

WINTER NEWSLETTER

Northumberland Public Library

DECEMBER 2022

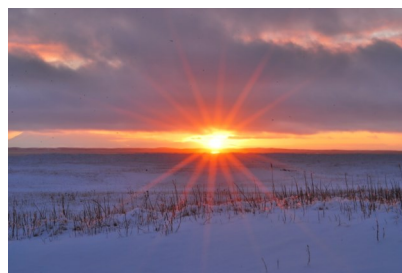
Happy Fall/Winter. I have always loved the change of seasons, especially fall and all of the wonderful colors. I truthfully don't mind a little bit of cold weather, but I read in the Farmers Almanac that we are in for a cold, wet winter, so I may be changing my opinion this year. I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving and are gearing up for the holidays. Whatever you celebrate and do this holiday season I hope you will stop in to see us and check out a good book, either in hardcover or audio to take with you. Don't leave it where you go though, bring it back to us!

There is tons of news so I am going to jump right in and share with you. If you have information you would like to see published in this newsletter, please email me with your suggestions. I am happy to accept articles as well, especially book reviews.

Happy Holidays to all of you, I pray it is safe and blessed beyond measure.

Jane

Jblue@nplibraryva.org



Annual Appeal Launches in October

As most of you know we launch our annual appeal every year in October. This is a chance for you to donate to us, a 501c3 non-profit Library, monetarily, as you consider end of year giving.

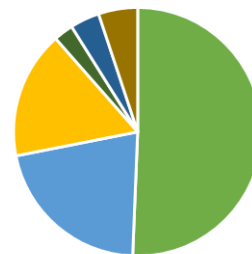
This year our goal is to raise \$70,000.00, as of this writing we are about one third of the way there.

So many ask what this money is used for and where we get our other funding. Our funding comes from two other sources besides grants and miscellaneous donations. The county provides over half of our funding and the state provides about one third of our funding.

All of this money goes toward our operating expenses which include building and grounds maintenance, payroll, programming, purchasing of all of the materials we provide for check out and our electronic resources.

When we have extra we put it toward new electronic resources, updated computers and technology and programs with community partners. Some of our programming funds come from the Friends of the Library, check out the Friends article later in this newsletter to see what they were up to this fall.

Check out our pie chart that breaks down the funding we get. If you have more questions or want to know more, contact Jane at the email above or come on in and ask.



- County Contribution
- State Contribution
- Donations
- Misc. Income
- Grants
- Book Shop

Monthly Happenings at the Library

Computer Classes Every Monday 3-5 PM

No sign up required, bring your own computer or use one of ours, phone and iPad help too! No class when the Library is closed. Questions? Contact Arthur Newman.



Story time: Every Wednesday morning at 10 AM for ages 3 and up. Special Visit from Mrs. Claus on December 21st, get an update from the North Pole from the expert!

After School Club Every Wednesday from after school until 5 PM. See the flier for details and to sign up. Parents must fill out a permission slip. Transportation should be arranged with the school. Meets only when school is in session.



Special Winter Break Events:



LEGO Build day Tuesday, December 27th from 1-3 p.m. All students welcome! Ages 8 and under must be accompanied by an adult.



Game Day Thursday, December 29th, from 1-3 p.m. Board games, card games, and puzzles.



Check out our social media pages:

YouTube @[northumberlandpubliclibrary](https://www.youtube.com/northumberlandpubliclibrary), we have over 450 subscribers

Instagram at <https://www.instagram.com/northumberland.library/>, we have 346 followers

Or like us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/northumberlandlibrary>

STRING CREWE CELLO STUDENTS PRESENT “SOUNDS OF THE SEASON”

THURSDAY DECEMBER 15 AT 5:30 pm

Join us at Northumberland Public Library for an evening of classical cello music with a sprinkling of familiar holiday favorites. Students, ages 7-15 will be performing cello solos with piano accompaniment as well as ensemble pieces. The concert will last about 30 minutes followed by a reception featuring some holiday treats and warm beverages.



