TWIN RIVERS FRIENDS

Supporting Reading, Lifelong Learning, Libraries, & Community Enrichment

Shelf Life

November 2026

A Message from the TRF President

Dear Friends,

Whew! October was a busy, busy month for us! It culminated with our Big Fall Book Sale which is a week of intensive work for our board and many of our members. We appreciate everyone's support, whether you donated books, helped promote the sale, bought books, helped set up, worked the sale, or helped clean up. And behind the scenes, we have a storage unit team who work all year round to collect, evaluate, sort, pack, and stack the books. This team is led by Director **Cindy Shipley**. It takes a village to pull this off successfully. Many hands make light work, as they say. So thanks for doing your part! *And we'll be doing this again in the Spring the week of* ***April 19th.*** *Mark your calendars!*

TRF October Events

In this newsletter you'll find articles and pictures from the events we held or participated in during October. I'm not going to repeat all that here, but I encourage you to at least look at all the smiling faces. If you need to brighten your day, the best way is to bring joy to someone else. Do sign up to help. You'll get a big return for very little work.

Children's Museum Book Nook

The group working on the Children's Museum Book Nook—Lil' Bears Library—has selected a design, picked out the furnishings, and has formulated a list of desired books for the nook. We settled on some much-loved generic titles as well as seasonal books that will be rotated. They hope to open the museum in December. We are excited that we are able to participate in a way that connects to our mission.

Monetary Donations

If any person wants to make a donation, they may now do so by clicking the "*donate" button on the top right of the home page.* https://twinriversfriends.org/ This link takes you to the donate page where they can make one of two choices. If they want to make a donation to the TWF, they select the link "to help fund our mission." This takes them to our PayPal account where they may select the payment option that best suits them. The second choice is "to increase the endowment benefitting the New Bern Library (400 Johnson St.)." This is a direct payment to the North Carolina Community Foundation to the fund entitled, "Friends of New Bern-Craven County Public Library" which honors our past members and organizational leaders, NCCF automatically sends a yearly disbursement check to the New Bern Library. The TRF do not touch or manage these funds, but we do plan to continue to grow this fund—our commitment to support this library.

Havelock Friends

Like our Friends, the Havelock Friends also did not sign the CPRL MOU. They have reorganized and their new name is the Havelock Literacy Friends. We have been consulting with them during this phase and giving them ideas for moving forward.

Fall Big Book Sale

By the time you are reading this, the sale will have ended. It is always such a relief to have

Continued on next page

President's Column Continued

completed another sale! This is our first sale without having the benefit of donations from the library (books culled from their collections and from books collected by the library for us). We developed alternative strategies to get book donations and they worked! **So keep those book and media donations coming!** We did invite CPRL library managers to attend the sale and pick out books they need for their collections at no charge. We'll give the report and have more photos in the December issue of the newsletter.

The Tuesday after the end of the sale (November 3rd), we begin again to collect book and media donations for the next sale scheduled for the week of April 19, 2027. Mark your calendar! Also please sign up to work the storage unit. Click here.

Yours in Friendship,
Judy Hills, President TRF

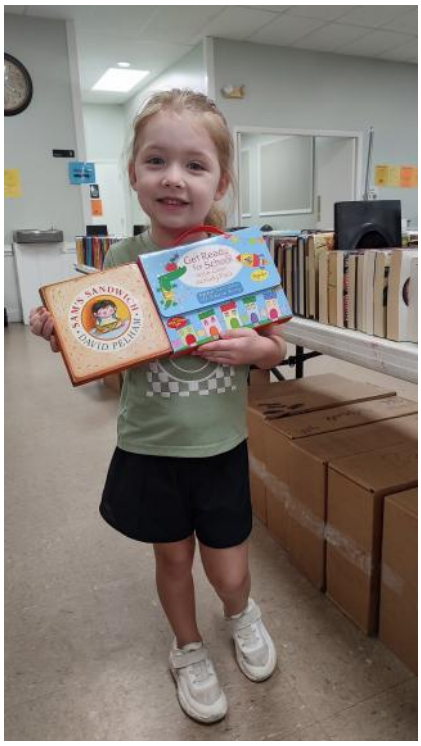
October Book Sale Volunteers

We thank our storage unit and book sale volunteers because without them there would be no book sale. We depend on sign in lists for this information, so if your name is not here and you helped, please email Judy Hills. Some listed are early college students, husbands, friends, and neighbors of members.

