

**LIBRARY LOVE IS EVERYWHERE**[Read ♥ in your browser](#)

## Lawson McGhee Library and the L&N STEM Academy: The Students



The first two articles in this series on the partnership between the L&N STEM Academy and Lawson McGhee Library (LML) presented an [overview](#) and the [LML staff's perspective](#). This final article features reflections and insights from students in their own words.

### **Quality and quantity of resources**

**Emily:** "The thousands of primary sources at our fingertips allowed us to learn and write about phenomenal times in history."

**Paul:** "Something that is really big at school is researching and finding a variety of resources to support your position in papers and projects. The library made finding these sources significantly easier."

**Hayden:** "Being able to use the resources at both LML and the Hodges Library at UT was extremely helpful, not only for class activities and discussions, but also for much of the project-based research that our AP Language and AP U.S. history classes participated in."

**Kishan:** "Specifically, we had our National History Day competition about halfway through the year. For this project, we decided to research the life of Cordell Hull, our longest-serving Secretary of State. My team and I delved into the periodicals section at Lawson McGhee Library and found tangible evidence of what was going on in the early 1900s. We found news articles dating back to the 1940s, which told the story of Cordell Hull and his impacts on the impending war."

**Emily:** "The libraries also gave us an idea of what college is going to be like. Through this experience, we learned that in college we are going to have to own our learning. We have to want to learn, and we have to do outside research in order to be successful."

**Hayden:** "Having access to large libraries such as LML and Hodges not only offered us an abundance of information that we may have not had access to, but has also helped to prepare us for college-level research."



### ***A stimulating learning atmosphere***

Students were given more freedom and control of their work schedules.

**Paul:** "This was nice, and it made me feel as though my teachers trusted me. I knew that I could do my assignments at my own pace in the library, and if I had something of higher importance, I could do that instead. I have never seen this in a traditional classroom setting, but it was incredibly common at the library. This freedom allowed for learning to be more of a choice and less of a chore."

**Kishan:** "Being a student in the AP combined class was quite an experience. Class was held in a room at the bottom of the library. While in our 'classroom,' everything went how you would think an English or U.S. history class would go; however, it was with our assignments that we were truly able to branch out and beyond standard classroom expectations."

**Abigail:** "Having these opportunities is unique and even unheard of at most high schools. I am extremely thankful for the L&N STEM Academy for providing me with these resources. Partnerships like these have shaped my education in the best way possible."

**Emily:** "The experience we got at the library is a once-in-a-lifetime event. It allowed us to prepare for the future and learn beyond the boundaries we would have at our high school. This experience was such a blessing, and I learned so much from it!"

### ***A welcoming environment***

**Abigail:** "The generosity and hospitality of the staff at the library was overwhelming. They always welcomed our large group of 16–17-year-olds with smiling faces. The staff was more than happy to assist us in any way possible."

**Emily:** "The wonderful people at the library helped mentor us on how to find readings to use in order to educate ourselves before writing papers. If we needed anything, the library staff was there to help."

**Hayden:** "Additionally, Bess [Connally] from Lawson McGhee went

STEM's **Tressie Norton** coordinated the student interviews and provided photographs for this feature.

## In Love With the Library



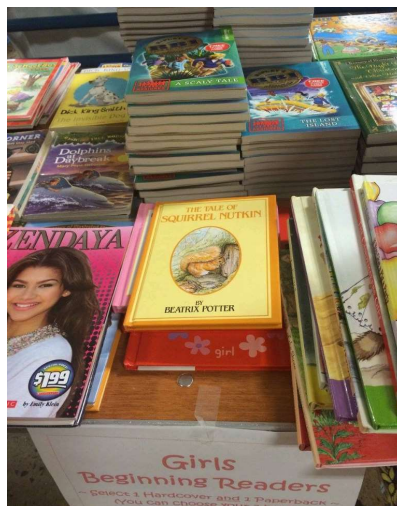
Left: Friends Board President Claire Serrell joins hands with students from Garden Montessori School to hug the Fountain City Branch Library. Right: Friend Julie Webb congratulates Julian, the Garden Montessori student who received his first library card on September 8.

When more than 70 students and their teachers from the **Garden Montessori School** paid their routine visit to the nearby **Fountain City Branch Library** on September 8, their smiles told the story: **coming to the library is fun.** And so they wrapped their arms around half of the building to celebrate National Library Card Sign-Up Month.

One of the youngsters actually applied for and received his very **first library card**, and other students checked out several books to take home. Fifth grader Tyler Holmes said that he loves to go to the library "because they have good books," though he confessed that it was "hard to wait for the one you want when someone else has it checked out." Inveterate reader Abby Myers, eighth grader, loves the branch's large selection of books and its quiet.

An album of photos of Friends, students, teachers, and library staff on this memorable occasion can be viewed [here](#).

## Sharing the Joy of Books and Reading





In announcing the initiative, Mayor Madeline Rogero said, "**Early reading skills are essential to success later in life.** For children who are struggling, it will mean a great deal for a KPD officer to sit down with them regularly and make reading fun and inviting rather than intimidating." She noted, "This is a great initiative by Chief [David B.] Rausch and his officers."

The kids will have **reading challenges** to complete. The first one is to read three books on their own. Then they will be able to pick out a book to keep from their officer's collection.

