal to enhance outreach—another way we continue to support the library. Do something nice for a senior—volunteer or donate prizes!

StoryWalks

Some of our story panels have begun to degrade due to sun exposure. We have applied for a grant from the Friends of North Carolina Public Libraries to replace the backgrounds on three of them. We won't know until October whether or not we received that funding.

Refreshing libraries in facilities

You may not be aware that this is another use of the books donated by the public. We replace the facility's books with other titles and authors. We refreshed the libraries at two facilities this past month: Golden Heights ALF and New Bern Towers (elderly Section 8 housing). Read the article on page 2.

New Twin Rivers Friends website

We are excited to announce that we now have a new website with more functionality than our MemberPlanet site allowed. MemberPlanet is a subscription service that helps us manage and communicate with our members. The new website allows us to keep visitors and members better informed. [Click here](#) to check it out.

Southpaw Baseball Game

Unfortunately this game was called off due to field conditions from a downpour that morning. Maybe next year we can try again to host one.

National Night Out

On Tuesday, August 4th we are partnering with Craven Literacy Council to have a presence at this annual event which will be held at Union Point Park 5 to 8 PM. Do stop by!

Member Bruce Simel steps up

We are incredibly blessed to the very talented Bruce Simel to help us with our marketing and advertising. Bruce has a background in radio marketing here in Eastern NC. We sincerely appreciate those who offer their talent to help us meet our organizational needs. Thanks, Bruce!

Enjoy the last of the summer vacation time!

Yours in Friendship,

Judy Hills, President TRF

Refreshing the Library at New Bern Towers

Recently we visited with the resident service coordinators at the New Bern Housing Authority. NBHA oversees the Section 8 elderly housing at New Bern Towers. These coordinators run the Resident Opportunity Self-Sufficiency Service Coordination program (ROSS). We were there to discuss our Senior Programs. They were very impressed and immediately scheduled a Gameday for September for the New Bern Towers residents.

While we were there, we discussed the facility's library. The coordinators said the residents were asking for more books. We took the opportunity to explain how we refresh libraries and they asked how soon we could do theirs.

Joanne Straight, Margot DeLapp, and Judy Hills went on Monday, July 27th. We begin by pulling all the books off the shelf in one section. We wipe off the shelves and any books that are dusty. We then examine the books and do one of three things with

each: discard it (due to condition, age, or out of date material), remove it from the collection, or save it. We then add our donated books to the collection.

TRF is seeking someone to coordinate this program. Grab a friend and volunteer! [Email Judy Hills.](#)

This is but one of the many uses for the books that the public donates to TRF. Keep 'em coming!



Help Brighten a Senior's Day: Signup to Volunteer

TRF has launched our Senior Programs and the facilities have begun to sign up. Now we need volunteers to help fulfill our promise to host these programs.

We have set up a SignUpGenius online signup for each program as we schedule it. Here are options for your consideration. Depending on which program we are hosting, the basic slots are team leader, manning the refreshment table, manning the prize table, playing the various games, and preparing the needed refreshments.

For refreshments we prefer homemade to purchased goods so that the attendees get something special, especially when there is a theme like Oktoberfest. You can deliver them to the location or we'll arrange to pick up from you the day of or the day before

the event.

Here are the dates/places so far. See signup for times. Clicking on the name takes you to SignUpGenius for that program.

- 8/5 [NOAH Gameday & Puzzle Competition](#)
- 9/16 [Senior Center Puzzle Competition](#)
- 9/22 [New Bern Towers Game Day](#)
- 10/8 [Senior Center Oktoberfest](#)

You will be surprised at how much fun these events are. Help brighten a Senior's day by volunteering! Read all about the program on our website. [Click here.](#)

And don't forget to donate small prizes! [Click here](#) for the list of what is needed. Drop them at the storage unit when manned.



It Just Feels GOOD to Buy Books!

Time to 'fess up! Just how many books do you have piled on your nightstand or bookshelves still waiting to be read? There is a Japanese term for this, you know. Tsundoku. No, that's not the number game.

The term tsundoku "describes the habit of acquiring [books](#) and allowing them to accumulate unread. It combines the idea of stacking things up (*tsunde*), leaving something for later (*oku*) and reading (*doku*). The result is a concept that captures the quiet optimism of a pile of books."

