



FOLTC

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARIES OF TOWNS COUNTY

WINTER 2026

FOLTC Officers:

President: Rose Mary Crook

Vice President: Mary Welken

Recording Secretary:

Kathy Day

Corresponding Secretary:

Judith Lee

Treasurer: Rose Carter

**Friends of the Libraries of
Towns County**

P.O. Box 159

Young Harris, GA 30582

Website: www.foltc.com

Email: foltc22@yahoo.com

**[Facebook.com/FriendsOfThe
LibrariesOfTownsCounty](https://www.facebook.com/FriendsOfTheLibrariesOfTownsCounty)**

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<https://www.foltc.com/renewal.html>

LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Happy New Year! We hope everyone is staying safe and warm! I am beginning my second year as the group President and am looking forward to what this year will bring.

In the next few months, we will celebrate National Library Week on April 19th and National Library Workers Day on April 21st. I know you will share some love and support at both of our libraries as you usually do. September is Library Sign Up Month and October 4th to the 10th is Banned Books Week.

Thank you again for continuing to support the Towns County libraries through your membership. Please encourage others to join and support our libraries' functions.

BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

The Paris Widow by Kimberly Belle is a thriller about Stella, whose husband Adam disappears after an explosion in Paris, revealing his secret life as a dealer in stolen antiquities, forcing her to uncover the truth about him and evade danger in a world of crime and

deceit. The novel follows Stella as she navigates the investigation, the French police, and a dangerous criminal underworld to find out who Adam really was and why he was targeted.

The Enlightenment of Angeline by Joshua Berkov is a humorous domestic fiction novel from 2020 about a tough, opinionated woman in a small North Carolina town who receives a terminal diagnosis, prompting her estranged family to gather, leading to explosive revelations and the exploration of modern social issues like race, LGBTQ+ rights, and religion.

The Night Before Christmas by Maria Frankland is a psychological thriller about a woman, Natalie, whose first Christmas with her husband's family is upended by the unexpected arrival of his "perfect" ex-wife, Carla, who is stranded by a

snowstorm. Trapped together, the two women engage in a tense battle of wits, with Carla aiming to win back her ex-husband and Natalie determined to protect her marriage, all while uncovering dark family secrets and unexpected twists.

TOWNS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY REPORTS

Towns County Public Library has been busy! On Halloween night at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds' Trick or Treat event, TCPL had 5,000 participants visit its booth to receive a free book, candy, and/or popcorn. Donned in costumes, staff visited with many FOLTC members and hundreds of library patrons and had fun with many of their youngest patrons. Thank you, FOLTC, for funding our part of this event and all the events listed below.



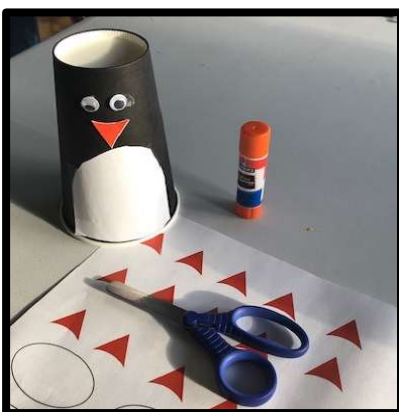
In November we held a Peanuts-themed

Thanksgiving party where the kids and parents had the same meal Snoopy and Woodstock fixed for Charlie Brown and his friends. Yum!

Jump forward to December, we had a Frozen themed Christmas Party with a



special guest appearance. Our patrons decorated Christmas ornaments and took home a book as a Christmas present, a gift from TCPL. There was face painting, of course, snacks, and temporary tattoos for those who didn't want glitter face paint.



In January we hosted a Penguin Party with snacks and books as well.

Many events and programs are being planned for 2026. We know we can count on support from FOLTC, but we'd like to ask for your help. During our many events, we always need many volunteers. Kids are so excited for each event and they move about



quickly. Being a library with limited staff, your help would be greatly appreciated. We promise to pay you with giggles and smiles from the happy kids enjoying the event. Interested in helping? Keep an eye out for emails with details when opportunities arise or call the library and tell them you'd like to help with an event. Whether you help once a year, once a quarter, or once a month, all help is greatly appreciated.

MOUNTAIN REGIONAL LIBRARY REPORTS

At MRL, library staff and children alike greatly enjoyed decorating for the holidays. Festive displays included a "Thankfulness Tree," featuring a paper wreath made by children listing all the things they are grateful for, such as: family, friends, Legos, "Warriors" (a book series), and more!



Thanks to the generous support of the Friends of the Library (FOLTC), MRL was able to offer two holiday gift basket raffles. Patrons earned one raffle entry for each holiday-themed item checked out. The raffle resulted in over eighty adult entries and thirty children's entries. A photo of our adult prize winner, Juanita Fletcher, is attached, plus a photo of the kids' basket given away to a family that wishes to remain anonymous.



In addition, MRL has begun a partnership with the Shooting Creek Basket Weavers Guild as story time guests. Guild members volunteered their time to share classic stories such as *The Mitten* by Jan Brett and *That's Good, No That's Bad*. The



program concluded with a hands-on activity in which children created neon-colored woven baskets to take home, making for a lively and memorable experience.