Scott	Allenspach	John	Dougherty	Janey	Powell
Frank	Anaya	Sue	Dunn	Dawn	Reyburn
Ashley	Anderson	Katie	Gearren	Luann	Rottmann
Jessica	Barboza	Joy	Hepler	Angie	Seligman
Janice	Blann	Judy	Hills	Ellen	Serra
Christine	Byron	Alan	Hills	Cindy	Shipley
Deborah	Carter	Dennis	Hulick	Bruce	Simel
Cathy	Colquitt	Susan	Jones	Cliff	Skinner
David	Colquitt	Sara	Martin	Kody	Spruill
Gabriel	Cox	Ginny	Mattern	Joanne	Straight
Jan	Dallacqua	Ann Miller	Mooney	Randy	Straight
David	Dawson	Ann	Niethamer	Ellie	Toombs
Denise	Deaton	Gary	Niethamer	Laura	Turnbaugh
Amy	deCourt	Alexander	Parker	Liz	Williamson
Margot	DeLapp	John	Peck	Gabriel	Zira

Thank You, Volunteers!!!

Pictures from the October Book Sale











Pictures from the October Book Sale









Riverpoint Crest Oktoberfest

Twenty-two residents, seven family members, and a few staff attended our Oktoberfest program at the Riverpoint Crest facility on October 2nd. Board member **Ellie Toombs** and **Judy Hills** ran the event with the assistance of Judy's husband, **Alan Hills**. Member **Marcia Sproul** provided cookies and pretzel mix. Ellie also prepared German chocolate cupcakes. Because of the large crowd and the fact that all the residents were in wheelchairs, the staff and families had to help us serve, but it all worked out.

One gentleman started talking about his memories of a family trip to Germany. Everyone remembered the Chicken Dance so they were doing the hand motions for that perennial favorite. They also learned two Oktoberfest traditions, Ein Prosit (the beer toasting song) and Das Fliegerlied (a dance done mostly with hand gestures). And let's not forget the yodeling. They watched two videos on the topic and then a few of the more adventuresome entertained the rest of us with their take on a yodel!

After the videos, they had an opportunity to play a few simple games to win tickets. They used the tickets to "buy" prizes—snacks and personal care items.

Morgan Brunelle, the Activity Director, was very pleased with the program and can't wait for us to return on October 16th to play cards with the residents.







Riverpoint Crest Cards

We returned to Riverpoint Crest on October 16th to play card games with the residents. Member **Amy de Court** made ginger cookies and pound cake. **Margot DeLapp, Janey Powell, Alan and Judy Hills** played cards with the residents. One table led by Alan played poker. Judy was taught to play Spades by residents Sandra and Melvin. Margot taught her table including Janey, Kings-in-the-Corner. There was lots of chatter and laughter! Several other residents came to cheer the players on and to enjoy the snacks. All players were invited to pick two prizes for participating.

The residents loved the snacks. They got things to eat and drink that they don't normally get. Several took snacks back to their rooms to consume later.

We had 14 residents come to the party. A number of them are now "regulars" as they have attended all three events that we have held at this facility.

What we know from having put on a number of these events now is that our TRF members have just as much fun as the residents do. We interact with the residents which, in some cases, means more to them than the programs we present.

After the event, we had an email from the Activity Director saying that the residents had so much fun that they asked if we could return to play cards again in November.