Our brains produce dopamine in response to the anticipation of a reward—the actual reading of that pile of books. "When you picture yourself finally reading that book on a summer holiday, during a long train journey or curled up on the sofa on a rainy after-

noon, the hippocampus begins to assemble that future experience. It binds together fragments of previous experiences stored across the brain – the warmth of sunshine, the smell of coffee, the sound of turning pages, the comfort of your favorite chair – into a coherent mental scene. In effect, the brain uses memories of the past to rehearse pleasures that have yet to happen." This positive anticipation is a contributor to our wellbeing.

So, we invite you to indulge yourself in this guilty pleasure and buy even more books at our Big Book Sale in October. And should you need more room on your bedside table or bookshelves, please send those books our way!

[Click here](#) to read the full article.



[Click here](#) to for a short video where the 2026 Booker Prize Judges describe the submissions in three words.

Partners in Education: Stuff the Bus

STUFF THE BUS



**CRAVEN COUNTY SCHOOLS
STUFF THE BUS SCHOOL SUPPLY LIST**

AAA/AA Batteries	Markers (8 count)
Binder-3 ring (1 1/2, 2, & 3 inch)	Mechanical Pencils
Book Bag (no wheels)	Multicolor Construction Paper
Cardstock	Notebook Paper - Wide Ruled
Clipboard	Pencil Bag - Zippered for Binders
Clorox Wipes	Pencil Box
Colored Paper	Pencils - #2 Wooden
Composition Books - Non Spiral	Pencils - Colored
Crayons - 24 Count	Pens (blue, black, red)
Dry Erase Markers & Erasers	Pocket Pencil Sharpener
Earbuds	Printer Paper
Elmer's Glue/Glue Sticks	Ruler
Erasers - Pink	Scissors (Adults & Children)
Folders - Pocket	Sharpies - Multicolors & Tips
Graph Paper	Stapler/Staples
Hand Sanitizer	Sticky Notes
Highlighters	Subject Dividers for Notebooks
Lined Index Cards (3X5)	Tape
Lined Index Cards (4X6)	Tissues/Kleenex
Marble Comp. Books (Non Spiral)	Zip-Lock Baggies - All Sizes

WE STRONGLY SUGGEST GIFT CARDS (ANY DENOMINATION IS WELCOME) TO GIVE OUR PRINCIPALS FLEXIBILITY TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THEIR INDIVIDUAL STUDENTS: TARGET, AMAZON, & STAPLES

ADVANCE DROP-OFF LOCATIONS UNTIL AUGUST 15, 2025

AlphaGraphics, 3731 Trent Rd., New Bern

Brightspeed, 311 Hancock St., New Bern

Century 21 Zaytoun-Raines, 312 S. Front St., New Bern

Cove City-Craven Co. Public Library, 102 North Main St., Cove City

Craven Central Services, 3600 Trent Rd., New Bern

Edward Jones Investments-Dan Roberts, 301 S. Front St., New Bern

Edward Jones Investments-Georgiana Bowman, 246 Craven St., New Bern

Havelock-Craven Co. Public Library, 301 Cunningham Blvd., Havelock

New Bern-Craven Co. Public Library, 400 Johnson St., New Bern

Rowland & The Home Sales Team, 2102 Trent Blvd., New Bern

Staples New Bern, 3230 Dr. M.L. King Jr. Blvd., New Bern

Toyota of New Bern, 5010 Hwy. 70 East, New Bern

United Bank, 1725 S. Glenburnie Rd., New Bern

United Bank, 412 S. Front St., New Bern

White & Allen, P.A., 901 College Ct., New Bern

STUFF
the **BUS**



Together We Are Partners!

Schools. Business. Community.

**CRAVEN COUNTY
PARTNERS IN EDUCATION**



**Craven
COUNTY SCHOOLS**
Today's Learners... Tomorrow's Leaders



Buy Books for Elementary School Classroom Libraries

In keeping with our intent to collaborate with other nonprofits, please support the Book Purchasing Program at Books-A-Million (BAM). This program is co-sponsored with Partners in Education (PIE) and runs until August 16th. Books may be purchased by patrons to be donated to Craven County School System Elementary School Teachers for use in their classroom libraries.

Children's Museum of New Bern

In our continued search for local nonprofits whose mission aligns with ours, we identified the Children's Museum of New Bern. On Monday, July 6th, TRF Board members **Ellie Toombs, Joanne Straight, and Judy Hills** met with two representatives and toured the museum. They have a master plan and have one exhibit in place already. They hope that the other major exhibits will be installed in August and that they will be ready to open by the end of the year. The facility is not designed to just be a play space, but to be an immersive learning experience. It is also being designed with disabled children in mind.