To create that collection, Jen Cooper, Friends Board member and librarian at the Garden Montessori School in Fountain City, has been culling resources from donations and books that have been withdrawn from KCPL's circulation. Bill Crosland, past president of the Friends, is in charge of delivering the donated books to the officers' central distribution point at KPD's education division at its 2242 Mineral Springs Avenue facility. The KPD liaison for the initiative is Sgt. Tammy Mattina (215-1510), who will oversee scheduling at the community centers.

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## Celebrating Friendship



Knox County Mayor Tim Burchett is seen here in one of his signature "shameless selfies" on Twitter, this one promoting Library Card Sign-up Month. His question to his followers: "Where's yours?"

Friends of Libraries groups have their very own national week of celebration!

In Knox County, Mayor Tim Burchett has proclaimed **October 16–22** as Friends of Knox County Public Library Week to recognize the work of Friends in support of the Knox County Public Library.

In his proclamation, Mayor Burchett highlights the **rich tradition of library services** in Knox County and the **dedication of Friends** in providing community outreach, advocacy, and support of KCPL for over 45 years.

At the state level, Gov. Bill Haslam's proclamation recognizes the **gifts of time and commitment** made by Friends of Tennessee Libraries and associated local groups. He further acknowledges the

## long learning.

Celebrating Friendship at every level — it's a good thing! Supporting our libraries at every level — even better!

## October Reading Picks



The Knox County Public Library is a treasure, and so are the people who work there! Four of them have some suggestions for your October reading list.

### **Carrying Albert Home: The Somewhat True Story of a Man, His Wife, and Her Alligator** by Homer Hickam

*"This book is unpredictably fun and full of adventure. It gets serious at times but is a very satisfying journey!"* – Terry Bednarz, Norwood Branch

### **Unsaid** by Neil Abramson

*"Thought-provoking read about the well-intentioned world of medicine, science, and the never-finished goodbyes we say to those we love."* – Renata Waldrop, Fountain City Branch

### **Jane Steele** by Lyndsay Faye

*"Equal parts historical fiction, mystery, and romance, Jane Steele is inspired by Charlotte Bronte's Jane Eyre. Steele is a courageous and complex heroine who protects those whom she loves, no matter the cost. I simultaneously couldn't turn pages fast enough and was reluctant to see it end. Five stars!"* – Laila Archer, Howard Pinkston Branch

### **Into the Black: The Extraordinary Untold Story of the First Flight of the Space Shuttle Columbia and the Astronauts Who Flew Her** by Rowland White

*"It's about the Space Shuttle! That's interesting in its own right! Plus it's an action-packed story of drama and chaos and OUTER SPACE. Bonus points if you read it on a beach within walking distance of Canaveral."* – Thomas Anderson, Lawson McGhee Library

## The Pixels Are Published!

Whether researching family history, a school paper, or a business report, finding local news articles no longer means handling cumbersome microfilm reels. Now, thanks to Friends and more than 400 organizations and individuals, **decades of articles** are accessible to Knox County Public Library patrons at a click of a mouse.

The **Knox County Public Library Foundation** launched the "From Papers to Pixels" campaign in 2015 to raise nearly

The foundation worked with NewsBank, an information provider that transfers microfilm from newspapers, magazines, periodicals, government documents, and more to a searchable online format.

Now that the *Knoxville News Sentinel* digitization is complete, individuals can browse issues of the years 1922–1990 page by page. Every article, photograph, illustration, cartoon, and display advertisement is **searchable** using keywords. And with a KCPL card, library patrons can access the archives, any time, from anywhere.

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## Shop at Rothrock Used Book Shop

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### WHAT'S COMING UP

- **Powell Branch Used Book Sale** – Friday, October 7, and Saturday, October 8, 10 a.m.–5 p.m. [MORE>>](#)
- **All Over the Page: *Station Eleven*** – Monday, October 10, 6:30 p.m. [MORE>>](#)
- **National Friends of Libraries Week** – October 16–22
- **Halls Branch Used Book Sale** – Friday, October 21, and Saturday, October 22, 10 a.m.–5 p.m. [MORE>>](#)
- **Books Sandwiched In: *Rac(e)ing to Class: Confronting Poverty and Race in Schools and Classrooms*** – Wednesday, October 26, noon [MORE>>](#)
- **Cedar Bluff Branch Used Book Sale** – Friday, November 4, and Saturday, November 5, 10 a.m.–5 p.m. [MORE>>](#)

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## Join Friends Now

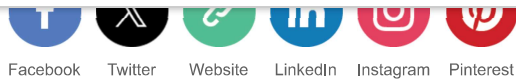
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## Connect With Friends Online



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Friends♥KCPL is a monthly e-newsletter produced by the Communications Committee of Friends of the Knox County Public Library. Members of the committee who contribute to the e-newsletter include: Martha Gill (Chair), Peter Andreae, Deanne Charlton, Martha Edington, Beth Fisher, Paula Hickey, Rusha Sams, Suzanne Shea, and Joyce York.

**About Friends of the Knox County Public Library:** Friends is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to foster a love of libraries, books and reading in the Knox County area. The organization raises funds to sponsor community outreach programs, represent the interests of Knox County library patrons, and support a variety of services offered by the local library system that would otherwise not be available due to budget or staff restrictions.

Friends of the Knox County Library has this e-mail address either from our membership roster or from email sign-up sheets. If you are receiving this message in error, please accept our apologies and unsubscribe below. Thank you.

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