Window Displays Big Draw for Books on Main

Ever wonder where all those eye-catching window displays at Friends Books on Main come from? A little inspiration from Pinterest, years of home-school crafts and a lot of help from the Leads, shift managers at the Friends Books on Main store in downtown Rock Hill.

Lora Matthews, the acknowledged concept person and chief designer, says she has been helping create window displays since Friends Books On Main opened in 2015. Windows are changed-out seasonally and for special occasions such as Christmas, Valentine’s Day and Back to School.

Lora peruses Pinterest, a website that allows sharing of images on the Internet and is popular with artists and craftspeople. Libraries and bookstores are also rich sources of ideas. She taught both of her children (now adults) at home, so she has plenty of crafts experience.

She keeps material costs down by buying materials at Dollar Store, borrowing items from fellow volunteers and even raiding her own closets. Some items, such as a donated school desk, are repeatedly recycled. More often than not books play a big part in her design scheme. Duh! It’s what we do, she says.

Connie Newland, another longtime volunteer, says customers frequently comment on the displays. One woman told her that Friends Books on Main was her favorite store window in all downtown.

The display team’s efforts consistently rank high in Rock Hill’s Christmasville window display competition. In 2018 they won first place and took third last year.

INSIDE
Report to YCL Trustees (2)
A Board Members Surprise! (2)
Message from the President (2)
Friends Tie Book Sales to Coffee (3)
Donated Books Benefit Nonprofits (4)
Thank You Lt. Kevin Casey! (4)
Become a FRIEND today! (4)

Please join us in making YOUR library the best! Fill in the form on page 4 and become a FRIEND of the Library today!

Libraries Adjust to Pandemic

. . . JASON L. HYATT, YCL DIRECTOR

WELCOME BACK TO YCL!

The global pandemic has impacted our lives in ways we never could have expected, including the way your library operates. Over the past eight months, York County Library has implemented numerous changes to our services and offerings for our patrons. A few of those changes are described below.

While the library experience may look and feel a little different right now, we remain committed to being Your Community Link. Our patrons told us how much they missed being able to visit the library, and we were excited to open our doors again. All York County Library locations reopened to patrons for in-person browsing, checkout, and limited computer use on October 15.

Curbside or inside, it’s your choice

Curbside pickup began several months ago and has quickly become a valued service among YCL patrons. In addition to offering an option for patrons who may prefer not to enter a public facility right now, curbside service also benefits those community members who may have mobility issues but still wish to borrow books and materials. We are pleased to continue offering curbside pickup even as our locations have reopened.

Social distancing is the new norm

The library is following social distancing guidelines in several ways. We have limited occupancy based on the size of each location. Seating areas and collaborative work spaces are currently unavailable, as are interactive areas and hands-on play items for children. Patrons are encouraged to keep their browsing visits to 15 minutes to help minimize any potential wait to enter the library. At our service desks, you’ll find clear acrylic sneeze guards that provide a protective barrier between patrons and staff during transactions.

Programs, Programs, Programs

Library programs have traditionally been designed to bring people into our facilities and encourage them to explore our materials and resources. The pandemic pointed us in a new direction for our programs as we began offering them online. A full range of library programs, from story times to crafts to yoga, is available through the YCL YouTube channel. Staff across (Director’s Message continued on page 3)
A Board Members Surprise!

Who are those masked women?

On her last day as manager of the Clover Branch of the York County Library on October 2, Terry “T” Cobb was surprised by masked visitors! On behalf of the Friends of YCL, Board members Debora Hutchins, DeeAnna Brooks and Terry Plumb — all wearing face masks — showed up before the library opened to present T with a dozen roses and a card thanking her for her long support of the Friends. T was named Clover branch manager in 2006 after serving as the assistant librarian in charge of children’s services since 1999.

In her successful nomination of Terry Cobb as the Librarian of the Year award from the Friends of SC Library, Debora wrote that T inspired her to join the Friends many years before. “One of her suggestions to improve book sales was to set up a shelf for books for sale that patrons would see when coming or leaving the library,” Debora wrote. “She suggested balloons as a way to draw attention to the books, and they really worked.”

Debora nailed it when she wrote: “Terry Cobb is a very special person and a tremendous asset to the library.”

Like YCL, the Friends Adapt to Effects of Pandemic

The last time I organized my thoughts for this column, the Friends of YCL were pretty much shut down. All the branches and Friends Books on Main, had been closed because of the pandemic lockdown, which meant sales of donated books came to a virtual halt.