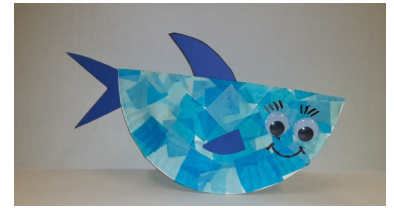
News From the Road

As many of you know the Mobile Library is out and about every week, in Callao, Reedville, at Kingdom Kids Preschool and at Northern Neck Christian School. We also visit Northern Neck Boys and Girls Club in Burgess and in the summer the YMCA. You can find us at Gleamers and Blenders too. So what do we do when out on the road? Well, it depends on where we go. At all of our stops people who come on the Mobile Library can browse our collection and check out items, get a



Library card if they don't already have one, or log onto the internet if that's what they need. We also offer faxing and printing services. Children ages 1-18 always get a free book when they leave. The schedule for the Mobile Library is posted on our website but for many of our stops it is specific to those locations. Our Callao and Reedville stops are open to everyone. You can visit the Mobile Library in Callao on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month from 1-3 PM. If you are in Reedville you can visit the Mobile Library on the 2nd and 4th Thursday from 1-4 PM. We are currently working to raise the funds to purchase a new Mobile Library. This one, that we affectionately call Blue, has about 2 more years of life left. Our trusty mechanic is replacing parts as needed by scouring junk yards. We will be purchasing a new Ford Transit van in 2023/24 through a company called TechOps in Maryland. The committee had the chance to tour the facility in early November and we are excited to partner with them. If you would like to donate to the funds for the new Mobile Library contact Jane. We would love your suggestions as to other places we might need to visit throughout the county. Email Jane or Arthur with your thoughts. See you round the county!

Summer Reading 2022 Wrap Up



After a successful summer with our “Oceans of Possibilities” theme, prizes were awarded to readers who completed their challenges. Teen and adult drawing winners each received an Echo Dot. Winners in the Teen Challenge were Brooks Dameron, Emma Somers and Jadeyn Thompson. Adult Challenge winners were Ashley Deihl, Susan Swift and April Walker.



Elementary readers enjoyed the Brag Tags they earned throughout the summer as they reported books read. At Northumberland Elementary the final number of books logged was revealed and a celebration occurred with the top reader in each grade receiving a trophy. Overall 8427 books were read and 286 students participated on our new Beanstack book challenge.



To top off the summer we invited Kathryn Erskine, Middle Grade author, to speak about how to be a writer, at the Middle school and the Elementary school in September. The Friends of the Library sponsored her visit which included a wonderful luncheon hosted by the Elementary school. Students learned how to create their own story and each received a copy of Kathryn’s book “Lilly’s Promise”, a wonderful middle grade book about bullying and learning to stand up for yourself. Check out a copy at the Library, it’s a great read for all ages.

As we wrap up “Oceans of Possibilities” we are already thinking about next summer, our theme will be “All Together Now: Kindness, Friendship and Unity”. If you want to help, it’s not too early to contact Mrs. Smith so she will know you are available to help with craft preparation as well as decorating to make our summer 2023 program successful. We will again be looking for summer interns so if you know of a student between the ages of 14 and 18 who would be interested applications will available in early spring. Mrs. Smith can be reached at msmith@nplibraryva.org. Happy Reading!



Our summer interns Keyiona Ball and Richard Tighe with Mrs. Smith, Children's Program Coordinator, Assistant Hannah Jett and Library Director Jane Blue

Holiday Hours December through February

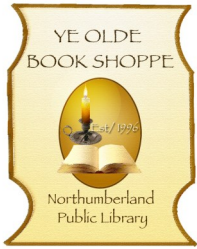


Library: Closed at 12 noon December 23rd, closed the 24th through the 26th. Closed Saturday December 31st

Closed Monday January 2nd, Monday January 16th in observance of Martin Luther King Junior Day and Monday February 20th in observance of President’s Day.

4 Ye Old Book Shop will be closed on Saturday December 24th and Saturday December 31st.

Get Your Punch Card Today

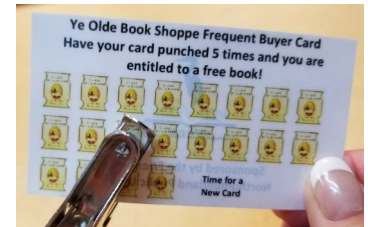


For every purchase you make at Ye Olde Book Shoppe you can earn points toward a free book. Stop in and make a purchase, earn your punch card and you are on your way to earning a free book. Get 5 punches, get a free book, punch cards are given with your first purchase and good for up to 20 punches which equals 5 free books!

