TWIN RIVERS FRIENDS

Supporting Reading, Lifelong Learning, Libraries, & Community Enrichment

Shelf Life

October 2026

A Message from the TRF President

Dear Friends,

Fall is such a lovely season here in eastern NC. The weather is moderate and in most years the foliage is beautiful. And TRF is helping to bring that beauty into senior facilities . It makes my heart smile to see how grateful the program participants are for the smallest of kindnesses. Do join in on the fun and volunteer!

NCCF Endowment

After many months of back and forth, the TRF has finally executed the required NC Community Foundation paperwork needed to establish the Friends of New Bern-Craven County Public Library endowment. This endowment is to honor those who have been members and leaders of our organization since 1968 and the yearly disbursal will benefit the New Bern-Craven County Public Library at 400 Johnson St. to "use for general purposes with a preference for programmatic support." Anyone who desires to directly contribute individually to increase the endowment is welcome to do so. The TRF plans to grow this endowment to show our continued support of the library we have faithfully served for over 50 years.

Foundation grant funding

We have been approached by a foundation with an opportunity to apply for funding to put quality, desired book titles into the hands of needy children over the age of five. The TRF Board approved and we submitted the required paperwork. We hope to hear something definitive in a month or so.

Celebrate the Freedom to Read

Join us at Brewery99 on Tuesday, October 6 between 3 and 9 PM. This is a drop-in event. Bring your own banned book to read or peruse one of ours. We are accepting donations of books for our sale. Also, every half hour we will have a drawing for a blind date with a book. We hope to generate discussions, to gain new members, and to increase our visibility in the community. We thank Brewery99 for hosting this event. **Please drop by!!!**

Reading Nook at Children's Museum

We are excited to be able to take part in the design of the reading nook planned for the new Children's Museum. Our Friends are partnering with Healy Literacy to create the space and to select the books for the nook. We have a committee working on this project.

Senior Center needs craft supplies

This county facility has a limited budget and the material for any craft project they do comes out of it. Teresa McCollum, the Activity Director, sometimes uses her own money to get what is needed. We have seen their handiwork and the projects are amazing. Teresa wants the projects to be something that the participants are proud of and that they would actually display at home. You may donate craft and painting supplies to the program. Contact Teresa to find out their specific needs. 252.638.1790

September Senior Programs

Do check out the articles and pictures of the events we have held this past month at senior facilities. The smiles and laughter are rewarding to those who bring those events to fruition.

In closing, we are on a roll! TRF has lots of activities scheduled for October, including our Big Fall Book Sale. Do help us get the word out and sign up to work it!

Yours in Friendship,

Judy Hills, President TRF

Carolina Senior Care Activities

We provided activities at Carolina Senior Care, an adult day care facility near BSH on Neuse Blvd. **Judy Hills** took the lead and was assisted by **Luann Rottmann** on Tuesday, September 1st. In the morning we played double bingo using playing cards. The participants got to pick prizes for winning. Everyone went home with at least one item (food or personal care). In the afternoon we came back and had them pass around a ball. It was small items, mostly snacks, layered with saran wrap. Each person got to unwrap one item. After that game we watched a funny video about two dachshunds prepping for a hurricane. We then discussed our real experiences with storms and how to prepare for them.

On Wednesday, September 2nd, Judy returned with **Anitra Thomas**, Judy's neighbor, to host an afternoon program. The group took the YouTube Classic TV Nostalgia Challenge. We split the group of 18 into teams. They shouted out the answer to the name of the show and the first team to guess correctly got a check mark. We counted up the check marks at the end to see which team won. The scores were very close. They were a highly competitive group! Everyone got to pick two prizes to take home.

This was the first time we tried these particular events with seniors. While we had to make a few adjustments, all in all



Riverpoint Crest Activities

On Tuesday, September 8th, **Judy Hills** and **Joanne Straight** coordinated two art activities for 12 residents of Riverpoint Crest under the watchful eye of Activity Director Morgan Brunelle and staff who stopped by.

We begin with a painting project. The residents were given the skeleton of a tree and they filled in the fall foliage by dipping a broccoli floret into yellow, red, and orange paint and dabbing it onto the paper. Each tree was unique. It was an easy activity for all skill levels.

After the tree painting, we served refreshments. The two home baked items were crowd pleasers.

Then we helped the participants decorate glass jars using window clings, foam stickers, ribbon, and other fall items. Some added items to the inside of the jar to make it even more interesting. This was an other easy project.

Morgan sent this follow up email: "What a blast we had, the residents really enjoyed the arts and crafts. Thank you again for fun had by all! "

We look forward to returning to this facility on October 2nd for Oktoberfest.





















Here are the painted trees displayed in the residents' dining room.