We were selling a few books online, thanks to volunteers Jack Hutchins and Diane Ingersoll, but even coffee shop sales, which comprise less than 1% of sales during normal times, were hobbled by limited customer accessibility.

I am delighted to report that the picture is brighter now. All branches reopened October 15 with limited hours, and Friends Books on Main has been back in operation for weeks, despite temporarily reclosing in response to a spike in positive COVID-19 tests. Also, now that the libraries are open again, they are accepting donation of books, which is the Friends’ lifefood.

Through October, unfortunately, our receipts were about half of year-to-date revenues in 2019 or approximately 44% of budgeted revenue for 2020, with two months to go.

Thankfully, we will be able to meet our commitment to York County Library, which this year is $126,500, including $50,000 for a Sprinter van to supplement the Bookmobile. (Delivery of the van has been pushed back to April 2021, which isn’t expected to be a problem since many of the nursing homes and retirement centers that the van will serve are currently locked-down.)

Looking forward to next year, our contributions to York County Library will be considerably lower, although if sales pick up like we hope, a midstream correction is entirely possible.

As YCL Director Jason Hyatt states in an accompanying article (page 1), the YCL staff has shown grit and imagination in adapting to the “new normal.” From curbside pickup to original programming on the YCL’s YouTube channel, our library — like libraries everywhere — will never be the same in a post-pandemic world.

Rest assured, as the York County Library continues to find new ways to serve its constituents, the Friends of YCL will be there to support their efforts.

Report to YCL Trustees

Each quarter, the president of the Friends of York County Library issues a report to the York County Library Board of Trustees. The following article covers highlights from the second and third quarters of 2020.

Because all branches have been closed for months, revenue from lobby sales was significantly reduced. Also, Friends Books on Main was closed for much of this period, and coffee shop sales were reduced due to limited customer access.

Online sales (Amazon and eBay) are a bright spot. Collectively, they are running about 25% ahead of last year, although they constitute a small portion of budgeted revenue.

Through September 30, receipts were approximately half of year-to-date revenues in 2019 or approximately 39% of budgeted revenue for 2020, with one quarter to go.

Hopefully, once the branches reopen and if the Friends Books on Main remains open for the duration, we can reduce this funding gap. Because our biggest expense is rent on 206 East Main Street, our flexibility is limited in cutting costs.

Improvements to the Main Library lobby, including new signage, bench, carts and rehabbed book drop, were completed during Q2. The Friends paid $1,031 for materials and services.

Other major contributions to YCL include:

• $50,000 for new Sprinter van
• $45,000 for Summer Reading Program
• $10,000 for supplemental programming
• $10,000 for Patchwork Tales Festival
• $4,000 for department and branch funding

An annual training session for volunteers was postponed because of the pandemic.

As of July 1, 2020, membership stood at 248.
Friends Group Ties Book Sales to Coffee … Jim Beamguard

A satisfying book and a superior cup of coffee are natural companions, so it is no surprise that the volunteers of the Friends of the Library are finding success selling used books in area coffee shops.

Gently used books donated to the library are now offered for sale at Amelie’s French Bakery in downtown Rock Hill, the Virgin Bean Coffee Bar & Creamery in downtown Clover, and the York Coffee Roastery in downtown York. All revenue benefits the York County Public Library.

It is a mutually beneficial partnership. The book sales give the shops a way to contribute to the community while enhancing the cozy, welcoming atmosphere they work hard to maintain. An interesting shelf of books is one more reason for customers to drop by. Along with something good to eat with a latte, tea or espresso, customers can find food for thought, at great prices.

In Amelie’s, all books are a flat $5. Items in Virgin Bean are priced individually.

The Friends welcome a new outlet for books, in addition to their lobby sales, Friends Books on Main retail store, and online sales. All of the revenue collected by the coffee shops goes to the Friends, and of course on to the public library.

The project started several years ago when Amelie’s invited Debora Hutchins, a longtime member of the Friends and currently on the Board, to begin stocking a shelf with books she thought coffee customers might like. Debora carefully watched the inventory and gave buyers more of what they wanted. Items she selected for the Amelie’s shelf this year include Life on the Mississippi by Mark Twain, a pizza cookbook, a French phrase book, and a how-to photography book.

DeeAnna Brooks, a past president of the Friends, is in charge of the shelf in Virgin Bean. She recently put out a basket of paperback classics that were popular, but says the customers in Clover generally prefer nonfiction. The shop is selling eight to 10 books a month.

