

# friends of kansas LIBRARIES

Assist - Support - Educate

FoKL POINT Newsletter — May 2025

## 2025 Challenge Grant Awards



FoKL Challenge Grants provide matching funds to help Friends groups launch projects that support their local libraries.

Congratulations to the following grant winners:

**Enterprise Public Library** - will use grant monies to purchase food and equipment for cooking classes for youth in the community. The Library held a demo class to test interest in the program, and reported that there was so much enthusiasm that they expect they will need to hold multiple classes for different age groups. Some equipment has already been purchased for the project, a teacher has designed a curriculum, and all is ready to go once the remaining equipment is in place.

This project is being carried out in memory of former librarian Joan Phillips, who passed away in November, 2024. Joan initiated the project, and the current librarian said they hope to continue it to honor Joanie "and everything she did to make this place for the kids."

**Friends of the Frankfort City Library** - to support the purchase of Wonderbooks for the library's children's book collection. Wonderbooks are traditional print books with a built-in audio component that reads the story aloud to the child. This "read-along" experience promotes literacy by helping children follow along with the text, hear proper pronunciation, and develop fluency and comprehension skills — all while fostering a love of reading.

**Friends of Johnson County Library** - to expand their book giveaway activities into the 2025-2026 school year. The group will give \$100 Friends Book Sale gift cards to Title 1 elementary school librarians in a project that enhances the Library's mission to provide equal and ready access to books and information to all in the community. The project also helps foster a love of reading for future generations.

**Friends of the Vermillion Community, Inc.** - for the purchase of materials to create painted plywood displays featuring pictures of animals with holes cut out where children can have their pictures taken. The displays will be stationed in the area of the town's Story Walk. The art project will be part of the Vermillion Public Library's summer program "Color our World."

## Start-up Grant

FoKL awarded a Start-up Grant to the Ellis Public Library, who is reviving a Friends group that has been inactive for a number of years.

The Ellis group has already found a great deal of interest in the community. A team has been working to reactivate their non-profit status, elect officers, and they are currently revising their bylaws.

The Ellis Friends recently held an open house at the library, which attracted new members, and will host a bunco party in June.

The grant monies will be used to send thank you cards for donations, and to make flyers and a brochure to promote the group. Good luck to the Ellis Friends!

First Friday with Friends will not meet in June or July while libraries across Kansas "Color our World"! Have a great summer!

# Kansas Libraries Need YOUR Help!



Join the Friends of Kansas Libraries (FOKL) in advocating for IMLS funding to protect our libraries!

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), the primary federal agency supporting libraries and museums, is facing significant funding cuts due to an executive order issued on March 14, 2025. The order directs the agency to reduce staffing and services and prevents new budget requests unless they are necessary for shutting down the agency.

In response to a lawsuit filed by the American Library Association (ALA) and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), federal courts have blocked the executive order aimed to dismantle IMLS and other agencies and ruled that the order violates the Constitution's separation of powers clause.

These rulings temporarily secure IMLS funding for 2025, but the agency and funding for Kansas libraries remain at risk. While 2025 funding has already been distributed, the executive order could lead to major budget shortfalls starting in 2026.

## How would this impact your library and your community?

Kansas libraries rely heavily on IMLS funding, which accounts for around 30% of the State Library of Kansas's budget. In 2024, Kansas received \$2.1 million in federal funding through IMLS, supporting essential services Kansas libraries such as:

- Interlibrary Loan Services – Allowing all types of libraries across the state to share resources. The most recent Kansas Public Library Survey shows that 735,519 items were shared among school, academic, public and special libraries.
- Summer Reading Programs – Funding for partial support of this annual program that fosters literacy and learning for children.
- Database Access – Including resources like the Britannica encyclopedias for all ages, Nursing and Allied Health and a number of educational and research resources for use by all types of Kansas libraries and every Kansas resident.
- Talking Books – Providing access to more than 131,000 books to Kansas residents with visual or other impairments that make using traditional print difficult or impossible.