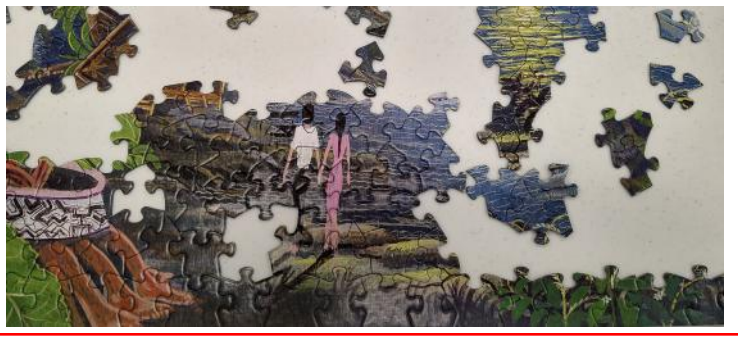
Puzzle Competition at the Senior Center

On September 16th, **Judy Hills, Janey Powell, and Anitra Thomas** ran the puzzle competition at the Senior Center. There were three teams of 3 to 4 individuals who competed. The teams had 1.5 hours to assemble the same 500-piece puzzle. The first place winners got 6 tickets each, the second place winners got 5 tickets each, and the third place winners got 4 tickets each. They used the tickets to "buy" small prizes (wrapped snacks and personal care items).

The TRF also brought refreshments which the teams enjoyed. The participants asked us to come back again. They liked that we offered "something different."







Puzzle Competition Pictures by Janey, Anitra, and Judy











Get Crafty

On September 24th, Judy Hills and Anitra Thomas helped 12 residents of the PruittHealth Neuse facility create fall and Halloween jars. Those who made the jars were tickled with them and some even made a jar for another resident who was unable to attend.





To the right, standing, is the facility Activity Director, Aniyah Credle. Seated is a resident who is a reader. We had recently refreshed their library, but some residents asked for specific authors and genres, so we brought them additional books when we came to do the craft workshop. This lady was so happy to have more books to read!





Swansboro Friends Hosts Regional Friends Meeting

For the fourth year in a row, the Swansboro Friends have gathered Friends groups in Carteret, Onslow, and Craven Counties to exchange ideas and provide status updates. Paula Patselas is the driver behind this effort. She is a wonderful hostess. The table settings, table decorations, and blind date with a book wrappings are lovely. The food is always good—sponsored by various merchants.

This year we met at Hammocks Beach State Park in the historical Hurst Hall. One of the park rangers gave a talk on the history of the hall which has just completed a renovation. It is now a setting for weddings and other social events. After lunch, the participants exchanged ideas. The Swansboro Friends also provided tickets to ride the ferry to the Bear Island. Unfortunately our Board members, Judy Hills, Margot DeLapp, and Ellie Toombs had to return to New Bern for a Board meeting so we were unable to go.

We thank the Swansboro Friends for hosting. We left with several new ideas.





National Night Out at Union Point Park

The TRF partnered with the Craven Literacy Council to share a tent and table at Union Point Park on Tuesday September 29th. This was for National Night Out which had been rescheduled from August. The event started at 5 PM and went until it got dark, around 7:30 PM. TRF's board members on hand included Joanne Straight, Margot DeLapp and Judy Hills.



Margot's husband had a huge bubble display in the center of the park. Families enjoyed trying their hand at making the big bubbles. Margot's daughter also did some juggling and balloon animals. We thank them both for coming out.

We gave out soft cover books left over from last Christmas (PK to 3) and the CLC gave out chapter books. We both gave out gum and candy. For those who inquired, we provided small flyers on the book sale and book donations.

The event was not as well attended by families as we had hoped, but there were still a steady stream of attendees.

We plan to follow up with several organizations regarding prospective collaborations.

We were very appreciative that CLC agreed to share a tent and table and hope to do more with them in the future.



National Night Out at Union Point Park









Smart Start Presentation at TWF Board Meeting

Pinkie Moore and Elizabeth Brown attended our September Board meeting to educate us on the Raising a Reader Program which is offered in 16 of the 44 NC PK programs in Craven County.

