



FRIENDS FOUNDATION OF THE WICOMICO PUBLIC LIBRARY

FALL 2024

FUNDRAISING HIGHLIGHTS

Book sales held during the Maryland Folk Festival generated \$1,950.00. An additional \$2,175.25 has also been earned from Bookstore sales in July, August and September 2024.

How are the funds from membership fees, book sales, and Friends' fundraising activities used? The primary goal of the Friends Committee is to support the Wicomico Public Library in its efforts to provide programs and services that benefit our community. The Friends are proud to have been able to provide the additional funding necessary to help bring many of the library's goals to fruition. Some of the highlights of our fundraising efforts from 2017-2024 include:

PROGRAM SUPPORT: \$62,430.00

- Examples: Project Read, Job Search, Homework Help, Summer Reading, Staff Training

EQUIPMENT SUPPORT: \$69,000.00

- Examples: Furniture, Robotics & Lego supplies, Teen game area, DVD/CD Cleaner

Additional Funds Reserved For Upcoming Capital Project: \$70,000.00

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- Fall Booksale - Nov. 21st - 23rd
- Y2k Trivia Night - Jan. 25th, 2025
- Spring Book Sale - April 24th - 26th, 2025



IN THIS NEWSLETTER:

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- Bookstore Update
- Volunteer Spotlight
- Welcome our new Chairperson
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Wicomico
Public Library



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Can you help?

We are in need of volunteers the entire week of November 18-24 to help with set-up, working during the event and with repacking unsold books after the sale.

Please contact Tia Bigelow (volunteer coordinator) at ubigelow@wicomico.org or call 410-749-3612 ext. 140.



BOOKSTORE UPDATE

As you consider ways in which to support the Friends and our public library, please be aware that volunteering is as equally appreciated as a monetary donation. The bookstore is solely dependent on volunteer availability, so we are always looking for additional help in order to have the store remain open. It is our goal to provide this service on a consistent basis, in order to generate more funds for the library. But your help is needed! While we have many dedicated volunteers who tirelessly and faithfully serve in the bookstore, we are always looking for new people who would be willing to occasionally donate a couple of hours of their time. This is a wonderful way to find new, gently-used, inexpensive books to read while interacting with other book lovers as you help them locate books and audio visual materials that meet their interests and needs. If you or someone you know may be interested in becoming a volunteer for the bookstore, please contact Tia Bigelow at ubigelow@wicomico.org or by calling 410-749-3612 ext. 140.

NOTE: Look for additional gently-used books to soon be available for sale in the upper level of the library, where they can be purchased at the Circulation Desk!

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Many thanks to Jackie and Ernie Conner, who are now retiring from volunteering after having demonstrated their support for the Friends and our public library by working in the bookstore and helping with many other Friends' fundraising efforts for over 20 years! Thank you, Jackie and Ernie, for your exceptional service!

We appreciate your commitment to our organization and our community, and wish you the best of luck in your future endeavors.

FALL BOOK SALE!

November 21-23, 2024

Friends Only Night – Nov. 21st – 5:00-6:30 p.m.

Sale open to the public – Nov. 22 & 23 – 10:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Fiction, Nonfiction hardback and paperback books – \$2.00

Children's books, CD's, DVD's – \$1.00

LOCATION: Paul S. Sarbanes (downtown Salisbury) library.

All proceeds benefit Wicomico Public Library!



WELCOME OUR NEW CHAIRPERSON

With everyone's great appreciation for her service, we announce that Farah Yahya has recently stepped down as Chair of the Friends Committee. We thank her for her tireless efforts to support the Friends and the Public Library and for her selfless commitment to serving our community!

We are now pleased to announce that Valerie Murphy has agreed to serve as our new chairperson, where she will also be the liaison to the Friends Foundation. Valerie was a founding member of the Friends organization, which formed in 2010. She has been involved with the Friends in varying capacities ever since, and has served on the steering committee since the group's inception. As such, she has helped organize and implement all the numerous fundraisers and events the Friends have held over the years (making decorations for events, lugging and organizing books for sales, serving drinks, soliciting donations, helping with purchases during book sales, etc. – she has been involved whenever and wherever there has been a need for support). When the bookstore first opened, Valerie trained volunteers to work in the store, and has since overseen the scheduling of all those who agree to work a shift there. Additionally, she has served on the Awards Committee for every Light of Literacy event held by the Friends, having been instrumental in helping review applicants and select award recipients. Valerie also served on the Wicomico County Library Board of Directors from

2005–2015, where she accepted the position of chair of the board for 2 terms. While serving in this capacity, she led a successful search committee for previous director, Andrea Berstler.

When asked about her goals for the Friends Committee and the Friends Foundation, she replied, "I strongly believe Friends are the best advocates for a strong library. Our library is more than a place for checking out books, it is a vital community resource that assists people across all socioeconomic levels. The more our Friends can speak out and educate others about the valuable work the library does, the more support we will have for our programs. One of the biggest goals we have is to renovate the old Ward Museum and make it the central hub of our library system. This new location will be one that can address many of the needs that our current location is unable to. We will need a lot of help from our Friends to make this goal happen. I hope to find more ways for Friends to be involved on a regular basis."

The Friends Committee is very fortunate to have Valerie's experience, foresight, knowledge and skilled leadership to help advise and direct us as we work to support the Wicomico Public Library with its exciting new plans for the future! Thank you, Valerie!



LETTER FROM THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

I'm excited to announce an important new initiative aimed at growing and strengthening Wicomico Public Library.

The Friends of the Library have been a central and constant asset to the library for many years, raising and contributing funds that support library operations and programs year after year. A separate Library Foundation also exists that has occasionally supported initiatives to raise funds for capital projects.

The Library Board of Trustees have recently enacted a merger focused on consolidating those fundraising efforts.

A new Friends Foundation of Wicomico Public Library will exist as a 501c3 organization overseen by a board of directors. The mission of the Friends Foundation will encompass the work of Friends of the Library – booksales, membership drives, and other fundraising events – which will continue to function as a subcommittee of the Foundation. Meanwhile the Friends Foundation will also steer larger-scale capital campaign initiatives, and guide investment strategies aimed at growing an endowment.

I look forward to keeping the Friends of the Library membership informed about our progress organizing the Friends Foundation. Watch this space for introductions to individual Board of Director members.

Seth Hershberger, Library Director

FRIENDS MEMBERSHIPS: JOIN OR RENEW YOUR FRIENDS' MEMBERSHIP!

Please consider supporting our public library by becoming a Friends member. Membership is valid for one full year. All proceeds from memberships go directly towards helping provide programs and services in the library system. Simply choose your membership level from the options and membership benefits below, and then follow the link to join.

www.wicomicolibrary.org/friends



Friends Foundation
Wicomico Public Library

\$25

Bookworm

\$50

Book Lover

\$100

Bestseller



FRIENDS MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

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