We discussed how our TRF might participate. We were thinking of a reading nook

and/or a shelf of books in each of the exhibits with books on the focus of that exhibit (e.g., books on health care for the hospital; books on vet care for the veterinarian's office). The possibilities are endless. And even after the exhibit opens, the books will need to be refreshed periodically,

We made no commitment, but both parties agreed to continue to think how the TRF might participate in some way. We were especially interested in their serving the disabled children, an underserved group in our area. [Click here.](#)





Twinriversfriends.org

DONATE BOOKS & MEDIA

Donations are gratefully accepted at our storage unit. How to donate:

- **Use the small book drop** in the rear of the building for small donations (plastic shopping bag size) so those can be dropped off any-time.
- **Drop off when unit is staffed.** We have volunteers there to accept donations on Tuesdays 10 AM to 12 PM and 10 AM to 12 PM on the following Saturdays 8/1, 9/12, and 10/4. Use rear entrance-look for the sign.
- **By special arrangements.** Should you have a large number of books and those days/times do not work, please use the QR code below to email us and we will make arrangements.

River Mills Professional Storage Center
2723 Neuse Blvd.
Please DO NOT leave books at the door!!!

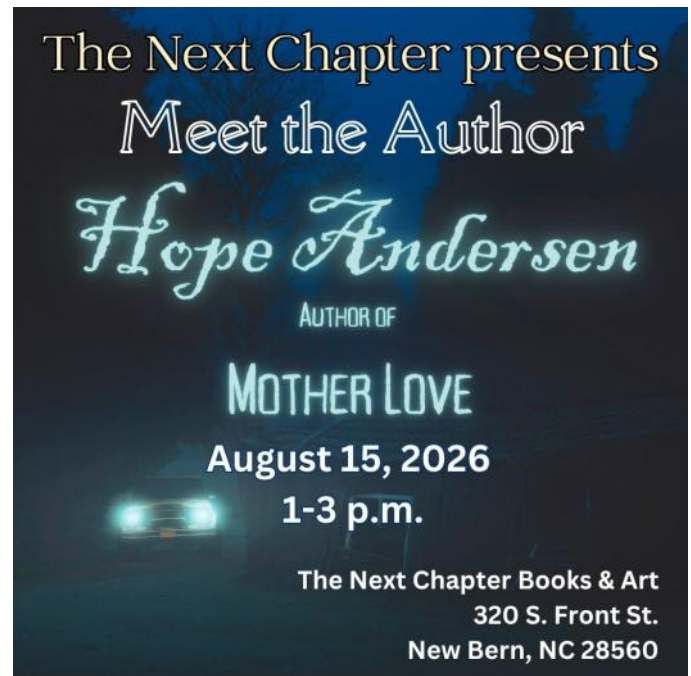


friendsnewbern@gmail.com

New Bern Library August Calendar

3	4	5	6	7	8
6:00 pm Trivia Night	9:30 am Preschool Storysteps 10:30 am Preschool Storysteps 12:00 pm Tech Tutor (Registration required)	9:30 am Books & Babies Lapsit Storytime 10:30 am Books & Babies Lapsit Storytime 1:30 pm Books & Babies Lapsit Storytime 2:30 pm Books & Babies Lapsit Storytime 5:00 pm Introduction to Sign Language		9:30 am Time Out for Toddlers 10:00 am Mind Over Mat(ter) Yoga Class 10:30 am Time Out for Toddlers	10:30 am Saturday Morning Movie: The Secret Life of Pets
10	11	12	13	14	15
	9:30 am Preschool Storysteps 10:30 am Preschool Storysteps 12:00 pm Tech Tutor (Registration required) 5:30 pm Neuse River Writers	9:30 am Books & Babies Lapsit Storytime 10:30 am Books & Babies Lapsit Storytime 1:30 pm Books & Babies Lapsit Storytime 2:30 pm Books & Babies Lapsit Storytime 5:00 pm Mahjong		9:30 am Time Out for Toddlers 10:30 am Time Out for Toddlers 2:30 pm Crafternoon: Sip-n-Paint (for adults)	
17	18	19	20	21	22
	9:30 am Preschool Storysteps 10:30 am Preschool Storysteps 12:00 pm Tech Tutor (Registration required) 2:00 pm Rather Be Reading Book Club	9:30 am Books & Babies Lapsit Storytime 10:30 am Books & Babies Lapsit Storytime 1:30 pm Books & Babies Lapsit Storytime 2:30 pm Books & Babies Lapsit Storytime 5:00 pm "The Thoughts that Aren't Yours: Living By Design, Not By Default" (for adults)		9:30 am Time Out for Toddlers 10:00 am Mind Over Mat(ter) Yoga Class 10:30 am Time Out for Toddlers	10:30 am StoryBlocks: "National Tooth Fairy Day"
24	25	26	27	28	29
6:00 pm Beyond Pages and Time Book Club (Registration required)	9:30 am Preschool Storysteps 10:30 am Preschool Storysteps 12:00 pm Tech Tutor (Registration required)	9:30 am Books & Babies Lapsit Storytime 10:30 am Books & Babies Lapsit Storytime 1:30 pm Books & Babies Lapsit Storytime 2:30 pm Books & Babies Lapsit Storytime		9:30 am Time Out for Toddlers 10:30 am Time Out for Toddlers 2:00 pm Friday Flix: Elvis! (for adults)	