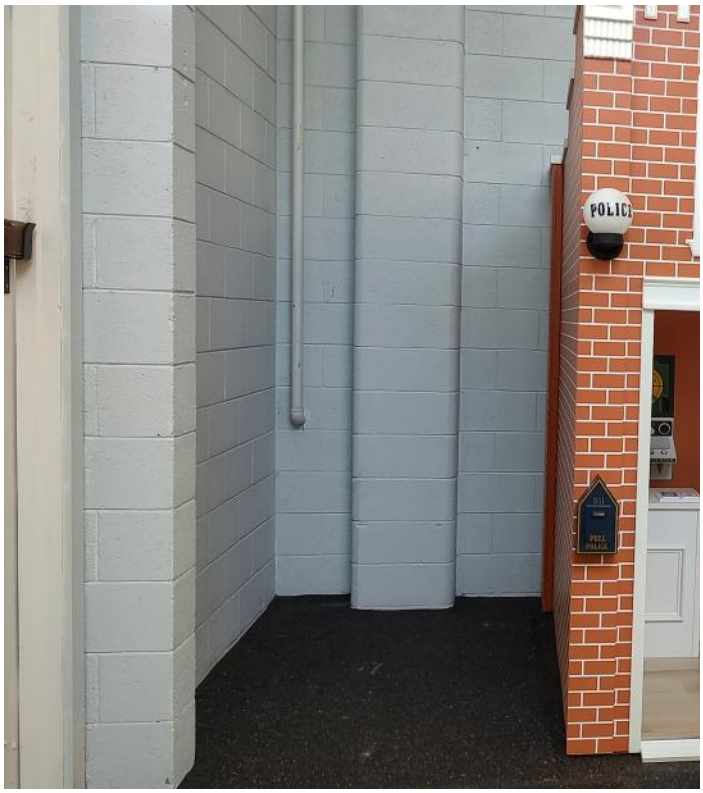


L to R: Joanne Straight, Joy Hepler, Elizabeth Brown

Reading Nook at Children's Museum

This past month Board members Judy Hills, Ellie Toombs, and Joanne Straight visited the Children's Museum to view the installed exhibits and to look at the area designated for the reading nook. We met with the museum rep Jane Dail and with Leigh Healy of Healy Literacy, one of the partners on the nook. We came up with a design utilizing an arched canopy to give the small space more of an ethereal feel. Books will be on one wall and a bench on the other, assuming they will fit as the space is small. Here is a picture of the empty space. As soon as we approve the design, the museum will price out the cost.

We have formed a committee to select the books and to make decisions on the space. They include: Jane Dail, Leigh Healy, Judy Hills, Ellie Toombs, Joanne Straight, and Cindy Shipley.





NATIONAL Friends of Libraries WEEK

AN INITIATIVE OF UNITED FOR LIBRARIES

OCTOBER 18 TO 24

Disclaimers Seen Now in YA Books by Judy Hills

When is the last time you browsed books at Books-A-Million? It had been a while since I was in the store. I went there to see if they were doing a banned books display—and yes! They have a whole section just for some of these books.

I have a young adult granddaughter who loves the romantasy genre. She is a real fan of Sarah J. Maas, who by the way, has two of the top 11 banned books for 2025. I checked out the sale table to see if there were any romantasy books. I came across an author, Emily McIntire. Her name caught my eye as her last name was my maiden name. I picked up one of the three titles of her on display. In the book "*Wretched*" the first chapter title was Evelina. Now this, too, is a coincidence as that unusual name is the name of my niece's daughter. The book also has that new spredges (sprayed edges) which drew my eye as well.

But I digress. When I opened the book to see if this was a stand-alone title or if it was part of a set (becoming more popular every day by this genre of writer), I noticed a type of disclaimer that I had not seen before. It read like a movie rating, but it was even more explicit. This piqued my curiosity.

This new type of disclaimer is called a content or trigger warning.

- Placement: Usually on the copyright page, introduction, or as a note on the back cover/online description.
- Themes covered: These can include warnings for substance abuse, sexual assault, self-harm, graphic violence, or severe mental health struggles.
- Supportive wording: These warnings may also double as resources, such as including a brief note with the phone number for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (988) or similar crisis resources.

I asked AI to show me an example using Emily McIntire's book, *Wretched*. Below is what came up.

The author's note and content disclaimer for "Wretched" by Emily McIntire serves as a perfect real-world example, though it is important to note a key difference in category: unlike standard Young Adult (YA) books, Wretched is an Adult Dark Romance (a fractured fairy tale reimagining of The Wizard of Oz). Because of its highly explicit and intense content, it uses a specific disclaimer format common in mature fiction.

Instead of printing an exhaustive, multi-page list of potentially triggering plot points directly in the front matter, the book uses a brief "Reader Discretion" alert that routes readers to a digital database.

The Exact Disclaimer in the Book reads as follows:

"*Wretched* is a dark, contemporary romance and the third complete standalone in The Never After Series: A collection of fractured fairy tales inspired by our favorite villains. It is not fantasy and it is not a retelling. Reader discretion is advised. For all content warnings check the author's website." If a reader follows that advice and goes to the official Emily McIntire Content Warnings Page, they will find the full, highly detailed breakdown for Wretched. This includes warnings for:

- Graphic Violence & Crime: Gun violence, murder, blood, and themes surrounding a ruthless drug empire.
- Explicit Content: Heavy sexual content and unconventional/toxic relationship dynamics.
- Mental Health & Trauma: Depictions of addiction, drug abuse, grief, and severe emotional abuse.

