

FOL ANNUAL

2026 News from the Friends of the Bedford Public Library



The Friends Board from left to right: Natalie Martin, Phillip Raintree, Ann Thomas, Ann Miller, Martha Johnson, Kathy Graham, Jim Jones and Rhetta Watkins

Goals of the Friends

The Bedford Friends support and promote the goals and purposes of the Bedford Central Library

- by purchasing special items which cannot be taken care of in the library's budget
- by sponsoring programs that support the library's mission
- by encouraging gifts and memorials to the Friends to benefit the library
- by encouraging public interest and support of the library
- and by helping promote public relations and community awareness of the library

Friends Contributions to the Library

Over the past year the Friends have provided \$9,674 for a number of projects for the Library, including:

- Children and Adult Summer Reading Programs
- Youth Summer Reading Program
- Two free performances by Riddle on the Harp
- Registration, transportation and lodging costs for three library staff members to attend the American Library Association conference
- Books to give away at the Touch a Truck Event
- Scholarship for continuing education for one staff member.
- Spice Library start up supplies.
- Tote bags and materials for Caregiver Kits

Your membership, donations and purchases at our Bookstore, have helped make all this possible!



Renew your Support for the Friends

It is time to renew your annual support for the Friends of the Bedford Public Library. Your financial support and membership in this organization makes a vital difference in our ability to accomplish our goals of supporting Bedford Central Library and the library community.

Membership Perks!

All new and renewal memberships will be entered in a drawing for a bag full of goodies valued at \$200! The drawing will be done at our annual meeting January 27, 2026, 7pm in the Bedford Room.

Also as of January 1, 2026 Friends members will receive a 25% discount on all purchases from our book store over \$5 when presenting their 2026 Friends membership card when they pay.

The Friends have been supporting the Bedford Central Library for 48 years. Please fill out a check and drop it in the enclosed membership envelope. Thank you for your support!!!!



Second Floor Bookstore



Our Second Floor Bookstore and Spinners downstairs in the Main Library provide the lion's share of the money the Friends use to support the Library.

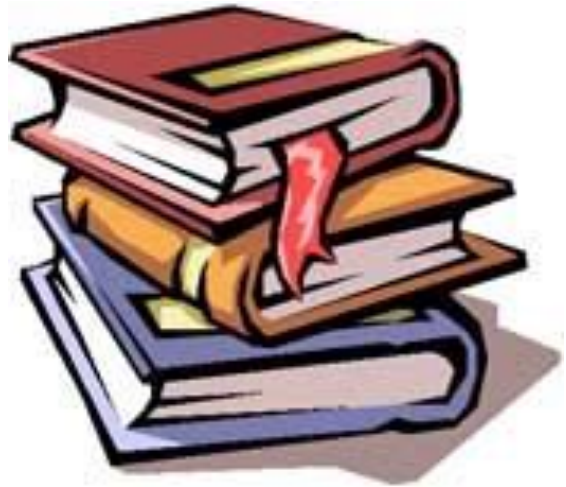
The Bookstore is open on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month and every Tuesday, and Thursday from 10:30 am to 1:30 pm

Check with the main desk whenever you're visiting the library to see if the bookstore might be open. Roger is often available outside the posted hours. The Spinners are always available downstairs with plenty of stock. Thanks go to Martha and Roger Johnson for their hard work processing, organizing and pricing all the donated books available for sale.

Please help support the Friends in this effort and take home some great reading material in the process. Most books range in price from \$.25 to a few dollars. Bring a friend or neighbor and spend a few minutes or a few hours browsing through the large selection of books. The selections are tremendous – diverse, plentiful, and very, very affordable.

Donate your Unwanted Books

Please bring your donations of books in good, clean condition to Bedford Central Library. Book donations may be brought to the loading dock of Bedford Central library. For more information please visit www.friendsofbedfordlibrary.org or our Facebook page for specifics about what and how to donate.



Programs

We've been busy, busy, busy this year with several new programs.

Board Game Cafe



The second Saturday of each month we sponsor a Board Game Cafe in the Bedford Room. The Friends have many games available to play from card games and old favorites to newer strategy games. Participants are welcome to play the games provided or to bring their own games.

Seed Library



Our seed library collects and stores seeds and shares them with members of the community for free. Seeds may be from regional seed companies or donated from gardeners. Seed libraries encourage biodiversity and decrease our reliance on major seed companies. This helps combat seed monocultures which threaten the world's food supply.

Similar to a normal library, gardeners "borrow" seeds from the seed library at planting time. At the end of the growing seasons, save the seeds from the plants and return a portion of the seeds to the library.

Seeds are available from February through September.

Caregiver Kits



Caregiver Activity Kits are for individuals who provide care to someone with memory loss. Each item in the kit is specifically selected to spark memories, create conversation and provide positive and engaging interactions between people with Alzheimer's and other dementia-related conditions, and their caregiver.

While the kits are aimed primarily at families who have a person living with them who has memory loss/dementia. They could also be used for persons visiting someone in assisted living, memory care or nursing home. Most activities are designed for interaction with others but some are individual activities.

Our Officers and Board

Kathy Graham is the current president. Martha and Roger Johnson and Ann Thomas serve as the Book Shop Managers. Martha also serves as Program Coordinator. Natalie Martin serves as vice president. Secretary and Membership Coordinator is Ann Miller. Our Treasurer is Ann Thomas.

Members at Large include: Rhett Watkins, Phil Raintree and Jim Jones - website manager

Katie Hoffman is our Library Liaison. Having a liaison from the library staff has helped us tremendously. Thanks to Katie for agreeing to serve in this non-voting position.

DON'T MISS THE ANNUAL MEETING!!!

The Annual Meeting of the Friends will be held on Tuesday, January 27th in the Bedford Room of the Bedford Central library at 7pm. Please join us for snacks and finger foods. There will be a short business meeting and elections for officers and board members. This is your chance to catch up on what we have been doing as an organization, as well as an opportunity for you to give your ideas and input for the Friends' future. Don't miss this meeting! It only happens once a year!

