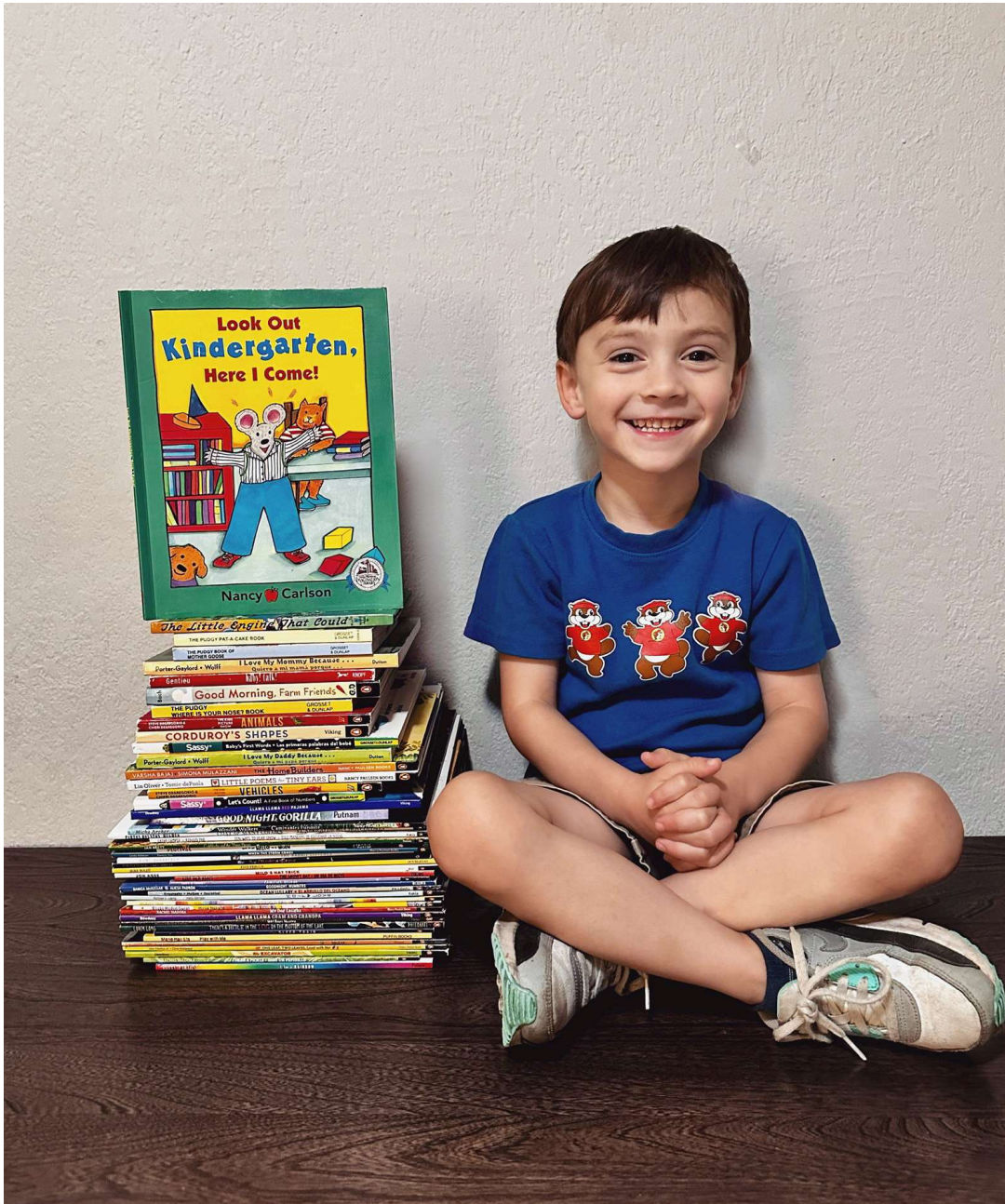




Imagination Library of Knox County turns 20!



By Kaitlynn Copinger

Imagine if a child received a book every month, from the time they were born until they were in kindergarten. What difference would that make in their life? For their future?

Here in Knox County, we are fortunate that we don't have to imagine. For two decades, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Knox County has delivered monthly books, free of charge, to children ages 0 to 5. Currently, the program distributes about 19,000 books a month — simply amazing growth from its beginnings in 2005, when the program sent out about 4,000 books in the first year!

This month, Imagination Library of Knox County will celebrate its 20th anniversary — and Dolly Parton's birthday — with a family-friendly celebration from **1 to 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, January 19, at the Historic Tennessee Theatre, 604 S. Gay Street.**

For Knox County, this is a milestone worth celebrating. A child who starts the program at birth receives 60 books by the time they enter kindergarten, a personal library that has a huge impact on children's success in school and in life, said Bonny Naugher, Friends' President-Elect and chair of the Imagination Library advisory board. The benefit goes beyond the academic — the Imagination Library brings the joy of reading to young children and their families.

