

friends of kansas LIBRARIES

Assist - Support - Educate

FoKL POINT Newsletter — August 2025

First Friday with Friends

Join us on Zoom **Friday, September 5 at 9am**

Central: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88484969231>.

**FIRST
FRIDAY
WITH
FRIENDS**

Friend Raising:

Great ways to celebrate
National Friends
of the Library Week

SEPTEMBER 5, 2025
9 AM Central



FoKL At KLA Conference

We look forward to seeing many of you at KLA Conference in Manhattan on November 5-7. This year's theme is *Libraries Everlasting: Celebrating 125 years of Freedom*.

FoKL will present our annual awards at the State Librarian's luncheon on November 6, including Outstanding Friend, Outstanding Group, and the Duane Johnson Library Leadership Award.

Look for the FoKL table display and visit with FoKL board members in the conference lobby.



Kansas Book Festival

You are invited to the 14th annual Kansas Book Festival on September 20 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM at Washburn University in Topeka.

It's going to be a great day with author talks, music performances, food trucks, children's activities, and exhibitor tents with publishers from around the region.

Stop by FoKL's booth to say hello to our friendly board members! We'll have information about the importance of Friends groups and library advocacy in our Kansas communities, and free *Libraries YES!* license plates for everyone who stops by while supplies last. Join or renew your FoKL membership at the festival and receive a nice book bag, or purchase one for \$15.

The Kansas Book Festival is free and open to all ages. For more information, visit the Festival website at: www.kansasbookfestival.com.



In this issue: • Book Festival • First Friday • Focus on Friends • See you at KLA!

Focus on Friends

Friends Bring the Fun Outdoors with New Library Patio

At the Lansing Community Library, the Friends of the Library have once again proven that big things happen when passionate people roll up their sleeves and dream a little bigger. This summer, they led the charge on a brand-new outdoor patio—transforming an underused patch of ground into a vibrant space designed for connection, creativity, and community.

With a total cost of \$10,000, the project was powered by a strong partnership between the Friends (who generously covered half the cost) and a development grant awarded to the Library after achieving regional accreditation through NEKLS. The patio was completed by mid-summer and has already become a favorite spot for patrons and staff alike. It's a shining example of what's possible when a Friends group brings vision, heart, and hustle to the table.

This cheerful new space is ready to make storytimes extra magical, giving book clubs a breezy place to gather, and offering the perfect backdrop for outreach programs, author visits, and all kinds of hands-on activities. Even the Library team has been spotted enjoying a break or brainstorming new ideas out in the fresh air.

And the fun is just beginning! The Library is planning everything from poetry nights and garden-themed learning events to cozy fall storytimes and multigenerational hangouts under the sky. Whenever the weather cooperates, the patio will be buzzing with activity—bringing people together in creative ways and helping the Library stretch beyond its walls.

Director Terri Wojtalewicz says, "Thanks to the Friends' energy, generosity, and community spirit, this project is more than a patio—it's a promise that the Library will keep growing right alongside the people it serves."



Jackie at the first outside Storytime



Norine and Tom Lauhon



At night with the new lights on

Grinnell Donation

The Friends of Hays Public Library presented a \$1500 check to Amy Anderson from the Grinnell Grade School Library. It will help rebuild the library they lost in the May 18th tornado. Many partners in the community including The ARC of the Central Plains, local schools, and Sarah Miller with the FHSU Literacy Center held a used book sale at HPL in June to raise funds to support Grinnell.

Judy Zerr-Schamberger, Friends of HPL Treasurer, graduated from Grinnell schools and proudly presented the check to Amy Anderson. Friends of HPL Vice-President Deb Atkinson and HPL Director Brandon Hines are also pictured.

Judy said, "One never knows how destructive a tornado can be until it happens to one's hometown, family and friends. I've been a part of Friends over 20 years and I'm so happy we were able to do something to help."

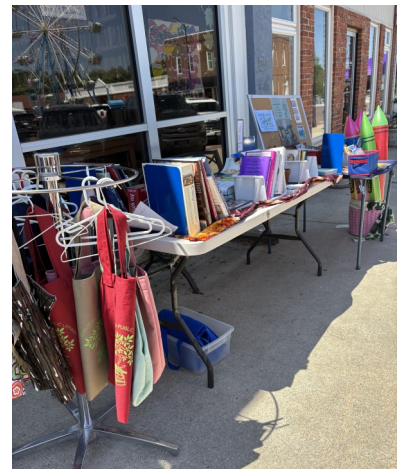


Colorful Oskaloosa

The Friends of Oskaloosa Library *Book FOOLS* held a book and bag sale in front of the library during the Old Settlers Day carnival.

In keeping with the summer reading theme, they created a colorful array of books, art, crafts, and cooking.

Friend Carol Snyder said, "I like the reflection of the Ferris wheel in the library window!" and we do, too!



Puzzle Social

Friends of the Basehor Community Library partnered with the library to host a Puzzle Social this summer. It was a low-key evening of assembling jigsaw puzzles in groups with plenty of pleasant company and conversation.

Attendees could bring their own puzzles or purchase one for \$3 in support of the Friends of the Basehor Library. The Friends provided snacks and beverages.



Wichita Friends Selling New Items to Promote Library Support



Looking for a conversation starter about how to support your local library? Friends of the Wichita Public Library (FWPL) began selling \$20 yard signs in July to stimulate more love for their libraries. The red signs were designed by Wichita Library Communication Specialist David Garcia to encourage community members to advocate, volunteer and donate.