What would it mean to you, your neighbors, schools and communities if these services were not available? The cost effectiveness for Kansans with the small investment of federal funds is clear from the facts provided at [https://kslibassoc.org/KLA\\_News](https://kslibassoc.org/KLA_News).

## What You Can Do

While IMLS funding and operations are temporarily protected, the injunction does not guarantee long-term funding. Congress must still approve the FY 2026 budget, which will determine whether IMLS funding continues beyond September 30, 2025. Unless members of Congress demand library funding, the proposed White House budget will eliminate the IMLS and the library services we freely enjoy.

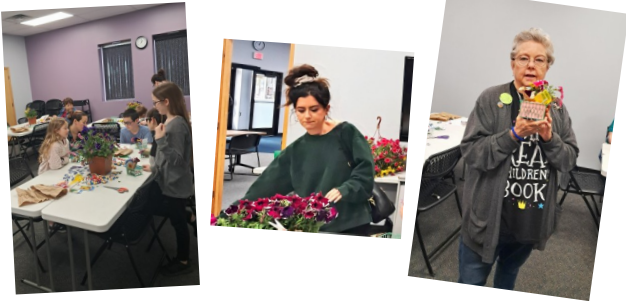
Advocacy efforts from library Friends and library supporters are critical, and time is growing short. Take action **now** to preserve funding and services. The American Library Association has made it easy by providing contact information and information you need to reach your legislators. Your personal story or experience is also key to demonstrating the impact libraries have on Kansas communities and residents. Share this information with your friends and family and ask them to join you to Show Up for Our Libraries: <https://www.ala.org/advocacy/show-up-for-our-libraries>. Advocate for continued IMLS funding and oppose any measures that threaten library resources.

**Libraries are essential—let's make sure they stay funded!**

## Friends of Park City Public Library

The Park City Library Friends sponsored a gathering for patrons to make May Baskets filled with flowers and treats to leave on the doorstep of friends and neighbors.

The Friends provided flowers for cutting, berry baskets, rain gauges, garden seeds, and candy for the baskets. They report having over 20 participants of all ages.



## Silver Lake Library Fundraiser

The Silver Lake Library Foundation hosted a "Sparkling Tea" fundraiser in April where participants enjoyed a selection of sweet and savory treats, served with sparkling punch and a variety of teas.

The organizers said, "It was such a joy to see so many celebrating the day with loved ones, friends, and neighbors—all in support of the Silver Lake Library." They add, "The room was full of laughter, conversation, and community spirit."



## Hays Public Library Completes Basement Remodel

The Hays Public Library held a ribbon cutting on Friday, May 16, 2025, to celebrate the conclusion of a project to remodel the basement. The entire lower level now has updated ceilings, lighting, and flooring. The northern half houses the main adult collection, which was rearranged to open the space. Seating and electrical outlets were added to create a welcoming area to study, work, or read.

One element of the project updated staff offices and relocated the Cataloging and Interlibrary Loan offices into a larger space to better serve staff needs. The total cost of the project was approximately \$527,000.

The Kansas Room, in the south end of the basement, holds an extensive collection of books and other resources about Kansas, the Great Plains and the American West. Improvements to this space were completely covered by the fundraising efforts of the Hays Public Library Foundation. The \$175,000 upgrade included lighting, flooring, and furniture to better display the collection and to make the room more hospitable for presentations and gatherings.





## Friends of the Salina Public Library Scholarships

Jasmine Kassem and Dennette Gent have been named the 2025 Joe McKenzie Youth Scholarship recipients. The scholarships are awarded by the Friends of the Salina Public Library, a nonprofit organization that supports and supplements the library's programs and events. Both students have volunteered in the library's Youth Services department and at the Friends' book sales. Both are on the National Honor Society.

Jasmine will be attending Tulane University majoring in Business. Dennette will be attending McPherson College majoring in Biology with a minor in Music.