Ye Old Book Shop is located at 7202 Northumberland Hwy, Heathsville VA .

We are open Wednesday through Friday 10-4 and Saturday's 10-2

Ye Olde Book Shoppe began in 2014 as a place to sell used books and benefit the Library and Community. Run by volunteers, the Shoppe sells used books donated by the public and books that have been de-assentioned from the Library. What does not sell, goes to Thrift Books in Baltimore to be sold and the Library receives 50% of the profits. Book donations are taken at the Book Shoppe during operating hours only.



Look no further for fabulous gifts than your Public Library!



Tote Bags
\$15



Hats \$15

Summer
Reading T-



shirts 2022 \$6 or
2021 \$3



Stemless Wine Glass-
es \$10 each

Coffee Mugs: \$10 each

Library Polo : \$15



Get to know your Library Staff:

Jane Blue: Library Director

Cate Land: Customer Service Supervisor

Arthur S. Newman: Community Outreach
Supervisor

Alison Towles: Librarian

Marilyn Smith: Children's Program Coordinator

Hannah Jett: Children's Program Assistant

Andrea Trescott: Library Assistant

Kara Goodrow: Library Assistant

Sandy Heath: Library Assistant

Karen Whelan: IT Specialist

Kathy Lewis: Bookkeeper

Gay Posey: On Call-Library Assistant



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ARSL Leadership Institute

By Arthur Newman

When I was accepted to the ARSL (Association for Rural and Small Libraries) Leadership Institute I was not sure of what to expect. Right away the instructors and the brains behind the institute made their vision clear. This was not just about me and my accomplishments, although they acknowledged and appreciated my credentials. It was explained to me that the experience would help me to deepen my understanding of my commitment to professional values while gaining practical managerial skills.



You must understand, for me this was a wonderful opportunity to see management from the library professionals viewpoint. I would get the chance to compare and share my thirty plus years in business management to the professional standards of the library profession and association.

My career as a Library Professional is truly unique and I do not take it lightly. I did not choose to become a librarian, the profession chose me. I was chosen to take the lead in getting the Mobile Library program off the ground and make it a pivotal part of the community. However, the two directors that I have had the privilege to serve with saw more than just a manager for the Mobile Library in me. Both asked me to serve in a greater capacity. Initially I did not accept the invitation. After some time had passed, the current director just would not take no for an answer, and I became the Community Outreach Supervisor.

I was concerned about taking on another managerial position since my previous career as a business manager and communications technician caused me to experience career burnout. If I were a professional sports entity you would describe my career as an individual who left everything in the arena. Where some gave a hundred percent I gave two hundred percent, working twenty two hours a day burning the candle from both ends. Yes I received a salary (overtime was not part of the salary, so the money never matched the hours spent), lots of commendations and multiple awards, but it was not rewarding. Note: I do not recommend this behavior for anyone, nothing is worth this type of lifestyle, no amount of accolades or money.

The long and short of it was that there was no one managing the manager, or supervising the supervisor, because my then supervisors were happy to use my talents to the full without filling me back up. I remember sending my family on countless vacations, but I stayed home because of work, because my facilities were twenty four seven. If I did go on vacation, which was rare, I was still at work because the pager and later the cell phone would not let me take off for any length of time.

This is where ARSL and the leadership institute came into play. I liken the institute to a pencil. As a pencil you know what you were meant to do, what your purpose is, but sometimes you become dull because the person in control of the tool does not sharpen you when needed. The leadership institute sharpened my skills, my strengths and my passion for this industry so that when I perform my responsibilities for the community my lines are well defined. In other words I know exactly why I do what I do. It is a refreshing take on leadership and what it means to be a leader.

The institute started with me examining myself, then helped me examine my coworkers, finishing up with me examining my community.

I am proud to have had the chance to represent my library and community at the 2022 ARSL conference. I have tried to uphold my responsibilities to the community's expectations. I can see from my community's support that you all appreciate the work we do here at Northumberland Public Library. It's more than just about books after all, it is about community.