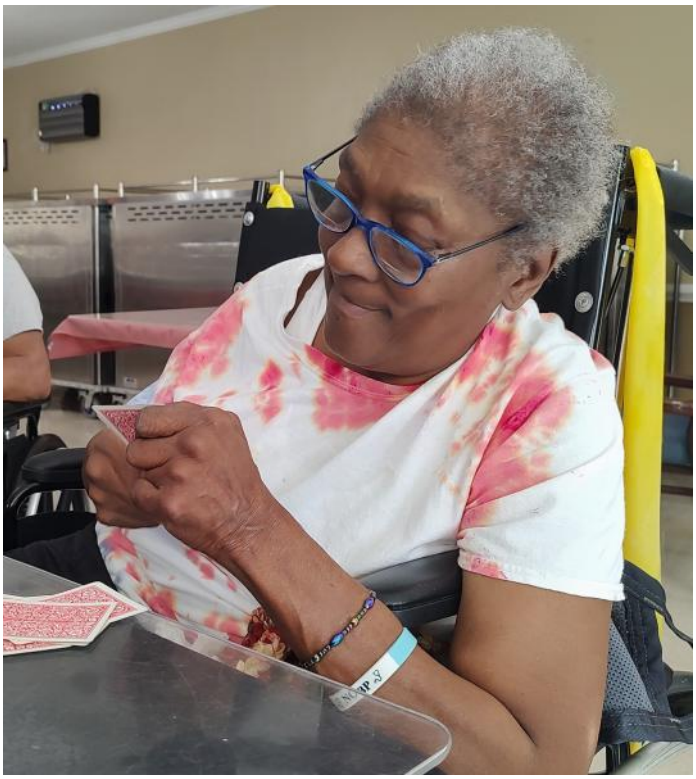






Riverpoint Crest Cards—Photos





Tot Playdate at W Craven Rec Center 24 Oct 2026

The New Bern Parks & Recreation Dept. asked us to participate in something new that they have initiated: a playdate for tots (mostly 2 to 5 y/o). The idea was to have a number of indoor stations set up for a variety of activities for the kids so parents could drop by between 10:30 and 12:30. We set up a reading station with **Ellie Too**mbs reading the Halloween favorite, "Room on the Broom." **Joanne Straight** had small ducks with Halloween costumes that the child could pick from. If the duck had an X on the bottom, the child got to pick a book. They got to also keep the duck.

Ellie reported that about 12 families showed up. The kids were ages infant to three years old. The children were not interested in sitting still to hear the story. Ellie and Joanne talked to the parents and gave away some ducks and books. While the outcome was not as good as we had hoped, this is the first time that this new event has been tried and it will take time to build a following.

We benefitted from being able to talk to young families both to discuss the importance of reading to children and also about our organization.

Our next event with New Bern P&R is Touch A Truck on 11/7 and the tot playdate event on both 11/14 and 12/5. We look forward to growing this relationship.



Freedom to Read Event at Brewery99 October 6th 3 to 9

What a beautiful day we chose to have this Freedom to Read event at Brewery99! The glass doors were wide open to let in the cool air. We had about 25 or so patrons drop by. A few had come specifically for the event. One lady even brought her own banned book to read, Brave New World by Aldous Huxley.

We had a number of banned books, old and new titles, for patrons to peruse, and many did. Every 30 minutes, we distributed tickets for a drawing for a blind date with a book. It was amazing that the ones who won each got a book that they thought they would enjoy. This generated some interesting discussions about books.

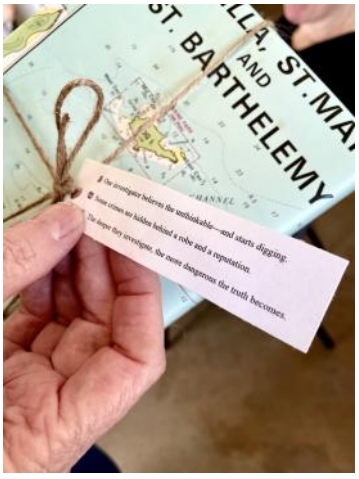
A side benefit of the evening was that we got to know several members better. Those who worked the event included: Board members **Ellie Toombs, Joanne Straight, and Judy Hills,** as well as members **Janey Powell, Deb Carter, and Denise Deaton**. Board members **Cindy Shipley** and **Margot DeLapp** dropped by, as did member **Bruce Simel**.

We had two people join on the spot, and several others took the membership brochure. Two patrons gave us cash donations, which we were not soliciting. We had four people donate books.

While we were there, we noticed that they had a big bookshelf that was getting filled with undesirable books—just like what happens at our LFLs. We offered to refresh it, as we do with our senior facilities, and Danielle Shaw, the Director of Operations, agreed. Judy went back on Wednesday to accomplish that task.

Those who were there agreed that this was a very pleasant and effective way to engage the public and to gain visibility. We hope to do more with Brewery99 in the future.

The photos were taken by Janey Powell, Denise Deaton, and Judy Hills.







