



FOLTC

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARIES OF TOWNS COUNTY

SUMMER 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**

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**Facebook.com/FriendsOfThe
LibrariesOfTownsCounty**

“Like Us” on Facebook

Renew Membership online:

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

LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Hope you are having a wonderful summer. My husband and I just took a road trip that was assisted by one of our libraries' services. Some of you may know that you can check out a pass from the Library to visit our State Parks. It includes entrance and parking. We used ours to visit Cloudland Canyon State Park in NW Georgia. We had a high climb and saw wonderful sights.

As usual this time of year, we are winding down the kids' programs with the help of our membership.

Thank you again for continuing to support the Towns County libraries through your membership. Please encourage others to join and support our libraries' many services. **NOTE:** There will be a month-long sale at both bookstores in October!

HAVE IT YOUR WAY

Would you like to receive an electronic copy of our Newsletter each quarter? Great! Either ask us to add you to our email list via foltc22@yahoo.com OR put your info and request in the red money box in either bookstore.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Meredith Legg-Grady has been with TCPL for four years. She loves planning the library's events for children, adult programs, and is great at publicizing them through social media. She also leads the monthly Non-Fiction Book Club. FOLTC depends on her to report on library happenings and to create purchase requests to FOLTC for needed program materials and books.



Meredith graduated from Emmanuel College with a Bachelor of Arts in Christian Ministries. She also earned a certificate in Early Childhood Care and Education from NGATC. Prior to joining TCPL, she had roles as a full-time nanny, a toddler swim instructor, and an assistant daycare teacher. In her spare time, she enjoys running, hiking with her husband, Sven, and of course, reading.



FIRST FOLTC SCHOLORSHIP WINNER!

In case you missed it, the Friends of the Libraries of Towns County (FOLTC) awarded its first scholarship to a graduating Towns County High School senior this past May.

Thanks to all the dues-paying members of FOLTC, generous donations of our patrons and sponsors, and the loyal customers at our two bookstores, we were able to award a **\$1,000 scholarship** this year.



Pictured left to right: Kathy Day, FOLTC board member, and Jamie McCarter, scholarship winner.

Jamie McCarter caught the attention of the scholarship committee with her determination in facing challenges as an early reader to later achieve academic success at the highest level. As she overcame her reading struggles with the help of her elementary school librarian, she developed a love for reading that propelled her forward on her academic journey. To Jamie libraries were more than just a depository of books, rather a place to discover her potential and to learn.

She begins her higher education journey this fall at the University of Georgia with plans to pursue a career as an elementary school teacher. Her goal is to help others learn, grow, and provide encouragement to believe in themselves, as others have done for her.

Congratulations, Jamie!

TOWNS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY REPORTS

As our library summers go, this one was no different. We had a huge number of kids and families attend our Summer Reading Programs. FOLTC again supported the SRP through invaluable financial support for all of our performers! In conjunction with that, they also provided popsicles for all at both of our outdoor events, a much-needed break from this summer's sweltering heat.



Our launch program was a wonderful planetarium show in the Rollin's Planetarium on the Young Harris College campus. Kids and adults alike attended to get their chance to see "*Did an asteroid really kill the dinosaurs?*" The program focused on the impact (pun intended) of asteroids within our solar system and the consequences of them, specifically on our planet. With this year's SRP theme being "Unearth a Story," getting to see dinosaurs on the huge dome was a perfect treat for all.



This year Brightstar Theater made its inaugural visit to Towns County. They delighted the audience with their performance. Using large realistic dinosaur puppets, sharing numerous facts, adding great comedy, plus the audience's participation, kept everyone entertained!



Wildlife Wonders brought a slew of animals to the Young Harris Mayor's Park to delight



the library families. Everyone was able to see a large variety of animals - from the slow methodical sulcata tortoise of Africa, to a llama hailing from the high Andes Mountains of South America, plus sheep, goats, ducks, emu, cow, horse, and donkey! This was and has been one of our most beloved and well attended events, every time we host it. This



year was no exception. The all-natural popsicles helped break the heat... thanks, FOLTC!