The Conversation Corner of Ye Olde Book Shoppe

By Lance Marston

For the past eight years Ye Olde Book Shoppe has become a place for people after good books, good conversation and building friendships. For several years, the Philosophers held forth led by a group of thoughtful Old Geezers. Unfortunately this gathering was curtailed by the Pandemic. Since then, a group of the original Philosophers have convened Friday afternoons at the Book Shoppe to engage our diverse customers in lively conversation about everything! Books, current events, and even local gossip are high on the agenda. Our community participants include a wide range of public library patrons. We are seeing and engaging in conversation with the growing new resident population in our county. Believe it or not, even younger folks are participating in our entertaining and thoughtful conversations. One young college graduate from Oregon who has been active with us over the past two years is Joe B. Joe had this to say about his experience at Ye Olde Book Shoppe.

“In an age of fast paced, high-speed, click bait, attention grabbing information media, advertisements, and screens, to walk into Ye Olde Book Shoppe is to take a step back in time and slow down. The first time walking in you can be certain you will be greeted by one or more of the smiling, welcoming volunteers who keep this place running. They will ask you about yourself, and make sure you know the layout of the bookstore. The prices for the books are very reasonable , with most books, even some absolute gems, being priced at \$3 or less. Inventory is updated weekly, and I have yet to walk in without walking out with a smile on my face and a new book to read.”

“Friday afternoons a group of vital older gentlemen sit around and talk about all sorts of stuff. Every time I walk in they offer me a chair and we discuss whatever topic comes up. I frequently learn something interesting or gain new perspectives during these conversations. They also take the time to listen to my perspective, and frequently we engage customers who enter the store during this time.”

“I am so grateful for this bookstore. It is truly one of the best bookstores that I have ever experienced. Not only does it provide one of the most reliable sources of knowledge (Books!) but it also provides a sense of community. No doubt there is something for everyone at Ye Olde Book Shoppe”

-Joe



Since Joe shared this with us he has moved to Vermont to work in the ski slopes for the winter, but we expect him back in the spring.

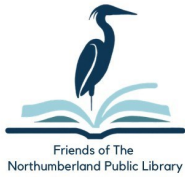
He will no doubt come visit the Old Gabbers and you should too. Join us, buy books and have some fun.



Ye Old Gabbers: Richard Becker, Rives Hardy, Lance Marston and Jim Landrum



Ye old Gabbers



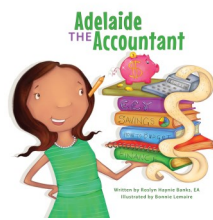
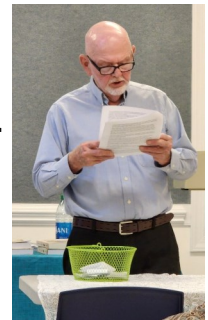
Catching up with the Friends

The Friends of the Library have had a really busy fall and if you missed these events you will want to make every effort to come in the spring. Not only does the group put on an awesome program but they provide a much needed opportunity to relax and hear all about new and local authors.



In September the Friends sponsored a visit by Kathryn Erskine to the middle and elementary schools. This program mentioned earlier in this newsletter was met with rave reviews, so much so that the schools have asked the Friends to sponsor an author every year, we are hoping the funds will be available to do just that.

In October we welcomed author Stan Parsons for the first of two Books Alive! events. Stan, a local author who has since relocated to Alexandria Virginia to be closer to grandchildren, shared his books with us on October 7th, while we sipped wine and munched on wonderful appetizers. Stan shared how he comes up with his ideas for each book and read some excerpts to us.



November 4th we welcomed author and local resident, Roslyn Banks. Roslyn, along with her two daughters, Suzette and Juliette shared their new book *Adelaide and Agriculture* with the group as well as the book published last year, *Adelaide the Accountant*.

Both books highlight local businesses, the community in Northumberland county and teach children as well as adults about the local economy.



Coming on March 24th of 2023, the friends will welcome Ilona Duncan, Gail Kenna and Susan Moore who have written books based on old letters they found. The evening will include an opportunity to meet the authors, learn about how you can write using letters or family memories and more. Be sure to mark your calendars now for this first 2023 Books Alive! event.

All of the books highlighted here are available in the Library for checkout.

Interested in becoming a member of the Friends of Northumberland Public Library, stop in for a brochure and fill out the membership form. Everyone is welcome.