Local authors featured in August at The Next Chapter Books & Art



"Reading gives us someplace to go when we have to stay where we are." - Mason Cooley

Your TRF Membership—Renew Before the Next Big Book Sale

When anyone joins the TRF, whether joining online using a credit card or using a hard copy form, your membership renewal date is the date your information is entered into the online membership database. Even though the system sends renewal messages, we know that those are sometimes missed. **Please go online and check your member data. [Click here and log-in at top right.](#)** If you are unable to do this or need help, [click here](#) to email us. This is especially critical right before each sale. We do check your membership expiration date when you come to the members' only evening sale. Most everyone that attends this sale is eager to get to the books. If your membership is current, you'll sail right through, but if not, you'll have to complete a form and pay.

We highly recommend that you check your expiration date and renew your membership PRIOR TO THE SALE!

The MemberPlanet System will want your email/username and your password. If you have not yet created an account, there is a link to do so.



VOLUNTEER JOB BOARD

Volunteering offers profound personal, professional, and health benefits, including reduced stress, increased happiness, enhanced skill sets, and deeper community connections. Surely there is something here of interest to you. If you have ideas for programs or projects that you want to pursue that fit with our organization's purpose, [email President Judy Hills](#).

Publicity & Communications Coordinator

We thank member **Bruce Simel** for stepping up to fill this position. Bruce has a marketing and radio station management background. He has some very creative ideas!

StoryWalk Coordinator

We have a job description. Entails promoting StoryWalks and filling in when team is unavailable, Contact Judy Hills jahnbnc@gmail.com or 262.670.1913

Senior Programs team member

We have a number of programs we offer to facilities including: refreshing libraries, gametime, cards, silent book club, writing for fun, puzzle competition, crafts, Oktoberfest celebration, National Park Tour (4 different sessions,) Cruise to Italy (4 different sessions). Each includes some food/beverages. Some include dinner. Some include prizes. Questions? Contact Judy Hills, Senior Program Coordinator. jahnbnc@gmail.com 252.670.1913

Storage Unit team member

[Click here](#) to sign up to work the storage unit on Signup Genius. Prefer two persons per shift, but one can work alone. You will need an orientation and to work with a buddy for a while. Needed for 1st Saturday of the month and every Tuesday. Hours only 10 to 12. Contact Cindy Shipley cindyshipley@yahoo.com 540.656.8016

Food & Refreshment team member

Sometimes we just need food or desserts prepared for some event we are either hosting or collaborating on (e.g., German desserts for Oktoberfest event at an assisted living facility). We are making a list of those to contact when we need help. Contact Margot DeLapp mdelapp@gmail.com 703.795.9927

Special Events Coordinator

These are one-time happenings (e.g., Pops in the Park at Kidsville June 13th). Organize the event, help man it (not always), and do an after action report. Or work directly with the person who wants to organize it. Contact Judy Hills jahnbnc@gmail.com or 262.670.1913

Special Events team member

Sometimes we just need help for some event we are either hosting or collaborating on (e.g., Oktoberfest event at an assisted living facility). We are making a list of those to contact when we need help. What skill do you have to contribute? Contact Margot DeLapp mdelapp@gmail.com 703.795.9927

Book Sale Team Member

We need lots of help with the fall book sale the week of October 26th to October 31st. Watch for Signup Genius link in September. Questions? [Joanne Straight](#) 252.259.3078

