

# Usual FRIENDS of the Augusta Library banner with book logo.

Fall 2019

## Newsletter

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### Letter from the President



Dear Friends,

The weather has finally turned, and I am excited to bring you our third newsletter of the year! As always, we are celebrating the wonderful things the Friends have been doing these last few months.

Our Belk Fundraiser made \$336 for the Friends, and we were so pleased with the outcome, we partnered with Belk for a second fundraiser on 9 November. It is a wonderful *Win-Win* for the Friends, and we want to send a big **Thank You** to **Belk** for partnering with us!

The last few months have seen the Friends continue their financial support of the Library. We donated \$5,000 toward the digitization of *The Augusta Herald* and \$400 for the library card sign-up event in September.

For those who tried to renew their Friends membership on-line and had trouble, please bear with us. We had a technology glitch, and the link wasn't working well. It should be fully functional now, so please give it a shot! If you have troubles, let us know so we can address it quickly. To access it, use the link <https://arcpls.org/about-us/support-your-library/>.

While there is a lot for the Friends to celebrate, I also have sad news to share. The Talking Book Grant for the Augusta Library will end on 31 December 2019, and with it the local program. While Talking Books will still be available for Augusta patrons through Atlanta, the end of this local program that serviced 21 counties is hard to hear. This is a very real example of reduced budgets and their effect on the Library. Please know that every penny you can donate to the Friends through your membership dues, purchases in the Friends Shop, or tickets to our sponsored events, helps the Friends provide much needed funds to the Library. Without those monies, more programs like the Talking Books will end.

As the year draws to an end, the Friends Council is preparing for its annual meeting in January, so stay tuned for details on that, and there will also be a special book sale in the Friends Shop on 7 December just in time for those last minute holiday gifts!

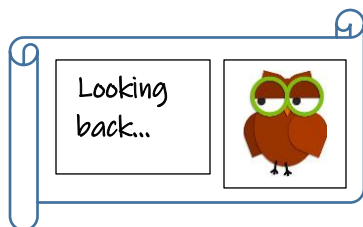
2019 has been a whirlwind for the Friends, and I could not be more proud of the Council for the things it has achieved. Please join me in thanking all the many people that make this all happen, and please accept my best wishes for a joyous holiday season! We will see you in the New Year!

Erika Bobbitt, President

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Gingerbread House-Making Event  
Thursday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, 4 – 5:30 p.m. at Headquarters (Downtown) Library (free event).
- Friends' "Mini-Book Sale" *in **Book Shop***, Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. at Headquarters (Downtown) Library (prices vary; no discounts between 2 – 3 p.m.).
- **Friends' Annual Meeting**  
Monday, January 27, 2020, 6 – 8 p.m. with Maggie Dorsey as the speaker and light refreshments. The doors open at 5:30 for membership renewals and new members to join (free event).
- Book Sale at Headquarters Library  
Saturday, February 1, 2020, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. (most items \$1.00; \$5/bag from 2-3 p.m.).

For more information, email: [friends@arcpls.org](mailto:friends@arcpls.org), or call 706-469-3356.



belk

### **Belk's Charity Sale for library**

Thank you for purchasing a \$5 off coupon! We trust you enjoyed your shopping spree. The Friends sold \$250 of tickets and received \$86 as a share of the profits from sales that Belk gives to the participating charities.

The Friends participated also in the Saturday, November 9<sup>th</sup> sale. We hope for more such opportunities.

### **Library Sign-up Month**

The Friends sponsored this event at each library branch that allowed library staff to give first-time members a chance to win a \$25 gift card and a basket of goodies. 20% more new cards were issued in September 2019 than in August 2019.

"We were excited to run a campaign for Library Card Sign-up Month this year. It's a chance for us to really focus our energies on 'spreading the library word' to those who have never been library patrons," says *Erin Prentiss, Outreach Services Manager*. "It's also a chance for us to remind people who have library cards that we still provide book and movie lending, reference services, and free programs for all ages to the citizens of Augusta-Richmond County. We love to see new faces, and we'd love to see old faces more often!"

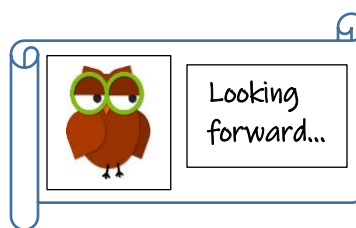
### **The Very Hungry Caterpillar Birthday Party!** (50<sup>th</sup> anniversary)

The celebration on Thursday, September 26<sup>th</sup> at Headquarters (Downtown) Library was an enjoyable mix of stories, crafts, and treats!

**Star War Reads Day** was great fun Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, at the Headquarters (Downtown) Library including story time, movies, a costume contest, and special guests plus free Star Wars items. (Supported by the Friends with \$ & volunteers.)

### **Halloween Family Carnival**

The Carnival on Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup> at Headquarters (Downtown) Library was fun for all with snack lunch, games, crafts, costumes, and more! (Supported by the Friends with \$ & volunteers.)



### *"Gift-worthy Books"*

*will put a smile under the tree!*

Start your holiday shopping at a "Mini-Book Sale" in the Book Shop at Headquarters (Downtown) Library, Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Includes local library book bags, coverlets, & car magnets plus gift wrapping available. (No reductions from 2 – 3 p.m.)



### **Friends Book Sale**

The next sale at Headquarters Library will be Saturday, February 1, 2020, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. (most items \$1.00; \$5/bag from 2-3 p.m.).

*The Friends thank the Augusta University students and staff who volunteered in the August and November Book Sales!*



### Gingerbread House-making

Be festive! Come Thursday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, 4 – 5:30 p.m. at Headquarters (Downtown) Library for family fun! (free event).

### 2019 Friends' Writing Contest

The committee of judges is reading the entries and winning entrants will be notified Sunday, January 5, 2020. Thank you to all who participated.

### Annual Friends Meeting

Mark your calendars for Monday, January 27<sup>th</sup>, 6 – 8:00 p.m. in the Headquarters (Downtown) Library Auditorium! Doors open at 5:30 for new and renewal memberships and silent book auction. After a brief meeting at 6, Dr. Maggie Dorsey will talk about her book series, My Hero, My Dad, the Nurse. Light refreshments included.



### Maxwell Branch Re-opening

After several delays, the ribbon cutting was Wednesday, August 14<sup>th</sup>! Joshua Sheffield and his staff are delighted to share their enlarged library! Drop by for a visit, Monday – Saturday at 1927 Lumpkin Rd, Augusta, GA 30906, 706-793-2020.



### New Council Members

Leon Maben and Sybrenia Grant have joined with *President*, Erika Bobbitt, *Treasurer*, Sam Meller, *Secretary*, Debby Barron, *Vice-President and Membership*, Dennis Garman, Brenda Garman, Shelia Martin and Paulette Harris. We hope to add more in service to the Augusta Library. Please consider joining the Board or suggesting someone interested in non-profit leadership.

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### FOAL Revenues Support the Library System in Many Ways

Pardon us for bragging, but without the Friends' contributions the events and campaigns appearing in the newsletters would not be possible at the high standards that we have all come to expect. *Feels great!*

Now for a dose of reality. As the President's letter stated, the State has been reducing funding steadily to the point that the Talking Book program was centralized and book and media purchases are a shadow of what they once were. The local government has attempted to maintain its funding, but the costs continue to rise. How to respond? *Statistics matter to government officials!!!*

- >attend events, check out more books, media, and online services
- >talk to your Commissioner & state officials
- >add extra to your renewal
- >encourage your neighbors to join.

*Thank you for supporting our libraries!*