“Every cloud has a silver lining.”

This quote, originally penned by John Milton, has run through my mind countless times over the past two and half months. The initial reaction of sadness and uncertainty with the closing of library doors on March 20th was quickly replaced by determination and certainty. Library staff remained certain that they wanted to continue to engage and support our community and determined to do so while safely adhering to newly imposed restrictions.

The flexibility and creativeness demonstrated by staff as they rapidly adapted library services has been inspiring. Together we launched curbside pickup at the Main and Fletcher libraries, transitioned story times online, launched a virtual library card, developed tutorials for using our online resources, and provided phone assistance at all locations. Additionally, we were able to use this time to conduct a much-needed inventory at many of our libraries and thoroughly clean and disinfect all locations.

As we transition into the next phase of reopening our libraries, I ask you to remain patient and flexible as we adapt to a new reality. It will take several weeks, or even months, to resume full access to our buildings and services. While our new ‘normal’ will look much different, our priorities will remain the same. We are committed to providing access to physical and digital books and materials to meet your literacy needs, providing access to internet computers and Wi-Fi to meet your connectivity needs, and remaining available for assistance to meet your informational needs.

- Trina Rushing, Library Director
I've only been in NC for 3 years, but I have called the Carolinas home for more than a decade. I was born and raised in the Florida panhandle and found my way to the University of South Carolina after high school. (Go Gamecocks!) As a student, I landed a circulation job at the USC Music Library, which rekindled my love for libraries and set me on this path. After a brief internship in the Teen Center at Richland Library in Columbia, I knew with certainty that youth services in public libraries was where I wanted to be. Since then, I have held positions at the Greenwood County Library System (SC) and the McDowell County Public Library (NC). Once in North Carolina, I was able to completely fall in love with all that WNC had to offer, and I am so happy to continue developing that appreciation as the Youth Services Coordinator in Henderson County. When I’m not at work, I enjoy crafting, going to concerts, binge watching shows, reading good books, and exploring the mountains with my family.
HOW CAN I MAKE THIS SUMMER MAGICAL? This summer we have an activity card for all ages. The activities range from reading a book to going for a nature walk! Children and teens will turn in a completed card to receive a free book and be entered to win a grand prize. The additional card can be turned in for an extra entry into the grand prize drawing. Adults can join the fun with their own activity cards. In addition to reading, participants will be encouraged to complete activities that encourage community, mind, and body engagement. Adults can turn in their card to be entered into a prize drawing.

WHAT IS THE GRAND PRIZE? Great question! Every age group has a different grand prize.  
Preschool: Castle Block Set & Dragons Love Tacos Book + Plush Set  
Elementary: Fujifilm Instax Polaroid Camera w/ Film  
Teen: 32 oz Wide-Mouth Hydroflask with Stickers and a coffee gift card  
Adult: Local business gift cards

CAN MY WHOLE FAMILY PARTICIPATE? Of course! We have activity cards for all ages: preschool, elementary, teens, and adults. We want everyone to have something fun to do this summer. Just make sure you pick the activity card we created for your age group!

THAT SOUNDS GREAT! WHERE CAN I GET MY ACTIVITY CARD? Summer packs will be available for pickup through the library curbside service at Main, Edneyville, Etowah, and Fletcher libraries. Let us know when you arrive for your curbside pickup if you would like a summer activity card. There will be a drive through pick up just for summer activity cards at the Main Library June 15th-19th from 11am-1pm. You can also print your activity card out from the library website beginning June 8th. Activity cards will also be available for pick up at the Patton Pool concession stand June 10th-12th from 11am-1pm.

HOW WILL I GET MY PRIZE? Turn in your completed activity card to any Henderson County Library location by August 15th. Call your local branch or check the library website for updated information.

WHEN DOES THIS START? Our Summer Reading Program will kick-off on Monday, June 15th. We will be celebrating with a virtual performance of "Once Upon A Time" by Bright Star Theatre. This performance will be available to view Monday, June 15th - Sunday, June 28th. The link to view it will be available on Facebook @HendersonCountyNCGovernment and on our website.

WHAT ABOUT OTHER PROGRAMS? Programs for all ages this summer will continue to be online. We will be posting daily videos to Facebook. Be sure to follow the page so you can see all of our posts! Programs will also be available on the library website. Share how you are completing your activity cards online and tag us with the hashtag #hendoreads2020. We are so excited to bring you this very special summer and we cannot wait to see you soon!

WWW.HENDERSONCOUNTYNC.GOV/LIBRARY
In this column we feature new titles at the library from local authors or books with a focus on Appalachia and the Southeast. Place any of these titles on hold through the online catalog or call the library for assistance.

Starting with short story collections from area writers, an excellent debut collection called **Sleepovers** by Ashleigh Bryant Phillips spans communities of rural North Carolina with all their contradictions. In a follow-up to her acclaimed novel *Whiskey & Ribbons*, Leesa Cross-Smith has a story collection about women in their most exhilarating moments called **So We Can Glow**.

For gentle and easy reads about new beginnings, follow two retirees in their golden years who move to North Carolina for the sake of family memory in Jill McCorkle’s **Hieroglyphics**. A different kind of family reunion brings three sisters to North Carolina to settle an estate in **The Magnolia Sisters** by Michelle Major. Donna Everhart has written several novels about coming of age in the Carolinas, and her new novel **The Moonshiner’s Daughter** is about confronting barriers and moving ahead in life.