Why Authors Use This "Link-Out" Method:

- Saves Page Space: It keeps the opening pages of the book clean and narrative-focused.
- Prevents Spoilers: Detailed lists can accidentally ruin plot twists for readers who don't want them.
- Allows Updates: The author can easily update or clarify warnings on their website if readers point out things that were missed in the initial print.

So the next time you are in a store that sells new books, do look for this new type of disclaimer. What else have you noticed that is different or new in bookstores? Do tell!

The Ever-Evolving Definition of "Literacy"

The meaning of literacy is changing. While reading and writing remain essential skills, today's students and adults are expected to navigate an increasingly complex world of digital communication, social media, visual information and artificial intelligence.

According to the National Literacy Institute, 21% of U.S. adults were considered illiterate in 2024. Yet defining literacy solely by traditional reading and writing skills may no longer capture the full range of abilities people need to communicate and understand information effectively.

Jill Grifenhagen, an associate professor of literacy education, explains that literacy extends beyond printed words. In addition to reading and writing, literacy includes speaking and listening, visual communication and a variety of digital skills. As technology becomes more integrated into everyday life, people must learn to interpret and communicate through many different forms of media.

At the same time, young people are spending more hours using smartphones, tablets and computers and, according to Grifenhagen, appear to be reading less for pleasure outside of school. Although screen time and declining recreational reading cannot necessarily be directly linked, there is limited time available each day for both activities.

Carrie Carter, a graduate student in sociology, views these changes not as the disappearance of education but as an evolution in the skills society values. Traditional practices such as cursive writing and the five-paragraph essay may be less common, while students are increasingly expected to communicate through social media and other digital platforms.

The rapid development of artificial intelligence tools such as ChatGPT, Claude and Google AI has added another dimension to literacy. Rather than viewing AI as a crisis, Grifenhagen sees it as another shift in how people communicate and use information. Throughout history, changes in technology and society have influenced the ways people read, write and share ideas.

The challenge, she says, is finding the right balance. AI and other technologies can be valuable tools, but they should support rather than replace critical thinking and creativity. People still need to evaluate information carefully, recognize unreliable or misleading content and understand the meaning behind what they read or see.

This broader concept of literacy applies to everything from traditional books to social media posts, videos and movies. Being literate today means being able to absorb information, consider its source and purpose, understand different perspectives and communicate ideas effectively.

Carter emphasizes that literacy should not be viewed from a deficit perspective. People develop different skills based on their backgrounds, education and professional experiences. Someone who has spent years in a business environment, for example, may have different communication strengths than a college student.

Ultimately, literacy is not being lost—it is evolving. Each generation faces new ways of communicating and new expectations for understanding information. Rather than fearing these changes, educators and students can approach them as opportunities to learn and adapt.

The goal is not to decide whether traditional or digital literacy is better. Instead, it is to ensure that people can use multiple forms of communication thoughtfully, creatively and effectively. In a rapidly changing world, the ability to learn, adapt and think critically may be among the most important forms of literacy of all.

Article by Caroline Alexander in Technician, rephrased by AI.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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.

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

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

Book Sale Team Member
We need lots of help with the fall book sale the week of October 26th to October 31st. Click here to sign up on SignUp Genius. Questions? Joanne Straight 252.259.3078

Library Refresh Coordinator
We have a job description. Entails reviewing condition, straightening, restocking books at assisted living facilities, Suggest a team of two. Contact Judy Hills jahnbnc@gmail.com or 262.670.1913

Below are the events still needing help. Click on the event to sign up on Signup Genius. Children's events have an asterisk.

10/8 Senior Center Oktoberfest 9 to 11 Prizes, games, and snacks

10/16 Cards at Riverpoint Crest 10 to 12. Snacks and prizes

10/20 Oktoberfest at PruittHealth Neuse 2:30 PM to 4:30 PM

*10/24 Play date for 2 to 5 year olds at West New Bern Rec Center 10 to noon. Ellie Toombs will read a book and have we'll an activity. Need one more person to help.

10/26-31 Big Book Sale at Knights of Columbus Hall

*11/7 Touch a Truck Event at West New Bern Rec Center 10 AM to 2 PM Will need two people to help.