The signs are popping up all over town and stimulating conversations among neighbors about library updates and services. FWPL Board member Angie Prather said her neighbors immediately noticed her library advocacy yard sign and one of them shared that her last visit to the library was during Covid. She was unaware that the main library had moved to its new location in 2018 and that other branches were being updated.

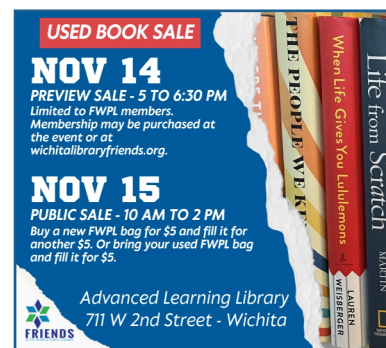
Prather said, "The signage provided an easy opportunity for us to chat about all the positive changes that have taken place in the last few years. I texted her the new address for the main library and told her about the benefits of the used bookstore. She plans to visit some library locations with her grandchildren. The conversation probably wouldn't have happened without the prompt provided by the yard sign."

FWPL has sold 33 signs since they became available in July. Branded and reusable tote bags were also introduced in July. The red bags sell for \$5 each and can be used at the upcoming November 15 used book sale. Bags can be filled at the sale with used books for an additional \$5.

Both items are available at the FWPL used bookstore located inside the Advanced Learning Library (711 W. Second Street N). They're also being offered at branch reopening celebrations and other special events.



Mark your calendar for the Grand Reopening Celebration at the Alford Branch Library (3447 S Meridian Ave, Wichita) **Saturday, August 23!** There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony, crafting activities for all ages, and a musical performance by local artist Handpan Dan. The Friends group will be on site from 10AM to 3PM with T-shirts, yard signs and reusable tote bags available to buy.



Congratulations to the Wamego Friends!

The Friends of the Wamego Public Library have been serving their library and community for 50 years!

Senator Kenny Titus of the Kansas State Senate presented the group with an official Kansas Senate Certificate in honor of their 50th anniversary and many years of volunteerism.

WPL 'Friends' recognized for 50 years of service

Beth Day
The Times

The Friends of the Wamego Library organization celebrated 50 years of service this year.

In recognition of that service, Kansas State Senator Kenny Titus was present at Tuesday's meeting to present the group with a Senate Tribute.

"The Senate created these special certificates of recognition for important achievements in our communities," he said. "It's a way for us to recognize people, give them something and let them know we appreciate all the hard work."

The Tribute is signed by the senate president, printed, sealed and framed.



Kansas State Senator Kenny Titus (second from left) presents a certificate to the Friends of the library. Also pictured, left to right, Nancy Scheopner and Susan Patrick, Friends of the Library, and Maci Murillo, director.

"It's just something nice from Topeka that we can go out to present and let people know we care about the work they are doing. Titus added the Tributes will get printed in the State Journal.

"When we get back, there will be a catch up of the out-of-session stuff and it gets recorded that we requested the certificate and that it went out."

The senator said his family is a regular user of the library.

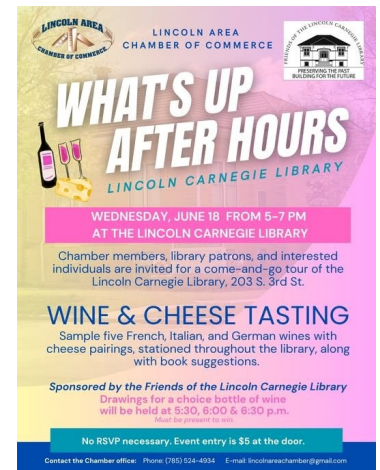
"It's just part of a great community having a vibrant library," he said. "If you look at all the work done here in the last decade, it's really impressive. And, like everything else in Wamego, people really care. And you know, it's important to recognize the people that work, because there is a lot of free hours that get put into this."

Titus discovered the milestone through a Times article published earlier this year.

Lincoln Event

The Lincoln Carnegie Library and Friends group hosted the Lincoln Chamber's "What's Up After Hours" event this summer — a wine and cheese tasting with five sampling stations, lots of good conversation, and book recommendations too! The Summer Library program was in full swing and it was a good time for community members to learn more about the activities and programs for all ages.

The Chamber said in a Facebook post, "If you haven't been lately, visit Lincoln's beautiful historic post rock limestone library soon and ask the librarians to tell you more about all that is happening!"



Winfield Friends Wow Summer!

The Friends of Winfield Public Library sponsored this year's "Color Your World" summer programming. Their financial contribution ensured library staff could provide a full line-up of interactive (and colorful!) programs for all ages. Highlights included:

- Family Fun Nights featuring The Bug Lady, skate night at our local skating rink, Erin Mae Music, Ad Astra Planetarium, and the Sedgwick County Zoo
- Tinker Tuesdays with hands-on activities, board games, Legos, Snap Circuits and more for grades K-8
- Story Times featuring silly rhymes, catchy tunes, and storybook favorites brought to life by our Youth Services Librarian and her phenomenal teen volunteers
- Book Clubs for readers Kindergarten through Adult
- Family Food Lab, a multi-generation cooking program
- Adult Craft Nights with pour painting, puzzle mosaics, and bouquets
- Yarn Lab with local knitting and crochet enthusiasts
- and of course, prizes for reading and reviewing books!



**THANK
YOU**

Thank you to everyone who responded to our *Advocacy Alert* prior to the Senate Appropriations Committee markup of the FY 2026 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education appropriations bill in July. Sharing your stories with elected officials DOES make a difference!

Contact us!

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