This year we also had Mrs. Kathy Church from Smithgall Woods. If you have never seen one of Mrs. Kathy's programs, you are truly missing out! A crowd favorite every year is Snakes Alive where Mrs. Kathy teaches everyone about some basic snake facts and even gives the

opportunity to touch one! Mrs. Kathy came back a couple of weeks later and presented Native American Life, a program focusing on what life was like for Native Americans, predominantly in the southeastern parts of North America.



This was the first time we had the Native American Life program as part of our SRP, and we were amazed at how many people talked about how much they learned and how well they - kids and adults alike - enjoyed it!



Last but not least, Crescent Circus come again this year, to wow a crowd at the Towns County Rec Center. From magic and comedy to juggling and balancing, families were greatly entertained! This was a wonderful experience for all, especially the children who were constantly being called upon to participate in the show by shouting or even going on stage.

The libraries of Towns County would like to thank FOLTC for their continued support of the libraries and our mission. Partnerships like this are the cornerstone of our community. They provide wonderful opportunities for residents and non-residents alike to experience things they might not otherwise have the opportunity to experience. Thank you FOLTC and Towns County for a wonderful Summer Reading Program. We look forward to all the fun events coming during the rest of the year!

VOLUNTEER READERS FOR THE KIDS

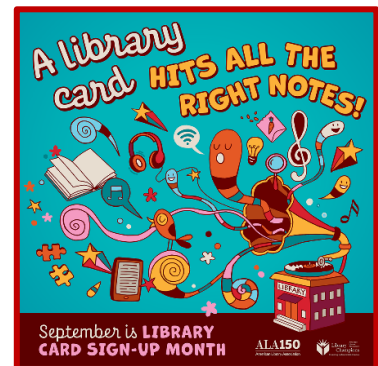
When members learned that the Wednesday morning program for toddlers at Mountain Regional Library would be paused, many FOLTC members quickly rallied to support our youngest future readers by volunteering to be a reader so the kids would not miss their beloved Wednesday programs. During August, the libraries need to pause from doing programs following the busy Summer Reading Program. This gives staff a needed 'less hectic' time to catch up on things and begin planning future programs. Once again, everyone working together benefits all, especially our future readers. Thank you to the volunteers and the staff. You make a huge difference in people's lives. Reader in photo is Dee Cvengros.



LIBRARY FUN FACTS



Here's proof that people continue to need, want, and use our libraries. The numbers shown tell the story. Note the number of new library cards issued during June and July! Don't forget, every library card also has benefits found online and around the State. When next at the library, ask a staff member to explain more advantages of being a library card holder; you'll be glad you did.



BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

Whistler by Ann Patchett

When Daphne is reconnected with her former stepfather, Eddie, they find that their brief relationship had a profound impact on them both. They have no intention of ever being separated again.

More Than Enough by Anna Quindlen

"A woman finds herself asking surprising questions about her family and friends in this wise, wonderful novel of life, loss, and moving on."

Zenith Man by McCracken Poston

In 1997, in Ringgold, GA, Alvin Ridley was accused of holding his wife hostage in the basement for 30 years before killing her. Written by his attorney, readers are taken through this very strange case and trial. The story reveals small town prejudices and redemption. Sometimes sad, but other times funny enough to make you laugh out loud.

Magpie Murders by Anthony Horowitz

When editor Susan Ryeland is given the manuscript of Alan Conway's latest novel, she has no reason to think it will be much different from any of his others. After working with the bestselling crime writer for years, she's intimately familiar with his detective, Atticus Pünd, who solves cozy mysteries disturbing sleepy English villages. Alan's traditional formula has proved hugely successful. So successful that Susan must continue to put up with his troubling behavior if she wants to keep her job.

Conway's latest tale has Atticus Pünd investigating a murder at Pye Hall, a local manor house. Yes, there are dead bodies and a host of intriguing suspects, but the more Susan reads, the more she's convinced that this book within a book contains another story hidden in its pages: one of real-life jealousy, greed, ruthless ambition, and murder.

Judge Stone by Viola Davis and James Patterson

Set in Union Springs, AL, where Judge Mary Stone, a Black woman who graduated at the top of her class from the University of Alabama Law School, presides over the local circuit court, runs her family farm, and hosts Saturday morning community breakfasts at her home. She is respected throughout the town and is preparing for re-election. Thirteen-year-old Nova Jones seeks to terminate her pregnancy. Dr. Bria Gaines performs the procedure and is subsequently arrested for committing a Class A felony under Alabama law, which carries a potential sentence of 99 years in prison and includes no exceptions for rape or incest.