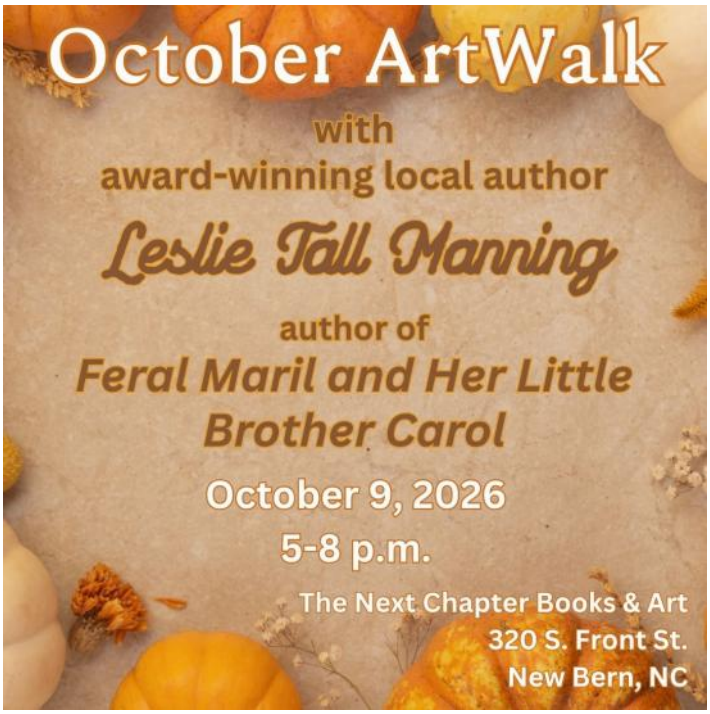
*11/14 Play date for 2 to 5 year olds at West New Bern Rec Center 10 to noon. Susan Dunn will read a book and we'll have an activity. Will need one more person to help.

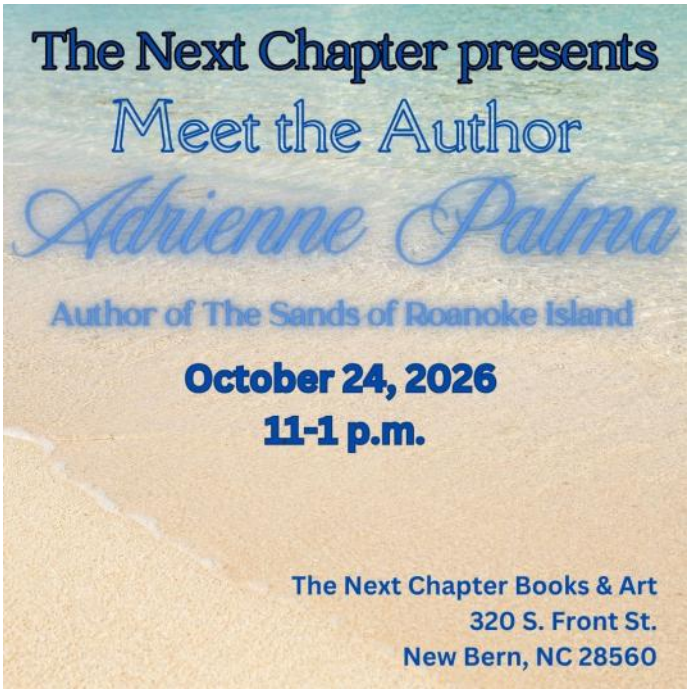
11/17 State Fair event at Navion 2 to 4 PM.

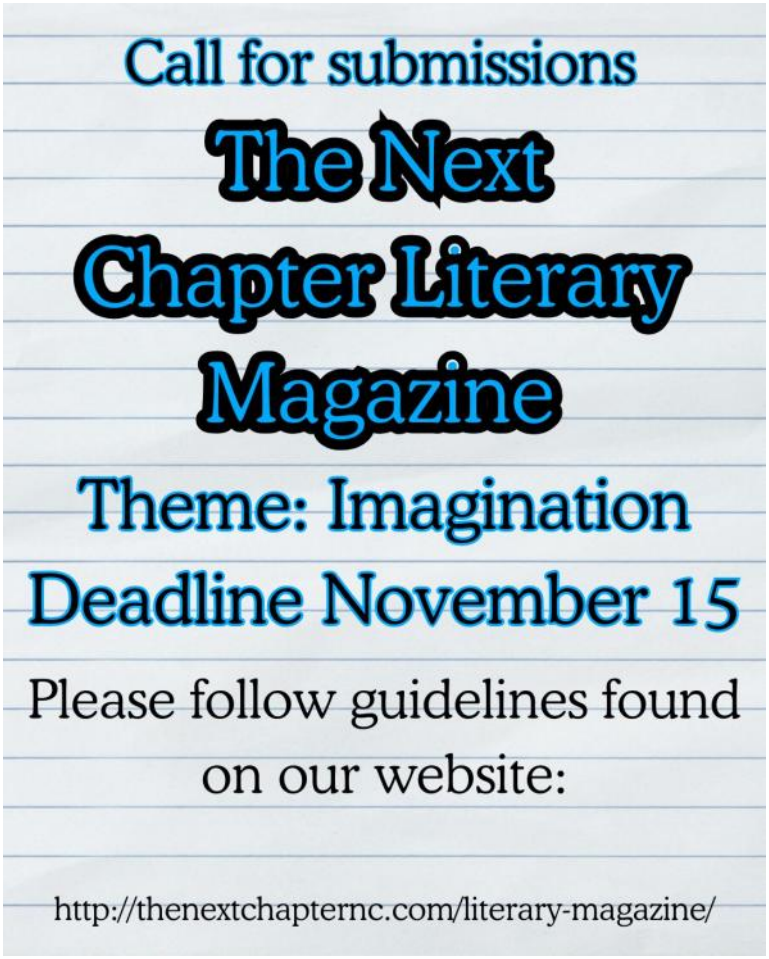
*12/5 Play date for 2 to 5 year olds at West New Bern Rec Center 10 to noon. A member will read a book and we'll have an activity.