"What I find heartwarming is that when I see parents with young children and ask if they are signed up for Imagination Library books, both the parents' and children's eyes light up, and answer, 'Yes, we love our Dolly books!'" Bonny said.

Show the love to Dolly and the Imagination Library by joining us at the January 19 anniversary celebration downtown. You're invited to dress up as your favorite Imagination Library character and join a costume parade and dance party. Plus, enjoy storytime, music, cupcakes, trivia and a movie. This event is free and all are welcome. See a detailed itinerary [here](#).



Annual lecture set for Feb. 20

By Susan Alexander

The Wilma Dykeman Stokely Memorial Lecture will be held on February 20 at the East Tennessee History Center at 7 pm. The annual lecture, hosted by Friends of the Library and the John C. Hodges Society of UT Libraries, is free and open to the public.

Authors Halle Hill and Terry Roberts will speak at this year's lecture. Both currently live in North Carolina and write about the Appalachian South.

Hill is the author of *Good Women*, which was named a 2023 Best Book of the Year by Kirkus Reviews, O Magazine, Electric Reviews, Book Riot and Southwest Reviews. A native East Tennessean, she writes in her debut novel about the lives of 12 Black women across the Appalachian South.

Roberts, a native of Western North Carolina, inherited his family's skill with mountain storytelling. He is the author of *A Short Time to Stay Here*, winner of the Willie Morris Prize for Southern Fiction; *That Bright Land*, winner of the Thomas Wolfe Literary Award; and *The Holy Ghost Speakeasy and Revival*.

More information about the topic of the lecture will be included in next month's newsletter.

Library's book clubs are multi-faceted

By Crystal Sansom

Looking to dive into captivating stories and share your thoughts with fellow readers? Knoxville County Public Libraries offer diverse book clubs for many age groups that are just waiting for you to join!

Bearden Branch Library:

Club Name: Pop Culture Book Club

Focus: Meeting on a Tuesday night at 6 pm, this book club considers what is trending in the world of books. Each month, this club leads a discussion of a popular fiction title and the latest book trends. Participants will ponder what propels certain titles to such fame. Are the latest trendy titles really worth all the hype?

Cedar Bluff Branch Library:

Club Name: Cedar Bluff Book Circle

Focus: Meeting on a Thursday afternoon at 1 pm, this book club is for attendees to discuss what they are reading and to make recommendations to fellow readers.

East Tennessee History Center:

Club Name: History Parlor: A Book Club for History-Minded Individuals

Focus: Step into the History Parlor for a conversation about history with East Tennessee History Center team members! The format is simple: read any material that touches on history (fiction or nonfiction, global or local, new or old), and come prepared to share a short synopsis with the group. If you have ever longed for a history class do-over or simply love reading about history, this is your chance to share your favorite reads and interesting discoveries with history-minded individuals! The History Parlor is free and open to the public. It convenes at 9:30 am on the second Monday of each month in the Bilo Nelson Auditorium of the East Tennessee History Center in downtown Knoxville.

Fountain City Branch Library:

Club Name: Monday Night Book Club

Focus: Join other book enthusiasts on the last Monday of each month at 6 pm to discuss a different title each month.

Halls Branch Library:

Club Name: Halls Literary Social Hour

Focus: Join the Halls Literary Social Hour, meeting on a Tuesday at 1 pm, to discuss books with your fellow patrons. There is no required reading. Just bring your favorite or current read!

Club Name: Teen Book Club

Focus: Gather with other teens on a Tuesday night at 5 pm to discuss your current favorite reads!

Lawson McGhee Library:

Club Name: All Over the Page

Focus: All Over the Page is a monthly 6:30 pm Monday evening book discussion group for adults with a guest facilitator.

Norwood Branch Library:

Club Name: Cookbook Club

Focus: Come and share your favorite recipes with others! This book club has a different theme each month, meeting on a Saturday at 11 am. Please call the branch for more details about this month's theme.

Visit <https://www.knoxcountylibrary.org/events/upcoming> to learn more about these book clubs and other events!

Small but mighty online sales team looks to expand

By Diane Tuccillo

As we approach the online sales team's one-year anniversary, it's time to celebrate the growth of sales and profits to enhance fundraising for our wonderful Knox County Public Library. Online selling has become an important and popular way to raise more money for libraries, and our Friends organization has joined in on the action! As library budgets become tighter, this endeavor allows us to raise more money to assist the library in its excellent service.

