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**Friends of the Pamlico County Public Library Signs Contract for Construction of
New Library and Community Center**

(Bayboro, NC, February 12, 2024) — The Friends of the Pamlico County Public Library (www.pamlicofol.org) announced that they have signed a contract with the Waters Contracting Company (Bogue, NC) (www.waterscontracting.net/) for construction of a new library and community center to be located in Alliance, NC. The general construction contract, valued at \$2.2 million, was awarded following a competitive bid process and over five years of fund-raising by the FOL and many library stakeholders. The project will be managed by the New Bern-based architecture and engineering firm, The Walker Group Architecture, Inc. (www.wgarc.com); the firm also finalized architectural and engineering plans for the project and facilitated the bid process.

“Today’s libraries are centers for learning and connecting,” said FOL president Bonnie Cap, explaining that the 10,000 sq ft facility will be a multipurpose space with services and programs to enrich the lives of today’s and tomorrow’s Pamlico County residents. The new library, to be built by repurposing and expanding an abandoned commercial building, will house a 36,000+ collection of books, audio recordings, maps, etc. Other features will include: common space and individual meeting rooms; technology resources such as computer and internet access; a business center; multi-generational reading rooms; and, an internet café. The library’s design leverages the latest in energy efficient technologies, IT infrastructure and tools, and workspace optimization. With flexible wall configurations, a fully equipped kitchen, multiple restroom facilities, and plans for back-up water and power, the new space can serve as a community gathering space during emergencies such as hurricanes.

Katherine Clowers, director of the Craven-Pamlico Regional Library (CPRL) system, emphasized that this unique partnership between the FOL and CPRL will benefit not only Pamlico County residents but the entire region. “Multipurpose libraries help build strong, resilient communities by boosting literacy rates, affording equal access to resources to help bridge the socioeconomic gap, and increasing opportunities for ongoing education, community engagement, and entrepreneurship.”

A ground-breaking celebration will take place on Saturday, February 17th at 2:30pm at 13896 NC-55, Alliance, NC 28509.

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The Friends of Pamlico County Public Library (FOL) is a 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is to enhance and enrich services offered by the county’s only public library. The FOL is spearheading the development of a new multiuse library and community center to replace the current public library which has outgrown its shared space with the high school. The planned closure of the current library in less than 2 years, with no plan other than FOL’s to replace it, makes construction of the proposed library and community center more urgent than ever.