Next Chapter Books & Art Author Events







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.



LITTLE FREE LIBRARIES UPDATE

We heard from Leigh Healy of Healy Literacy that as an empty nester she has been culling her children's book collection and sprinkling them around in the Little Free Libraries. We thank Leigh and everyone who takes the time to do this and who donates books to TRF.

LFL Steward Christine Bryon reports that a book on Lincoln was found in one LFL with the section on slavery torn out. We don't know if this happened before or after the book was place in the LFL. We like to think that New Bern residents celebrate and nurture our ethnicities, cultures, and heritage and that they are above such acts. Please report any acts of vandalism of the books or of the LFL box to us.

Those of us that maintain these LFL wish that the public would not stuff them with magazines, religious promotional material, ratty books, and non-fiction books whose material is dated. It is extra work for us to remove and discard these books. We appreciate all the help we can get!



Randy Straight replaced the wonky door on the LFL at Pleasant Hill Park.

STORYWALK



Since the weather is cooling off a bit, what better time than now to take kids on a Story-Walk? Halloween favorite "*Big Pumpkin*" is up at Martin Marietta Park and "*A Fall Ball for All*" is featured at Creekside Park. Both are great stories. So grab your walking shoes, a child or two, and your childhood memories of fall and head to one of these parks!





2026 STORYALK SCHEDULE FOR PARKS

BEGIN	END	TITLE	LOCATION
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, 2027	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

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 anytime.
- **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