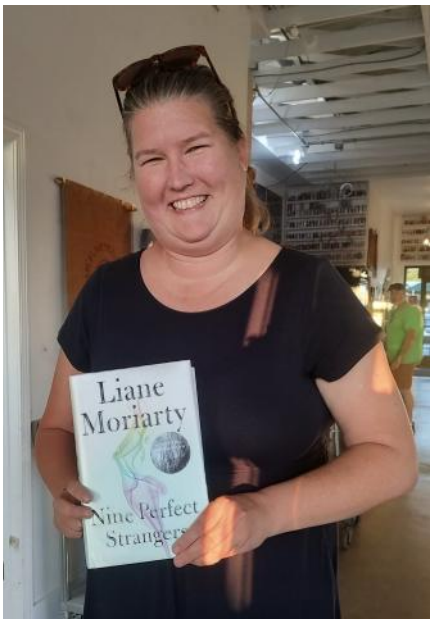


Even the owner's dog had his nose in a book!

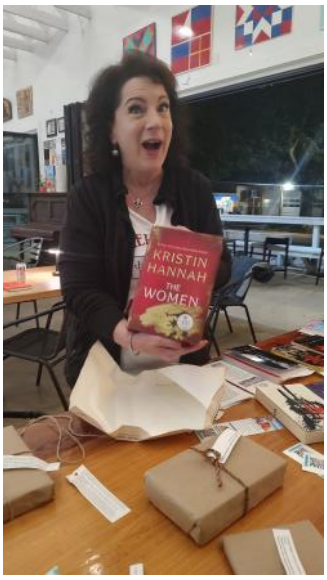
Freedom to Read Event at Brewery99 Pictures



















Oktoberfest at the Senior Center on October 8th

The Senior Center staff and participants seemed to really enjoy the Oktoberfest program we presented on October 8th. Those TRF members who worked the event included **Amy de Court, Ellie Toombs, Joy Hepler, Judy Hills, and Sue Dunn,** who had just returned from Germany. Sue wore her new beer frau outfit and brought special German cookies and beer coasters. Of course we had German chocolate cupcakes, and several other sweet things to munch on. The refreshments are always a hit with the participants.

We had about 25 attend that included staff and a few that came in later. Amy said, "I enjoyed the responses to the music from the guests. They smiled and were engaged." Sue noted that the German Chocolate cupcakes and lemon squares were big favorites. She said one lady that chose a large bottle of lotion as a prize was really pleased with it. Ellie observed one man eating three cupcakes. He said it reminded him of his mom who used to make them. Coloring books, crosswords, bars of soap, and snacks were poplar prizes. Joy couldn't help but notice that there were lots of laughs. We also taught the participants to yodel! One man demoed his skill.







Senior Center Pictures by Amy, Ellie, & Judy











Oktoberfest at PruittHealth Neuse on October 20th

This was another successful Oktoberfest, this time at PruittHealth Neuse. We had 16 residents actively participate. They had a lot of fun learning to yodel. They enjoyed the games and were very thankful for the prizes. **Judy Hills** coordinated the event. Board members **Ellie Toombs and Joanne Straight** assisted as did members **Sue Dunn and Denise Deaton.** Photos by Sue Dunn.













Oktoberfest at PruittHealth Neuse on October 20th







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

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.

*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.

We thank those who have already signed up!

Reading Nook at Children's Museum

The committee has a long list of books and is in the process of selecting books to purchase for the reading nook. We selected a set of three stackable cushions that look like tree stumps for the nook. We 'have recommended some other items, but the museum staff have the final say in the selection of the furnishings.

At this time the design is still in progress.



STORYWALK

Now that the weather is cooling off a bit, what better time to take kids on a StoryWalk? 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!

The StoryWalk at Creekside Park will be down for maintenance for a few days around November 13th. The steward, Ellie Toombs, plans to take all the plexiglass covers home and deep clean them.

Up next are **Walter the Farting Dog** at Martin Marietta Park and **Bear Stays Up for Christmas** at Creekside Park. Walter the Farting Dog introduce Walter, who is adopted from the pound by Billy & Betty, but faces being sent back until hi8s gas helps thwart a late-night burglary. Bear Stays Up for Christmas. Bear's best friends are determined to keep Bear awake for Christmas! So they wake Bear up and have him help them find a Christmas tree, bake cakes, hand up stockings, and sing Christmas songs. Check them out!





