

A Word from Friends

White County Public Library Friends Foundation Newsletter

Greetings from our Library Director, Darla Ino

The Searcy Public Library will be moving to a new home! The City of Searcy, with help from the White County Regional Library System, has purchased the Searcy Athletic Club (located at 954 Skyline Drive) to repurpose as the new library. In October, the White County Quorum Court appropriated \$500,000 toward the renovation cost.

I am so happy to see both our City and County supporting this project and am confident that the long wait was worth it to get this location. That location has one of Searcy's highest traffic counts. We love that it is adjacent to Yancey Park since it provides outdoor options for library programs. The 33,000 sq. ft. facility is more than 3 times the size of our current facility and provides plenty of room for the library to expand the collection and services to better serve our patrons. AND it has 99 parking spaces compared to the 35 spaces we have now.

The project committee will work with an architect for the repurposing of the building, considering the needed spaces already specified in our most recent Building Program, prepared by Godfrey's Associates, Inc. in 2016. The completed architectural plans will help us define the costs associated with particular sections of the library--children's services, genealogy, teen services, etc. Knowing those costs and where we fall short with the funds we have available, we will be ready to put together a fundraising campaign.

Did you know that the Independence County Library's Friends Foundation raised over \$1 million of the \$2.2 million needed for the renovation of the Barnett Building that became the new home of Batesville's public library in 2018? I am hopeful that we will see a similar show of support from our businesses and community members for this exciting project for Searcy and White County.



A New Home for the Searcy Public Library!

Notice Of Annual Meeting via Zoom, Thursday, December 10, at 6:30 pm

It is time for our Annual Meeting! Due to the global pandemic, we will be holding a virtual meeting using Zoom. We would love to "see" you there! If you would like a link to the meeting sent to your email address please call Darla Ino at 501-279-2870, ext. 124 or email Darla.Ino@Arkansas.gov.

White County Public Library Friends Foundation, Inc.

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Searcy, Arkansas 72143
501-279-2870 ext. 24

Board of Directors 2020

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Vice President: Teri Faust
Secretary/Treasurer: Alice Gatewood
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Karen Harrell
Melissa Lacy
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Traveling Books Program Launched in Searcy



In September, library staff delivered Traveling Book bins to participating daycares in Searcy.

The Traveling Books program delivers a bin of 20 library books each month checked out to the daycare to be used by teachers and enjoyed by their pre-school students. A \$2,000 grant from the White County Community Foundation was used to purchase 192 classic picture books to add to books pulled from the existing collection--filling 20 bins that will be rotated between participating daycares each month.

THANK YOU to the **White County Community Foundation** for your support.

In-house Browsing Available!

In late September, all branches began offering in-house browsing opportunities and computer access to patrons. To find out the in-house browsing hours for your branch library, visit the library website, <https://whitecountylibraries.org/> or call your library. *Note that the availability may be suspended temporarily due to the local school district moving to virtual only classes or library staff illness and/or quarantine requirements.*

We are also **OPEN** for curbside service! Just call your library to request items OR go to the library website <https://whitecountylibraries.org/> and place your reserve in the online catalog. Call your library if you need help to get started.

Treasurer's Report of the WCPL Friends Foundation, Inc.

As of July 2020, a total of 144 members have joined the WCPL Friends Foundation since 2014, when the organization was established. Of that total, 90 have current memberships.

Treasurer's Report

\$ 23,589.01 Balance Carryover from 2019
+ \$ 4,665.07 Total Funds Received so far in 2020
- \$ 2,595.23 Funds Spent in 2020
\$ 25,658.85 Current Balance

\$16,451.50 of this amount is designated for a new library facility for Searcy

Per Library Community Balance as of October 31, 2020

Bald Knob	Beebe	Bradford	El Paso	Judsonia	Pangburn	Rose Bud	Searcy	General Fund	Total
\$102.50	\$622.50	\$57.50	\$12.50	\$517.50	\$125.00	\$92.50	\$20,545.67	\$3,583.18	\$25,658.85