

3 Ways to Stay Informed



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Corporate Regatta: You “yacht” to be kidding me!

The Kiwanis Corporate Regatta was a rousing success for KCPL! The Regatta features miniature yachts, powered by super-soakers, and is designed as a fundraiser for the Library each year.

This year, the Friends boat, skippered by Teen Librarian Andrew Stanley (above left) and designed by Technology Librarian Bianca Prince (above right), won the race for the first time! As the winning boat, the Friends-branded yacht received \$1,000 to go along with the \$3,500 raised by the race.



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Friends OF THE Library

Foundation of Kanawha County, Inc.

NEWSLETTER

September 2023

Get ready for the 2023 WV Book Festival!

The 2023 West Virginia Book Festival is set for Saturday, October 21st at the Charleston Coliseum and Convention Center. This year's Festival features bestselling authors R.F. Kuang, William Kent Krueger, Mary Kay Andrews, Sherri Duskey Rinker, and Neema Avashia.

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Corporate Regatta

The Festival gets underway at 8:00 am with the Festival Marketplace, featuring authors, publishers, and literary-related vendors. The Festival annual Used Book Sale will be held from 8 am to 5 pm, and the Children's Word Play area will be open from 9 am to 5 pm.

Sarah Mitchell, Book Festival Co-Chairperson, says, *The Book Festival is in its 20th year, and we believe this year will be our best ever. And as always, we appreciate the Friends participation in this great event!*

The Friends will have a table at the Festival, selling Friends branded items, including tote bags, as part of our 2023 fundraising campaign. If you'd like to volunteer, contact Stan Howell at stan.howell@kcpls.org. For a full schedule, please visit wvbookfestival.org.





Summer Library Club Sizzled!

Summer Library Club was a big success this year. June and July were packed with fun events and more than 3,000 patrons signed up for books, games, and lots more!

KCPL offered dozens of programs and events over the summer, including 5 Super Saturday events at the Main Library. **A big thank you to all of the Friends volunteers who helped make these programs a success!**

Plans are already underway for SLC 2024!



A young patron enjoys Clendenin Branch's "foam-tastic" SLC finale!



Waylon Taylor is Dunbar Branch's Teen SLC winner, recipient of a Smart Reusable Notebook!

Bookmobile: On the Road Again, Soon!

KCPL's new Bookmobile service will return just in time for the start of school. Farber Specialty Vehicles of Columbus, OH spent much of early 2023 building the new vehicle while Applied Graphics Ltd. provided its new creative look.

Bookmobile service was first introduced by KCPL in 1934, and since then has provided quality mobile library service to underserved areas of Kanawha County.



Get to know us!

What is your role at KCPL? My title is Facilities Associate. Primarily, I help handle orders and requisitions. Mostly, these are for Facilities or Administrative supplies, so essentially things like janitorial items and office supplies. Part of my job is also inventory and ensuring we keep a ready supply on hand for day-to-day usage and place orders for any needed items. We also distribute supplies to all the branch

offices from our stores, handle any incoming shipment by logging them, checking the inventory, and ensuring they go to the correct branch or department. I've found a supportive work environment here with coworkers eager to assist and instruct.

So I hear you're into D&D... What's up with that? It started, as so many stories do, while I was attending college. During my time there I was first introduced to Tabletop Roleplaying Games (TTRPG) via White Wolf's *World of Darkness* series, in particular *Changeling: the Dreaming*, which was my favorite game line. I quickly came to adore the setting and found it was a way to be creative, entertain, and engage in a social event without all the usual pressures. After graduating from Marshall I set the hobby aside for more than a decade until a friend of mine mentioned he was putting together a *Dungeons & Dragons* group that consisted of KCPL employees. Even with all the dizzying advancements of technology – machine learning, photorealistic graphics, instantaneous networking, etc., the most potent creative engine in the world is still the human mind.

You are coordinating volunteers for this year's WV Book Festival Used Book Sale. Are you excited? Scared? A bit of both! I would say it is easily the single largest project of my docket at the moment. It's an amazing space to work in, and the sheer volume alters the necessary approach, but it's also an awesome opportunity to not only assist the Book Festival, but give back to the community as well. I'm sure there will be challenges and unforeseen obstacles, but I am confident with a bit of tenacity, hard work, and a team effort we can have another successful year.



Matthew Drake