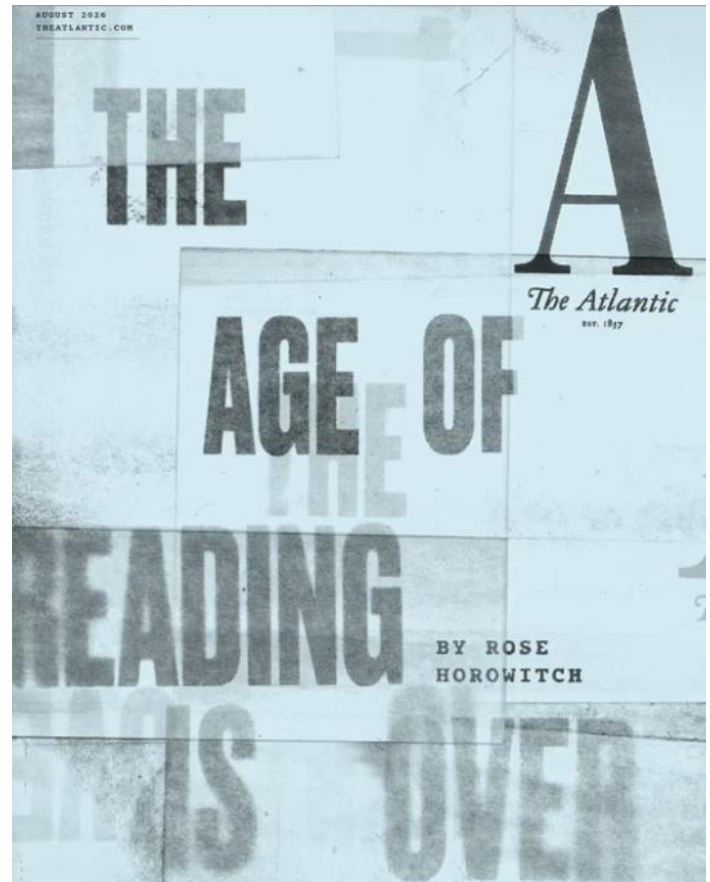
The Atlantic: "The Age of Reading is Over" August 2026 Edition

This article by staff writer Rose Horowitch examines whether civilization can survive this "postliterate world" in which fewer and fewer adults read books of any kind, even among those who traditionally have read the most—retirees, women, and college graduates. Also in steep decline are careers in letters, the humanities, and newspapers.

Horowitch notes that while we are consuming more text, the messages are short. We have lost our desire to read anything long or that requires higher-ordered skills. AI is also having an impact. Why create something ourselves, when we perceive that AI can do it better and faster. We risk losing the ability to think for ourselves and formulate our own opinions.

In this age when knowledge is only a few keystrokes away, we are losing even our inclination to read those texts, opines Horowitch. Do read the full article in The Atlantic. [Click here](#) to read the excerpt.

PS: We are seeing more and more of these articles. What's your opinion? What's been your experience? [Email us](#) your thoughts.



Books-A-Million take on Blind Date With A Book



August 14: 15th Annual Free Family "Fly-In" STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) Night

Eastern Carolina Aviation Heritage Foundation is sponsoring the 15th Annual Free Family "Fly-In" STEM Night. Various interactive STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) activities will be set-up for students and families to explore. Booths will include engineering, robotics, weather, aerodynamics and much more. Door prizes, giveaways, and free school supplies will be given out. Plan to join the fun, rain or shine. Friday, August 14, 2026 5:00 PM thru 07:00 PM Havelock Tourist & Event Center 201 Tourist Center Drive Havelock, NC 28532



Havelock Anime Fest

Comics - Toys - Anime Candy
Manga - Cosplay Contest
Q&A Panels - & More

Guests & Attractions



Peter Kelamis
Voice Actor
DBZ, Fairy Tail
Ed, Edd n Eddy



Jennifer Cihl
Singing Voice
Sailor Moon



LIVE
Sailor Moon
Concert
5:30pm



**Local Vendors
&
Artists**



**Cosplay
Contest**
4:00pm Start



**Pokemon
Collectables**



**Q&A
Discussion
Panels**



**One Piece
Merch**

Guest & Attractions Subject to Cancellations
Location: Havelock Tourist & Event Center - Havelock, NC
Saturday August 29, 2026
Show Hours: 10:00am - 5:00pm
Purchase Tickets Today
Only \$20 General Admission
Kids 11 & Under Free (1 Child Per Adult)
For More Information Visit
www.havelockanimefest.com



[havelockanimefest](https://www.instagram.com/havelockanimefest)



[Havelock Anime-Fest](https://www.facebook.com/HavelockAnime-Fest)

LITTLE FREE LIBRARIES UPDATE

We have asked the City of New Bern's Parks and Recreation Department to include the availability of the LFLs in their publication of events. They are allowing us to post a flyer in the entrance lobby of the Stanley White Recreation Center to remind patrons of the LFL. We hope that will help increase usage of this box.