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

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Twinriversfriend.org

DONATE BOOKS & MEDIA

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

- **If you only have a handful of books,** you could put them in one of our Little Free Libraries: Pleasant Hill Park, Union Point Park, Kidsville, or any other of the many LFLs around town.
- **For small donation (plastic shopping bag size),** you can drop them off anytime at the storage unit book drop (rear entrance).
- **For larger donation,** you can drop them off when our storage unit is staffed on Tuesdays 10 to 12 or the first Saturday of the month 10 to 12. Use rear entrance—look for the sign.
- **For larger donations and for when these days and times will not work,** please us the QR code below to email us and we'll make arrangements.

River Mills
Professional Storage
2723 Neuse Blvd.

Please do not leave books at the door!!!
For more info on donations, click here.

friendsnewbern@gmail.com

Decline of Nursery Rhymes: Meaning for Early Literacy

This article by Elizabeth Heubeck appeared in EdWeek. Click here to read the full article.

Twinkle, twinkle, little star,
How I wonder what you are.
Up above the world so high,
Like a diamond in the sky.

How many young children today have heard or know this nursery rhyme?

Kindergarten readiness often focuses on early literacy abilities, such as recognizing letters, identifying beginning sounds, matching letters with sounds, and understanding rhyming words. For parents, these expectations may seem overwhelming. However, one of the simplest ways to help children develop these skills requires no special materials or training: nursery rhymes.

Nursery rhymes have been part of childhood for generations. They are easy to remember, entertaining, and naturally encourage children to repeat sounds and words. W. Steven Barnett, director of the National Institute for Early Education Research, describes them as remarkably simple yet effective tools for engaging children and supporting their development. However, nursery rhymes appear to be disappearing from many children's everyday experiences.

Experts have noticed that fewer children arrive at school familiar with traditional rhymes. Nursery rhymes also seem to have become less common in preschool and kindergarten classrooms. This decline may matter because rhymes provide children with an enjoyable introduction to language.

Children are naturally attracted to rhythm, repetition, and playful sounds. Nursery rhymes expose them to vocabulary, sentence patterns, pronunciation, tone, and the sounds within words. Because the language is often presented through music or rhythm, children can learn without feeling as though they are completing a formal lesson. Reading and language specialist Sufia Alamgir has observed that many children today encounter plenty of music through digital media but have fewer opportunities to sing and recite traditional songs and rhymes.

Another concern is the decline in reading aloud. Research has consistently shown that reading to children can support vocabulary, comprehension, and future reading success. Yet classroom schedules can leave limited time for enjoyable read-aloud activities. Research conducted in elementary classrooms has found that much literacy instruction is devoted to phonics, comprehension lessons, and small-group activities.

Studies also support the specific value of nursery rhymes. Research has found connections between children's knowledge of rhymes in early childhood and later reading and spelling abilities. Other research suggests that combining music with nursery

Decline of Nursery Rhymes: Meaning for Early Literacy (continued)

rhymes can improve children's verbal memory.

Parents also play an important role in introducing children to rhymes and books. However, shared reading has declined in many households. Increased screen use may be one factor, as children are spending more time with tablets, phones, and other digital media. Some parents may also avoid nursery rhymes because they consider them outdated or unfamiliar. Others may not remember the rhymes themselves because they did not grow up with them.



As nursery rhymes become less common, children may miss a simple and enjoyable opportunity to develop early language skills. Although schools can teach phonemic awareness through structured instruction, rhymes offer something different: learning through repetition, rhythm, imagination, and fun.

Preserving nursery rhymes does not mean replacing modern teaching methods. Instead, families and educators can use them alongside other literacy activities. A few minutes of singing or reciting each day can help children build language skills while creating meaningful moments of connection. As Barnett suggests, these traditions contain valuable knowledge about supporting children's development—and they are worth preserving.



New Bern Library Calendar

Click on the link below for the November calendar of events at the New Bern Library and other CPRL Libraries

https://mycprl.org/events/all-library-events#year=2026&month=11&day=1&view=month

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 yearly disbursement 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

November

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

8 to 14 National StoryWalk Week

9 Crafts at PruittHealth Neuse 11 to 12

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

20 Cards at Riverpoint Crest 10 to 12

26 Thanksgiving

December

1 Giving Tuesday

5 West NB Rec Ctr ages 2 to 5 drop in play time 10 to 12

17 TRF Board celebration

24 Christmas Eve

25 Christmas Day