TWIN RIVERS FRIENDS

Supporting Reading, Lifelong Learning, Libraries, & Community Enrichment

CELEBRATE OUR FREEDOM TO READ

during

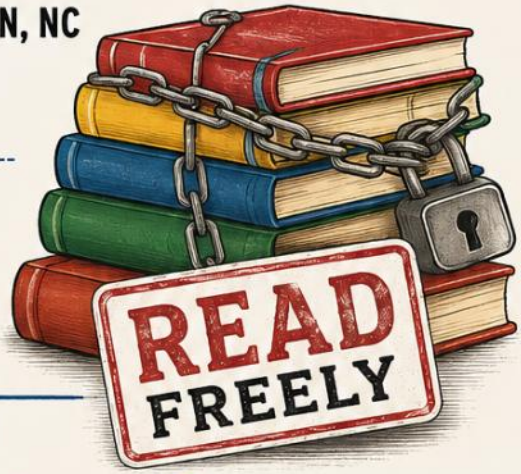
BANNED BOOKS WEEK

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2026

3:00 PM – 9:00 PM

BREWERY 99

1030 POLLOCK ST. • NEW BERN, NC



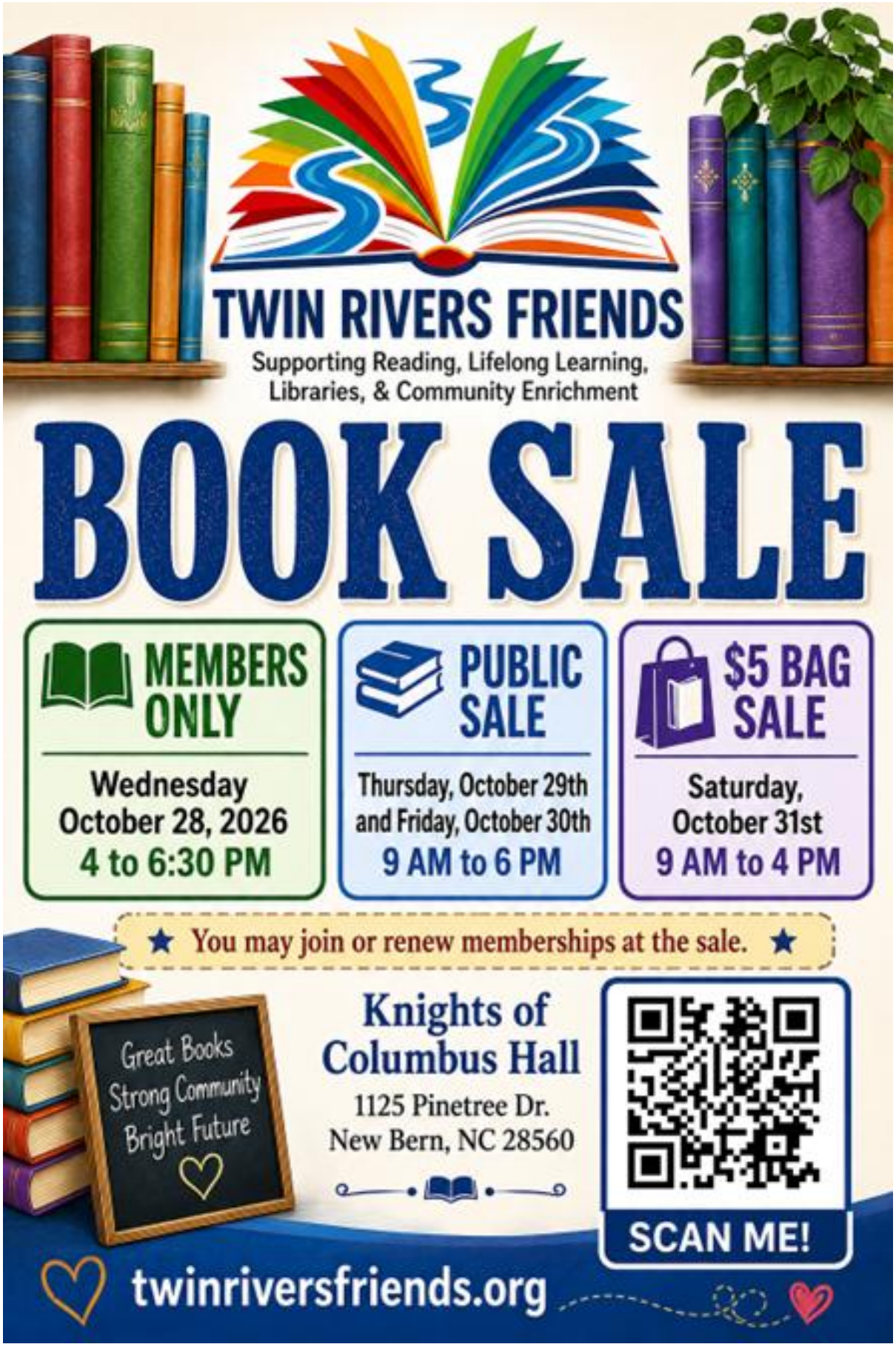
OPPORTUNITY TO INTERACT WITH LIKE-MINDED FOLKS.

DROP BY AND READ A BANNED BOOK WITH US.
Bring your own banned book, or we'll have a few for you to peruse.

OPPORTUNITY TO DONATE BOOKS.

