

# A Word from Friends

White County Public Library Friends Foundation Newsletter



## Greetings from our President, Bradi Roberts

Growing up, my family lived one block from the Lyda Miller Public Library in Bald Knob. With three grandparents and both parents serving in the local school system, reading was always emphasized and library trips were frequent.

Next year it will be 40 years since I won a summer reading contest for children sponsored by the county library system. I remember that I won a cash prize, but all I really cared about was the giant teddy bear that was bigger than I was.

In those ensuing four decades (and as a former English teacher), I've spent countless hours in public, private and school libraries. The ways libraries have changed in that time are incredible, with so much automation and technology and resources beyond books and periodicals available at our fingertips. (But I freely admit that part of me pines a bit for the days of digging into a card catalogue.)

It's my pleasure and honor to serve as the board president this year, and I welcome you to reach out to me should you need anything or have any questions.



Have a tablet or smart phone?

That's all you need to enjoy the library's **digital resources!** —ebooks, audiobooks, magazines, movies, and music.

Download the library apps—Libby and Hoopla and sign in with your library card.

Need Help? Call Darla at 501-279-2870 ext. 24

## \$2,000 Grant Awarded for Traveling Books Program from White County Community Foundation!



**THANK YOU** to the **White County Community Foundation** for your support. The Traveling Books program for our local daycares will be awesome!

This 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. The \$2,000 grant 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.

## Curbside Services Available!

For the safety of our patrons and staff, our facilities are currently closed due to the COVID-19 Pandemic BUT we are **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. (See the locations tab on the website for current hours of operation.)

All branches offer limited print, fax, scan, and copy services. The Searcy Public Library and Goff Public Library offer public computer access.



## 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

\$ 24,089.01 Balance Carryover from 2019  
 + \$ 4,532.00 Total Funds Received so far in 2020  
 - \$ 2,593.46 Funds Spent in 2020  
 \$ 26,027.55 Current Balance

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

### Per Library Community Balance as of July 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	\$20,983.17	\$3,514.38	\$26,027.55

### White County Public Library Friends Foundation, Inc.

113 East Pleasure Avenue  
 Searcy, Arkansas 72143  
 501-279-2870 ext. 24

### Board of Directors 2020

President: Bradi Roberts  
 Vice President: Teri Faust  
 Secretary/Treasurer: Alice Gatewood  
 Linda Benson  
 Karen Harrell  
 Melissa Lacy  
 Jan Smith  
 Gwen Wells

## Library Spotlight GOFF PUBLIC LIBRARY



While not much historical information is available about the early days of the library in Beebe, we do know it existed as early as 1950 as the City Library located in the same building as Dr. Garrett's office at the corner of Center and Main Streets. Sometime between then and the 1970s, it moved to a room in Beebe City Hall on Illinois St. It soon outgrew that space and moved next door into the American Legion building in 1972. By 2013, the library had seriously outgrown the space, and the city of Beebe and the White County Regional Library System partnered to build a modern library facility more than 3 times the size of the old facility. The new library's increased size and proximity to Beebe City Hall allows us to serve many more patrons and have many more library programs for adults and children of all ages.

The Goff Public Library was recently awarded the Arkansas Literacy Association's statewide Agency in Literacy Award in recognition of our efforts to promote early literacy in our community. Early literacy is a particular focus of the library. The following list highlights some of our early literacy partnerships and efforts:

- 1000 Books Before Kindergarten program
- Beebe Early Childhood 1st Grade field trips to the library every spring. Each child has an opportunity to apply for a library card before their field trip.
- After-school book clubs in partnership with Beebe Schools faculty member.
- Meet Your Teacher at the Library program—teachers meet students at the library after school.
- Our participation in school events such as Kindergarten night, Open House, and Literacy Block Parties.
- Donation of books are distributed with food bags at the Beebe Christian Outreach. We believe every home should have books in it!
- We plan to continue our work in early literacy in the future by implementing a Traveling Books program that will allow us to provide delivery of library books to child care facilities in Beebe. We also plan to use funds donated by a Beebe Early Childhood fundraiser to purchase electronic devices with educational games and software for primary/early elementary students.

Written by-  
 Ramona Howell, WCPL Friends Member and Branch Manager of Goff Public Library



Friends of the Library membership has grown every year, but there is so much more we can do with your help. Our annual membership drive is in October but the best Friends recruiter is YOU. Ask your friends to join the Friends of the Library. You can pick up membership forms at the circulation desk, or ask that they register online at [www.whitecountylibraries.org](http://www.whitecountylibraries.org) under the **FRIENDS** tab.