The Friends of the Library commend these outstanding students for their dedication to academics, extracurricular activities, and community service.

The scholarships are named in honor of former Library Director Joe McKenzie, who retired in 2017 after 40 years of service.

## Wamego Friends Celebrate 50 Years of Volunteer Service

"Ain't it nifty, The Friends turned 50," the Wamego Friends said in announcing their good news. They celebrated their "momentous milestone" by sharing the recent glowing article from the Wamego/Pott County Times. Read the full article [at this link](#).



## Fundraising and Friendraising from Friends of the Wichita Public Library

When was the last time you wore a t-shirt that sparked some interesting conversations with strangers? Leslie Meiring of Wichita received a lot of positive comments about a t-shirt promoting books and libraries she wore during a trip she made in April. Meiring said she received compliments on her "Books Unite Us" shirt from three different fellow travelers while at the Houston Airport. One of those who engaged her in a conversation was an author planning his Midwest book tour. She purchased the t-shirt from the Friends of the Wichita Public Library.

The [t-shirt fundraiser](#) for library programs started in April during National Library Week. Three different shirt styles are available from the Friends of the Wichita Public Library (FWPL). Adult sizes are \$25 and youth sizes are \$20. Patrons can purchase the t-shirts at the Used Bookstore located on the first floor of the [Advanced Learning Library located at 711 W. 2nd Street](#).

Bookstore hours are Monday through Friday, 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Saturdays from 10:30 am to 2 pm.

T-shirts will be sold at events throughout the year, including the July 12 [FWPL public sale of used books](#). The sale will be held from 10 am to 2 pm at the Advanced Learning Library. Buy a new FWPL tote bag for \$5 and fill it for another \$5. Or bring your used FWPL bag and fill it for \$5.

A 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, the Friends fulfills its mission of service, advocacy, and support by using the money raised through memberships, donations, the bookstore and book sales to support the Wichita Public Library.



### Contact us!

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# FRIENDS BUILDING STRONG LIBRARIES!

## BLOCK PARTY

A Toast to the Library's Community Development Block Grant

**SATURDAY, APRIL 26**  
5-8 PM

@ Beck Bookman Library

Join us for tasty bites, tempting apps, lawn games, raffles, & live auction!

## Hillsboro Public Library's Rummage Sale Fundraiser

**SATURDAY, MAY 3<sup>RD</sup> 8 AM - 2PM**  
MEETING ROOMS ACROSS THE HALL FROM THE LIBRARY

## Friends of the Library BOOK SALE

**Saturday, May 3** 10am-2pm

Books are also available during regular library hours in the Book Nook located on the main floor.

www.dcppl.info/friends/  
Friends of the Library - Dodge City, KS  
Dodge City Public Library  
1001 N. 2nd Avenue  
Dodge City, KS

## BURLINGAME COMMUNITY LIBRARY 122 WEST SANTA FE AVE.

# BOOK SALE

**MAY 7TH TO MAY 17TH**

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY MEMBERS  
EARLY ACCESS SALE  
MAY 5TH-MAY 6TH

## Hillsboro Public Library's COLOR RUN

1.5-MILE & 3-MILE WALK/RUN

**SATURDAY MAY 3 9:00 AM**  
@ MEMORIAL PARK

REGISTRATION OPEN  
MARCH 21 - APRIL 11

**\$25.00 ADULT REGISTRATION**  
**\$15 CHILD REGISTRATION**  
AGES 4-12

## Friends of the Library BOOK AND BAKE SALE

\$10.00 per bag or .50 each

April 23rd-26th

DATE	TIME
April 23	4:00-7:00
April 24	4:00-7:00
April 25	9:00-12:00
April 26	9:00-12:00