BECAUSE YOU GAVE AND JOINED, FOLTC SUPPORTS OUR LIBRARIES!

Funds raised by FOLTC via membership dues, monetary donations, and proceeds from selling donated books and other materials in our bookstores go directly to our two Towns County libraries. Here are some of the things we funded this year:

- Almost \$1,000 worth of new books donated to the libraries.
- Tonies boxes and accessories for each library.
- Chomp saw & hummingbird kits for TCPL.
- Popcorn and drinks for Movie Day at MRL.
- All six of the Summer Reading Program events. Plus we provided popsicles for two of the outdoor events: Wildlife Wonders Petting Zoo and Smithgall Woods, Snakes Alive.
- \$500 to Ferst Readers, whose mission is to “strengthen communities by providing quality books and literacy resources for children and their families to use at home during the earliest stages of development.”
- Funding toward Mountain Regional Library System's annual Staff Day.
- Match of the Town's County Sole Commissioner's \$5,000 Challenge Grant.
- \$1,000 Scholarship to a Towns County High School senior pursuing a secondary education.

We share this information to show how important your continued support is to the libraries. Every dollar is well spent for the benefit of all patrons. Working together, FOLTC has been able to give the libraries **over \$100,000 dollars in the last 10 years** to fund their needs and programs. We are very grateful for each of you, and we look forward to more great things in the future.

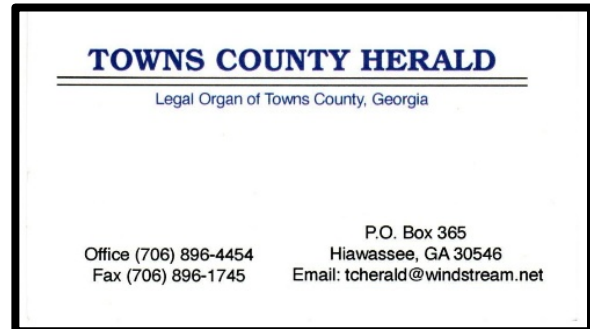
TWO REMAINING FOLTC BOARD MEETINGS IN 2026

All are welcome to attend.

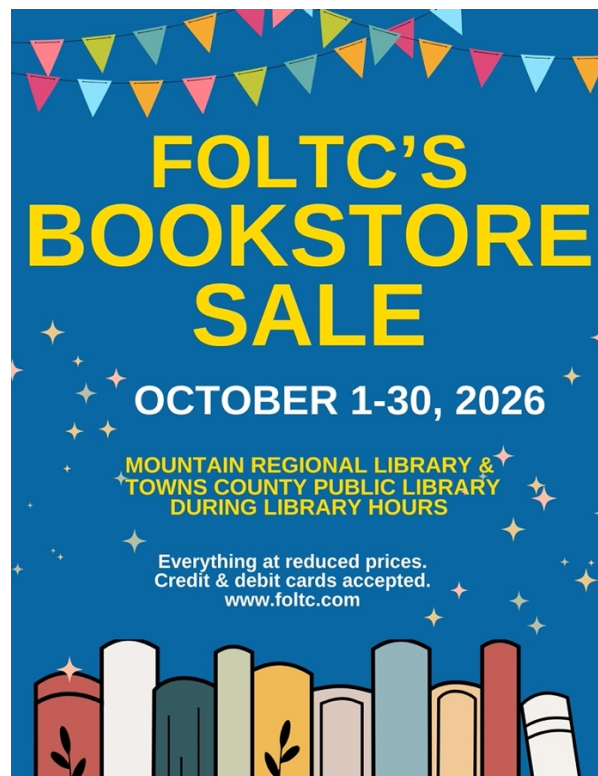
Oct. 13th at 1:00 pm at TCPL

Dec. 8th at 1:00 pm at MRL for annual meeting and election of officers.

BUSINESS SUPPORTERS



FOLTC BOOKSTORE SALE DURING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER!



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.