On July 22nd we documented the condition of all the LFL so we could estimate expenses in the current fiscal year. There is one box that might need to be replaced and two others that need minor work.

We are ordering small engraved signs to remind users to take and to donate books.

To the right is a picture of one of our LFLs. Can you guess where it is?



STORYWALK

Come explore our outdoor stories this month!

2026 STORYWALK SCHEDULE FOR PARKS

BEGIN	END	TITLE	LOCATION
Saturday July 11, 2026	Friday, September 11, 2026	Leo the Late Bloomer	Martin Marietta
		Rainbow Fish	Creekside
Saturday, September 12, 2026	Friday, November 13, 2026	Big Pumpkin	Martin Marietta
		A Fall Ball for All	Creekside
Saturday, November 14, 2026	Friday, January 8, 2026	Walter the Farting Dog	Martin Marietta
		Bear Stays Up for Christmas	Creekside

Creekside Park Steward: Ellie Toombs
Martin Marietta Park Stewards: Bruce & Krystal Simel



TWIN RIVERS FRIENDS

Supporting Reading, Lifelong Learning,
Libraries, & Community Enrichment

[TRF email](#)

[TRF Website](#)

[TRF Facebook](#)

Board of Directors 2026-2028

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Vice President [Margot DeLapp](#)
Secretary [Ellie Toombs](#)
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Treasurer [Jenny Miller](#)

Director [Joanne Straight](#)
Director [Cindy Shipley](#)
Director [Joy Hepler](#)

Newsletter [Judy Hills](#)
Website [Judy Hills](#)
Facebook [Margot DeLapp](#)

The purpose of this organization shall be to: maintain an association that advocates for the freedom to read; support the development of library resources and services; develop and support a community of readers and lifelong learners; and collaborate with other organizations to enrich our community and achieve these purposes.

Formed in 1968, the "Friends" is organized for charitable, educational, and literary purposes including making distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, as amended, or corresponding provisions of any future Federal tax legislation. The Friends are also incorporated as a nonprofit in the state of North Carolina and have a current NC Charitable License Exemption.

Calendar of Noteworthy Events

August

- 1 Drop off book donations River Mills Storage 10 to 12 2723 Neuse Blvd
- 4 Drop off book donations River Mills Storage 10 to 12 2723 Neuse Blvd
- 4 National Night Out at Union Point Park 5 to 8 PM—sharing space with the Craven Literacy Council
- 5 [NOAH Gameday and Puzzle Competition](#) 12 to 2
- 11 Drop off book donations River Mills Storage 10 to 12 2723 Neuse Blvd
- 14 Free Family Fly-In **STEM** event 5 to 7 PM at the Havelock Tourist & Event Center
- 15 Stuff the Bus to help Craven County School System students at Staples 10 AM to 2 PM. [Click here](#) for supplies needed.
- 16 Deadline for BAM program to purchase books for elementary school teacher classroom libraries
- 18 Drop off book donations River Mills Storage 10 to 12 2723 Neuse Blvd
- 20 TRF Board meeting 2 PM TBD

- 25 Deadline to submit material for the newsletter

- 25 Drop off book donations River Mills Storage 10 to 12 2723 Neuse Blvd
- 29 [Havelock Anime-Fest](#) at Havelock Tourist Center 10 to 5 with Sailor Moon concert at 5:30 PM

September

- 1 Drop off book donations River Mills Storage 10 to 12 2723 Neuse Blvd
- 7 Labor Day
- 8 Drop off book donations River Mills Storage 10 to 12 2723 Neuse Blvd
- 11 National Day of Service—special book donation event 4 to 6 PM at River Mills Storage 10 to 12 2723 Neuse Blvd
- 12 Drop off book donations River Mills Storage 10 to 12 2723 Neuse Blvd
- 15 Drop off book donations River Mills Storage 10 to 12 2723 Neuse Blvd
- 16 [Senior Center Puzzle Competition](#) 9 to 11