Because of the virus, Amelie’s at this writing is offering take-out service only. Friends President Terry Plumb says he hopes that when the pandemic ends, the book project can be expanded into other local coffee shops. Now books can be found in Amelie’s, 157 East Main Street, Rock Hill; the Virgin Bean, 204 South Main Street, Clover; and York Coffee Roastery, 132 Blackburn Street, York.

Raising extra money ($1,000 in the 2020 budget) for the library is not the only goal, Terry said. Another objective is to encourage reading. At the shops helping the Friends, you can count on the quality of the coffee; on the Friends bookshelf, you never know what delight you might find.

Debora Hutchins manages the bookshelf at Amelie’s.
Donated Books Benefit Nonprofits

Although selling used donated books is a major focus for the Friends of YCL, our primary goal is supporting public libraries in their mission of encouraging reading, especially among children. One way of doing that is by providing surplus books to nonprofit groups.

In June, Connie Newland, longtime board member providing surplus books to nonprofit groups, for the Friends of YCL, our primary goal is supporting Donated Books Benefit Nonprofits

News from the Friends

Fall 2020

organization’s website. Boxes worldwide surpassed 100,000, according to the "One; Leave One." Earlier this year, the number of LFL building by providing free books. Its motto is "Take 2009 in Wisconsin, promotes reading and community parks and other public venues with books provided by erecting the first LFL box in York County in front of his home in Rock Hill. He also helps fill LFL boxes in city parks and other public venues with books provided by the Friends.

The Little Free Library movement, which began in 2009 in Wisconsin, promotes reading and community building by providing free books. Its motto is “Take One; Leave One.” Earlier this year, the number of LFL boxes worldwide surpassed 100,000, according to the organization’s website.

The LFL box of Terry Plumb, President of the Friends of the YCL. A gift from his youngest daughter, it has been up since 2014 and is considered to be the first erected in York County. Terry said that it stays pretty busy. On average, he fills it up a couple times a week. However, often it is so jammed with donated books that he has to pull some out and store until there is space.

We would like to thank Detective KEVIN CASEY of the York County Sheriff’s Office, who brought by a new book for Carlton Bear at the Lake Wylie Public Library. Carlton’s book was stolen recently, but Detective Casey carved him a new one. What a wonderful thing to do!

**BECOME A FRIEND!**

The Friends of the York County Library is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) volunteer organization formed in 1975 to provide advocacy and financial support for the York County Library.

Annual membership starts at just $10! As a Friend, you will receive:

- Advance notice of book sales and special events
- A 15% discount on purchases at Friends Books on Main
- Invitation to the annual Volunteer Recognition Event

Through funds raised via book sales, memberships, and other activities, the Friends support a variety of library functions:

- Summer Learning Challenge, promoting literacy for all ages
- Bucks for Books campaign, adding new books to library shelves
- Non-budgeted library special projects

**Friends of the York County Library Annual Membership Application**

(please print clearly. Your information will not be shared.)

Date: ___________________________ Membership: □ New  □ Renewal

NAME: __________________________

ADDRESS: _______________________________________________________________

CITY: ___________________________ STATE: ______ ZIP: _____________

PHONE: ________________________ E-MAIL: ____________________ CVC: ___________

**CHOOSE A MEMBERSHIP LEVEL**

□ Supportive Friend: $100  □ Best Friend: $500  □ Student Friend: $10

**LIST THE NAMES TO INCLUDE IN THIS MEMBERSHIP** (Adults must live at the same address and are limited to 2 per $25 membership and 4 per $50 and up)

1 ___________________________ 2 ___________________________ 3 ___________________________ 4 ___________________________

**CHOOSE ONE OF THE 2 PAYMENT OPTIONS**

1 □ Enclosed is my check made payable to: Friends of the York County Library

2 □ Charge my credit card: □ Visa □ MasterCard □ Discover

Name as it appears on card (please print): ______________________________________

Signature: _______________________________________________________________

Card Number: ___________________________ Expiration Date: __________

The Friends of the York County Library is a 501-C3 organization. Your membership is tax-deductible as allowed by law.

I am interested in volunteering my time and talent. My areas of interest are:

□ Friends Books on Main book store  □ Library branch book sales
□ Sorting donated books and materials  □ Other. Please contact me so we can talk.

Return completed application and payment to any York County Library branch

(Clover, Fort Mill, Lake Wylie, Rock Hill, or York)

**OR** MAIL TO: Friends of the York County Library, PO Box 10032, Rock Hill, SC 29731

For more information or to contact us, please visit yclibrary.org or call 803-272-8303.