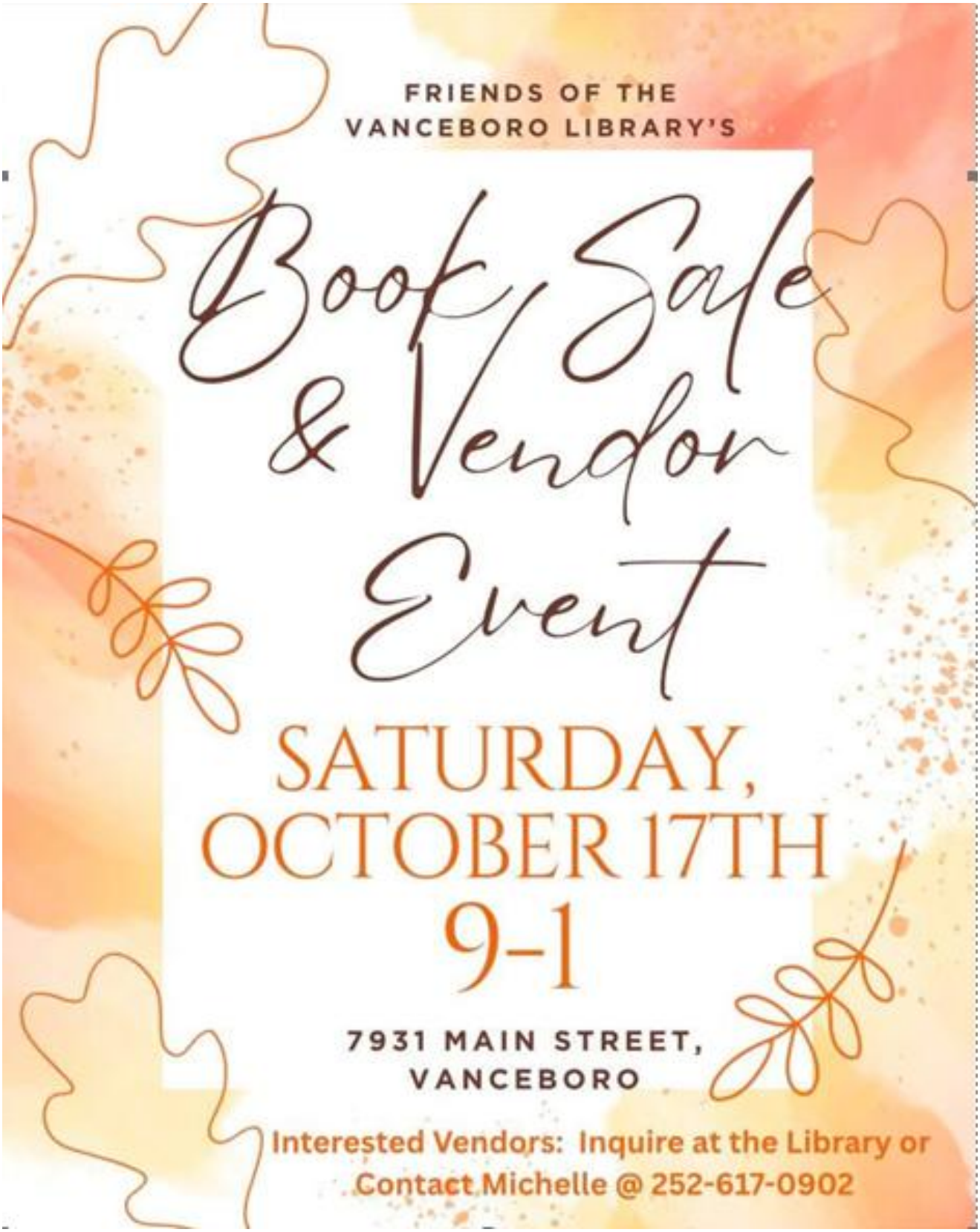
DRAWING EVERY HALF HOUR
for your choice of a
Blind Date with a Book!

READ FREELY ★ THINK FREELY ★ BE FREELY YOU


TWIN RIVERS FRIENDS
Supporting Reading, Lifelong Learning, Libraries, & Community Enrichment
BOOK SALE
MEMBERS ONLY
Wednesday
October 28, 2026
4 to 6:30 PM
PUBLIC SALE
Thursday, October 29th
and Friday, October 30th
9 AM to 6 PM
$5 BAG SALE
Saturday,
October 31st
9 AM to 4 PM
You may join or renew memberships at the sale.
Great Books
Strong Community
Bright Future
Knights of Columbus Hall
1125 Pinetree Dr.
New Bern, NC 28560
SCAN ME!
twinriversfriends.org

Friends of the Vanceboro Library Having a Book Sale

We are helping these Friends to spread the word about their sale.



TWIN RIVERS FRIENDS

Supporting Reading, Lifelong Learning, Libraries, & Community Enrichment

Twin Rivers Friends
P.O. Box 808
New Bern, NC 28563-0808

TRF email

TRF Website

TRF Facebook

Board of Directors 2026-2028

President	Judy Hills
Vice President	Margot DeLapp
Secretary & Interim Treas.	Ellie Toombs
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. The Friends are also incorporated as a nonprofit in the state of North Carolina and have a current NC Charitable License Exemption.

The TRF supports the New Bern-Craven County Public Library through the donation of the yearly disbursal from the endowment we have established with the NC Community Foundation. We plan to grow this endowment and ask members to also contribute to it.

Calendar of Noteworthy Events

October

2 Oktoberfest at Riverpoint Crest 2 to 4 pm

4 to 10 Banned Books Week

6 Brewery99 3 to 9 Drop-by event Celebrate our Freedom to Read

8 Oktoberfest at Senior Center 9 to 11

10 West New Bern Rec Center ages 2 to 5 drop in play time 10 to 12

15 TRF Board Meeting at Trent Woods Town Hall 2 PM

18 to 24 National Friends of the Library Week

26 Load truck for book sale 3 PM

27 Unload truck and set up book sale 8 to 4

28 Set up book sale 8 to 4

28 Members' Only sale 4 to 6:30 PM

29 Sale 9 to 5

30 Sale 9 to 5

31 Bag sale 9 to 4

31 Clean up 4 to 6



November

7 Touch a Truck Kidsfest at West New Bern Rec Center 10 to 2

8 to 14 National StoryWalk Week

11 Veterans Day

14 West New Bern Rec Center ages 2 to 5 drop in play time 10 to 12

17 State Fair event at Navion 2 to 4

19 Twin Rivers Friends Board meeting at Trent Woods Town Hall 2 pm

26 Thanksgiving