101 E. Commercial St., Meriden, KS 66520

## FRIENDS OF THE FINNEY COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY BOOK SALE

**May 15-17**  
10am-6pm

## BOOKS & BBQ FUNDRAISER

Featuring Live Music From  
**The Good Ol' Boys**  
4:30 PM - 7:00 PM

**\$15 SUGGESTED DONATION PER PLATE**

TO-GO PLATES AVAILABLE  
BOOK SALE • LIVE MUSIC • BBQ & DESSERT  
SILENT AUCTION

FRIDAY, MAY 2<sup>ND</sup> 2025  
AT THE MERIDEN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
~100 Dawson St., Meriden, KS 66520~

## HELLOUS RAISE FUNDS ONE BITE AT A TIME

Show your support for Friends of the Library

All day on Tuesday - May 20, 2025

AT 1707 W Central, El Dorado, KS - 67042

Arbys

## FRIENDS OF THE BALDWIN PUBLIC LIBRARY SPRING BOOK SALE

**SATURDAY, APRIL 26**  
10:00 A.M. TO NOON  
SHOPPING OPEN TO FRIENDS MEMBERS  
MEMBERSHIPS AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR  
NOON TO 4:30 P.M.  
OPEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC

ALSO FEATURING BEAUTIFULLY WRAPPED SURPRISE BOOKS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE IN THE LOWER LEVEL. FRIENDS BOOKS ONLY

**SUNDAY, APRIL 27**  
12:30 TO 4:00 P.M.  
\$5 BAG SALE

LOCATED IN THE LOWER LEVEL CASH AND VENMO PAYMENTS ACCEPTED

## SAVE THE DATE!

# 35<sup>TH</sup> TONGANOXIE LIBRARY RUN

## JUNE 14<sup>TH</sup>

Registration soon at tonganoxielibrary.org

## FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY BOOK SALE

**SATURDAY, MAY 3**  
10am-2pm

## BOOK SALE

## Thankful for our Friends Buy 1 Get 1 Free Book Sale

Membership Drive for the Friends of the Pittsburg Public Library

friends of PITTSGURG PUBLIC LIBRARY

## May Day Baskets

Make a basket filled with flowers and treats to leave on the doorsteps of friends and neighbors!

**APRIL 30TH FROM 1-3 PM**

SPONSORED BY THE FRIENDS OF THE PARK CITY LIBRARY

## FUNDRAISER BINGO

**Thursday, May 8th, 2025**  
at the Columbian Theatre  
Doors open at 6:30 pm  
Bingo begins at 7:00 pm

Proceeds benefit the Friends of the Wamego Public Library!

FRIENDS

## Friends of the Baldwin City Public Library SPRING PLANT SALE

A fundraiser to benefit the Baldwin City Public Library

Annual Flowers, Veggies, Herbs, Perennials & Hanging Baskets

Plants grown locally by Enright Gardens and Vinland Valley Nursery

**Friday, May 9th 8AM - 5 PM**  
**Saturday, May 10th 8AM-12PM**  
in front of the Baldwin City Library

## MERIDEN - OAKWAVE APPAREL FUNDRAISER

PROCEEDS GO TO HELP THE NEW LIBRARY BUILDING FUNDS

THESE T-SHIRTS AND MANY MORE AVAILABLE ONLINE. VISIT THE LINK BELOW OR SCAN THE QR CODE TO VISIT SHOPPING TONIGHT

<https://www.meridenoakwave.com/library2025/Itemorder.com/shop/home/>

WEARING THE HAWK COMPLETE!

ORDERS DUE MAY 15TH  
CONTACT TONIAH LINDSEY IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS  
785-440-3278

## Friends of the Library BOOK SALE

**Friday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, 9am - 6 pm**  
**Sat, May 10<sup>th</sup>, 9 am - 2 pm**

ASHLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY  
209 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Ashland, Kansas

## Shop Local Week May 5 - May 11

Shop local and support your local library!

Last Chance Book Sale - All items must go. Bundles and bargains available!

Guess our Circulation! - Guess how many items that the library circulated in 2024 and have a chance to win a gift card!

Only during library open hours!  
**Eudora Community Library**  
14 E 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
785-542-2496

