

Annual Report 2024



The Friends of the Pamlico Library have made great progress over the past year in working towards the New Library/Community Center goal, and we truly appreciate our members and all the supporters who have stood by us.

Friends of the Pamlico Library



ANNUAL REPORT 2024

Friends of the Pamlico County Public Library January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024

The Friends released the new library/community center bid package in January after several years of engineering development and fund raising. The Walker Group Architecture handled the bid opening which involved three bidders. The bids ranged from \$2.325M to \$3.193M and included nine individual options called alternates. The Project Oversight Committee studied the proposals and reviewed the architect's recommendations and available funding. After careful consideration, the FOL signed a one-year contract with Waters Contracting Company from Bogue, NC on 1 March 2024. The contract included four of the nine alternates for a total cost of \$2,172,510. The building is scheduled to be completed by 1 March 2025. A ground breaking ceremony was held in February with the honorable NC Senator Norman Sanderson in attendance.

The funding situation had favorably improved throughout the year and additional alternates and change order requests were approved for inclusion in the contract. A significant number of these changes addressed issues with the age of the building (circa 1980s) as well as increased functionality. These additions brought the cost to \$2,376,173. The majority of the added costs included fifteen change orders involving a revised HVAC system, replacement of water-damaged exterior walls and framing, soil testing, ADA doors, transfer switch, storefront windows, and deck/ramp handrails. Details of monthly meetings with the architect, construction contractor and FOL management can be found at the FOL web site under "New Library".

The FOL reached its initial funding goals and continue to pursue funding to further address enhanced functionality, aesthetics, and relocation to the new facility. A local fundraiser was held at the New Village Brewery in November to support the acquisition of ADA doors for the library. The initial plan to reposition the ADA doors proved infeasible due to age and obsolescence of the old mechanism. We were grateful to Lili and Frank Bacon at the Brewery, Jim Kellenberger (once again!) for the purchase and preparation of the evening meal, and Noah Cobb for musical entertainment. The planning, staffing and execution was conducted by Bonnie Cap, Debbie Audilet, Mary Hiatt, Sidney Phibbons, and dozens of faithful FOL volunteers. And last but certainly not least, we thank Jessie Aldridge and Hope for Harrison for the \$5,000 matching donation and the many folks who generously donated to the library cause.

The intense pace of grant writing, donor interviews and overall fundraising remained paramount throughout the year. It required planning, attention to detail, and constant involvement by the leadership. Peggy Vick, the Grant Writing Chairperson, and Izzy Keppner (co-chair) lead the team through a score of grant proposals and personal visits in the Capital Campaign effort. Peggy, Izzy, Shelia Cantine, Bob Fuller and Beth Bucksot championed the research and composition and the results were impressive: Bate Foundation awarded \$15,000; Blue Cross/Blue Shield provided \$6,000; Hope for Harrison match our fundraising event for ADA doors with \$5,000; Perry-Griffin Foundation and Rotary of Oriental gave us \$1,000 each; and numerous members and outside organizations gifted over \$25,000 by the end of the year.

The Friends leadership stayed constant throughout this period. Bonnie Cap, continued as the FOL President; Mary Hiatt Vice President; Jessie Aldridge Secretary; Eileen Bell Assistant Secretary; and Rich and Carolyn Bartz Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer respectively. The whole FOL management team will continue for 2025 and include the four trustees: Dr. Joshua Rose, Dr. Sue Lee, Sheila Cantine and Jim Kellenberger. During the annual meeting, Pam Soderholm was welcomed and recognized as Treasurer-in-Waiting. Pam has an MBA and current work experience in accounting and financial management. She will have no trouble learning the FOL ways over the next year.

The Internet Book Sale (IBS) team continued to scan and process hundreds of donated books on a weekly basis. This task is shared by many volunteers, but the stalwarts are Debbie Favinger, Carolyn Stark and Evie Henderson while Carolyn Bartz manages the sale of select books on Amazon. The IBS program began twelve years ago and represents over 30% of our annual operating revenue and will become even more important as we return to a normal operating tempo.

Peggi Carman is FOL's web master who keeps our news timely and accurate with an artistic flair. Additionally, she developed the new on-line membership enrollment procedures to accommodate a growing, tech-savvy community while maintaining the older paper system. It resulted in a successful year of support with over 110 members – an organizational record. In her spare time, Peggi designed library-oriented decals, pins and T-Shirts which have been very popular and provided an additional source of revenue.

As we closed out the year FOL sponsored another outreach program that was originally conducted by the library: the Artisans Craft Show in December organized by Bonnie Cap. Fourteen local artisans including several young and aspiring crafts persons displayed their creations throughout the holiday season and afterward donated a portion of their sales to the FOL. This show highlighted local talent and has been popular with the community in search of reasonably priced gifts.

A final tribute to the library's fundraising effort was organized by Jim Kellenberger at his famous "Goat-Roping" BBQ supporting worthy causes like FOL, Pamlico Fishes and Loaves, and Fire Station 19. Proceeds from his contributory efforts were shared amongst the three organizations. Jim has conducted these types of philanthropic efforts for over 40 years!

Meanwhile, Mary Hiatt tirelessly organized and staffed various FOL activities. She added another achievement to her resume as the Friends continued to highlight the new library with an information campaign and now is the lead as FOL media coordinator. She provided articles and conducted radio interviews concerning the FOL and the new library/community center. Mary has also organized and promoted a monthly book sale using the Library Book Storage facility (Conex). This entails collecting, purging, shelving the donated and staffing the monthly events.

Our multiyear savings programs, dedicated membership support, and generous donations allowed us to increase our position in Vanguard's Federal Money Market funds to provide the working capital for construction of the new library. The funds in the local First Citizens bank account supports general operations of the library. At the end of the calendar year, the Friends had over \$30,000 in the operating fund and \$600,000 in the building fund as well as \$222,000 in NC State grant funds.

The Friends passed the yearly NC State-directed audit of the grant funds in August. The Friends reinstated the FOL solicitation license with North Carolina which positioned us for grant writing and fundraising during the continued Capital Campaign. The Friends filed IRS Form 990 (Long Form) due to our gross receipt and total asset profile. The Friends' overall Budget and Balance Sheet is available on the web site as an adjunct to the Annual Report.

The Friends made significant strides in the past year toward realizing the New Library/Community Center goal and sincerely thank our membership and many supporters. We still have a bit more to do, but the year's achievements are clearly visible and motivate us. We could not do it without the willing and continuous financial and personal support of our membership and the community at large.