For Christian fiction, try a story about feuding family clans in West Virginia finding forgiveness in **When Silence Sings** by Sarah Loudin Thomas. An epidemic creates a family of orphans in the East Tennessee mountains in Cindy K. Sproles’ **What Momma Left Behind**, and it’s up to 19 year-old Worie to care for them. In clean romance, **Beach Haven** by T.I. Lowe kicks off a new Carolina Coast series pairing a shopkeeper and an ex-marine. For a spicier romance, Laura Trentham’s Highland, Georgia series continues with **A Highlander in a Pickup**, placing the Scottish Highlander romance genre in North Georgia.

Southern thrillers, crime fiction, and hardscrabble mountain stories round out the remainder of my picks. A Kentucky pizza shop is more than it seems in **Hillbilly Hustle** by Wesley Browne. A journalist hides out on Tybee Island investigating a missing person in **Revolver Road** by Christi Daugherty. Brian Panowich’s North Georgia crime series continues with gangsters, murder, and fighting in **Hard Cash Valley**, while small town detectives battle their own demons with **The Evil Men Do** by John McMahon. Amy Jo Burns’ novel **Shiner** is about two young women finding their way in an isolated, blue-collar town. For a companion book about a young man coming of age as an outsider, try **Boys of Alabama** by Genevieve Hudson, or **The Poison Flood** by Jordan Farmer, about a reclusive musician encountering environmental disaster. Based on a true story and set in 1913 Louisiana, two different mothers claim as theirs a child missing for two years in **Lost Boy Found** by Kirsten Alexander. For a nonfiction book that is close to home, **Broken Faith** by Mitch Weiss reports how a secretive evangelical ministry came to be considered a cult down in Spindale.

**Thanks for reading!**

* - Ed Graves, Branch & Collection Coordinator
The annual volunteer luncheon, typically held each spring, is one of the highlights of my year. Sadly this event, like so many others, has been canceled for 2020. While we may not be able to meet in person this year, we still want to recognize and celebrate these dedicated individuals.

Over the past year, **186 volunteers** donated a combined total of **16,234 hours** to Henderson County libraries. Absolutely amazing! These dedicated community members tirelessly completed a considerable amount of behind the scenes work at all six county libraries, allowing staff to focus on providing personable, quality services to Henderson County residents.

Our volunteers truly have a heart for service and give 100% to every task. Some of their tasks include assisting with processing new materials, checking in crates of materials from branch libraries, delivering materials to homebound residents, providing genealogy assistance, and shelving hundreds of thousands of items each year.

This library system simply could not thrive without these individual’s continued support, dedication, and willingness to provide assistance for a few hours each week.

On behalf of myself, my staff, and all of the residents who use library services...**thank you!**

- **Trina Rushing, Library Director**
LOOKING FOR SOMETHING NEW TO READ?

We all love to browse the shelves to find a new favorite book or author. Even though you might not be able to browse the library shelves right now, you can find your next read right from the comfort of home. Start by heading to the library website, www.hendersoncountync.gov/library. If you are all caught up with the Miss Julia series by Ann Ross and would like to find something similar to read, type ‘Ann Ross’ in the catalog search bar on the home page under “What are you looking for?”

You will be taken right to the library catalog search results for Ann Ross. Select any of the titles listed that you enjoyed. Once you select the title, scroll down to see other titles in the series. Below that you will see similar titles, authors and series. You can click any of these for more information and to see if the library has a copy.

This information comes from Novelist, a great resource for book suggestions. You can also access Novelist directly from the library website. From the library home page, scroll down to the bottom and select “Reader Resources”.

On the Reader Resources page, you can visit Novelist, check out our monthly staff picks and virtual display, and sign up for weekly Wowbrary emails to see the newest books and movies coming to the library.

If you need assistance, library staff are happy to help, just give us a call at 828-697-4725. Happy Reading!

- Lisa Donaldson,
Assistant Director & Marketing Librarian
THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY
ASKS FOR THE PUBLIC’S HELP

The Friends of the Library supports library programs and purchases books and many other materials. Because of the pandemic, the Friends canceled the May book sale – which would have raised about $32,000. As a result, the Friends are asking for the public’s help:

1) Please go to our website – fotl.info – and join the Friends, then make a donation. The money will directly benefit the library system. We also encourage donations by our current members during these difficult times.

2) Those affected by the downturn in the economy need the resources and services offered by the library. Your donation supports the library’s efforts to provide those services.

3) For those gathering books and other materials to donate for future book sales, the Friends ask you to hold on to them until the library is able to receive donations again.

- Richard Labunski, FOL Publicity Chair

Thank you to those who have donated:

Robert Kisel & John & Sandy Lockwood
Jane & Frank Weightman
Glenn & Dawn Bartholic
Catherine & Thomas Stevenson

Donating funds to purchase items for the library is a wonderful way to impact your community.
The name of any individual receiving an aggregate of $500 in memorial gifts will be added to a plaque in the Main Library. In addition, the name of any individual who donated $500 or more to the library will be added to a plaque at Main.

Visit our website (click the ‘About Your Library’ tab) or call 828-697-4725, option 3 for more details.

LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Holiday Hours for the Library:

INDEPENDENCE DAY Closed Friday, July 3rd
Closed Saturday, July 4th
LABOR DAY Closed Monday, September 7th