Last February, the kickoff month's proceeds totaled \$29.90—just two initial sales but a good start. Then, monthly proceeds steadily increased until December, when we made \$1,838, for a 10-month net total of \$9,222. As more volunteers pitched in, the number of listings, created from valuable donations, grew to over 700, giving customers many more purchasing choices. Most listings are for books, ranging from brand new to pricey antiques, but other items are also for sale, like medical flashcards, sealed/unopened DVD and CD sets, exclusive magazines, or collectible comics—any material for which there may be customer demand and which will glean a minimum \$10 profit (though most glean much more!).

The online sales team began last year with three volunteer members, and now 12 active members are doing everything from scanning for value to helping each other pick up donated items at branches to creating listings to delivering listed books to the eBay shelves downtown where they will be shipped when they sell.

Last spring, my husband, Mick, and I decided to get involved as listers. We received helpful training, then were mentored into the actual hands-on process of researching, pricing, creating drafts, and placing listings on eBay. Now, we feel confident as we regularly list new items and enjoy watching sales grow. We do listings from home as well as during our monthly Rothrock Book Shop shifts. Like us, all volunteers receive appropriate training and mentoring, and volunteer time can be tailored to personal schedules and needs.

Many opportunities are available for new volunteers on this exciting fundraising team. For the volume of increased sales we are anticipating, we need twice as many volunteers. That means we need the following new Team members: **Scanners** who scan and pre-evaluate donations and library withdrawals that come in to the downtown library basement area; **Researchers/Listers** to add new items for sale on eBay; **Shippers** who prepare and ship purchased items; and **Trainers** who teach volunteers how to research and/or draft and place active listings.

If this sounds like a volunteer job for you, please contact info@knoxfriends.org to volunteer.

To browse our online store, go to https://www.ebay.com/str/friendsknoxcountylibrary?_pgn=1

Fundraisers, past, present and future

Here's a quick look at Friends' efforts to raise funds for the library beyond book sales.

Friends participated in Giving Tuesday in early December, and 30 donors contributed \$2,405 to be used to support Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Knox County.

As of late December, 537 members have renewed their membership for 2025. If that's still on your to-do list, click [here](#) to get started.

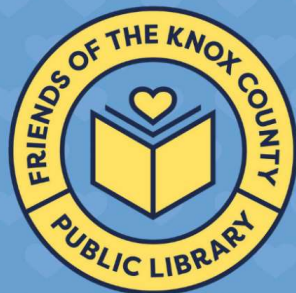
Finally, dust off your best evening wear – and by that we mean your softest pajamas and fuzziest slippers – to participate in the Stay Home and Read a Book Ball, introverts' favorite event of the year! The annual virtual event will be held Saturday, Feb. 15, and funds will go toward the Children's Festival of Reading in May.

Read City Challenge kickoff Feb. 1

Mayor Glenn Jacobs will help launch the 2025 Read City Challenge Feb. 1 at Bridgewater Event Center from 10 am-2 pm. Admission is free. Step into the library laboratory for hands-on fun, demonstrations, special guest appearance by Mayor Jacobs, crafts, and snacks. Investigate a planetarium, experiment with kid-friendly chemistry, operate a robotic arm, excavate fossils, and examine crawling specimens from the insect zoo.

Resolve to visit Rothrock!

Have you resolved to make some changes in 2025? You might pop into the Rockrock Used Book Shop at Lawson McGhee Library because featured titles this month are those that can help you achieve your New Year's resolutions. Rothrock is open Monday to Saturday from 10:30am - 4:30pm and Sundays from 1:00pm - 4:30pm. A volunteer is needed for the afternoon shift on January 18. If you can help, please let Jean Idell know, 865-789-9081.



Used Book Sales

2025

Proceeds benefit
Knox County
Public Library

Most books
\$2 or less

Check out
our new
eBay store!



[knoxfriends.org](https://www.knoxfriends.org)

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| JAN 8-14 | Hi-Wire Brewing During Business Hours hiwirebrewing.com  |
| FEB 1 | Fountain City Branch Library 10:00–5:00 |
| FEB 15 | South Knox Branch Library 10:00–5:00 |
| MAR 8 | Powell Branch Library 10:00–5:00 |
| APR 12 | Sequoyah Branch Library 10:00–5:00 |
| APR 25-26 | Farragut Branch Library 10:00–5:00 1:00–5:00 |
| MAY 2-3 | Bearden Branch Library 10:00–5:00 1:00–5:00 |
| MAY 17 | Children’s Festival of Reading 10:00 - 3:00 (World’s Fair Park)  |
| MAY 31 | Halls Branch Library 10:00–5:00 |

Support Friends Today

***Friends ♥ KCPL* is a monthly newsletter
produced by the Communications
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County Public Library.**



Friends of the Knox County Public Library

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