Looking ahead, MRL is excited to celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday during Read Across America Week in early March. The library will host both a children's celebration and an adult program titled "Dr. Seuss: Not Just for Kids." Dr. Heather Welch and Shawna Rose will collaborate on a presentation featuring Dr. Seuss' political cartoons and examining themes of the Cold War and prejudice in works such as *The Butter Battle Book*.

FOLTC supports our events with snacks, books, or whatever we need to bring a program to children and adults.

LIBRARIES NEED CRAFTING VOLUNTEERS

Our libraries are always looking for new crafts for kids. Do you know a craft you could share? Gardening – starting seedlings? Quilting – teaching kids the basics of using a needle and thread/yarn? Maybe you could share an hour of your time and teach the library staff how simple it is. Do you have unused craft supplies that you could donate to the libraries? Do you know how to make fun buttons with cute designs in them using the button-making machine? Sharing your skills would be a bonus for the kids at the libraries. If you find a way to help, we promise to pay you with hugs and smiles and sometimes laughter. Together we help children enjoy childhood and their visits to the library. Thank you in advance.

HOW FOLTC SUPPORTS OUR LIBRARIES!

FOLTC's mission is to provide supplemental financial support for the two public libraries in Towns County and to advocate for all libraries. Funds are raised via membership dues, monetary donations, and proceeds from the sale of donated books and other materials in the FOLTC bookstores in Mountain Regional Library (MRL) and Towns County Public Library (TCPL). In the **last quarter of 2025**, funds were requested by library managers and provided by FOLTC to pay for the listed events and items. Please know that all monies raised by FOLTC go directly to our essential public libraries!

- Large wheeled coolers for both libraries for summer reading events
- Food for the Fall Festival at TCPL
- Food and drinks for the K-Pop party at MRL
- Candy for the libraries' booth at Georgia Mountain Fairground's Halloween celebration
- Food for the Charlie Brown Thanksgiving meal at TCPL
- Paint, paint brushes, glitter, stickers, cookies, drinks, and other supplies for the "Frozen" party at TCPL
- Cake, drinks, and candy for the "Frozen" party at MRL
- Gifts and candy for both an adult's and kid's Christmas gift basket raffle at MRL

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that you can join FOLTC (or renew your existing membership) with a credit/debit card using a QR code? Look for this sign at either of our bookstores at Mountain Regional Library in Young Harris or Towns County Public Library in Hiawassee. There is a QR code for you to select which level of Membership is right for you. If you simply want to make a donation to FOLTC, use the QR code at the bottom of the sign. With this QR code, you can enter any amount and, optionally, add a "Note" if you want your donation to be in honor of or a memorial to someone.



You can also use the links in our website (<https://foltc.com/>) under the "Membership" page to do the same things.

And don't forget, you can pay for your bookstore purchases by credit/debit card using the QR code posted on the front of the red money boxes. Of course, cash placed in the red money boxes at both libraries works fine, too. Happy shopping and/or honoring someone.



BUSINESS SUPPORTERS

Jennifer Marshall
Branch Manager
5734 Robinson Rd.
Young Harris, GA 30582
Phone 762.349.4203
Fax 762.349.4215
jmarshall@peachstatefcu.org
www.peachstatefcu.org



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TOWNS COUNTY HERALD
Legal Organ of Towns County, Georgia

Office (706) 896-4454
Fax (706) 896-1745

P.O. Box 365
Hiawassee, GA 30546
Email: tcherald@windstream.net

We would like you to join us for our

FOLTC BOARD MEETINGS

Tues., Feb. 10th, 1:00, TCPL
Tues., April 14th, 1:00, MRL
Tues., June 9th, 1:00, TCPL
Tues., Aug. 11th, 1:00, MRL
Tues., Oct. 13th, 1:00, TCPL
Tues., Dec. 8th, 1:00, MRL, Annual Meeting
and Election of Officers

An illustration of three people sitting around a table in a meeting room. A woman on the left is pointing at a whiteboard. A woman in the middle is looking at the whiteboard. A man on the right is looking at the woman in the middle. The whiteboard has several sticky notes on it.

FOLTC MEMBERSHIP FORM

- If paying by check, print and complete this form and include it with your payment (see Payment of Dues below).
- Save time by using our online form and pay using a **credit or debit card**. Visit the FOLTC website at www.foltc.com and click on the Membership page. <https://www.foltc.com/renewal.html>

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Date _____
Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Preferred Phone Number _____
Email _____

MEMBERSHIP TYPE

New Member _____ Renewal _____ Gift/Other _____
Individual \$15 _____ Family \$30 _____
Donor \$50 _____ Patron \$100 _____
Business Patron \$100 _____

Membership dues entitle you to one year of membership and are due for renewal on the anniversary of your joining date. Membership dues and gifts are tax deductible as FOLTC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Business Patrons will receive a thank you letter and have a copy of their business card included for one year in the quarterly FOLTC newsletter which is distributed to all members.

PAYMENT OF DUES

If you wish to pay by **check**, make checks payable to FOLTC. Completed membership form and payment may be placed in the red money boxes in the FOLTC bookstores at Towns County Public Library in Hiawassee or Mountain Regional Library in Young Harris, or mailed to FOLTC, P. O. Box 159, Young Harris, GA 30582.

If you wish to pay by **credit or debit card**, visit our website at www.foltc.com and click on the Membership page.

FOLTC MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Friends of the Libraries of Towns County is to provide financial support for Mountain Regional Library and Towns County Public Library and to advocate for public libraries. FOLTC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation.