

FOCUS



Join Us This Giving Tuesday!



Scan here to
donate!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Putt Putt for a Cause
- Friends Youth Ambassadors
- Gaston 250 Celebrations
- Meet the Board
- Writers Expo and Stars Hollow Fest

As Giving Tuesday approaches, we invite our community to come together once again in support of the **Gaston County Public Library**. Last year, thanks to your generosity, our Giving Tuesday campaign raised nearly **\$6,000**—funds that helped sustain programs and services that touch thousands of lives.

In 2025, we hope to raise **\$10,000** to ensure our library remains a vibrant place for learning, creativity, and connection.

Your donations have a real impact. In addition to supporting beloved library programs, this year **the Friends of the Library proudly awarded two college scholarships to local students**, helping them continue their educational journeys. These scholarships are just one example of how your support helps strengthen our community and invest in its future.

Your contribution to Giving Tuesday will help us continue offering:

- **Educational Workshops** that empower individuals with new skills and knowledge.
- **Summer Reading Programs** that foster literacy and a lifelong love of books among children and teens.
- **Cultural Events** that bring our community together and celebrate diversity.

Every gift—no matter the size—makes a difference. With your help, we can continue offering the programs that make our library a cornerstone of Gaston County.

To contribute, please visit **www.friendsofgcpl.org** or **scan the code** and select **Giving Tuesday**. Together, we can keep our library thriving and continue supporting the next generation of learners.

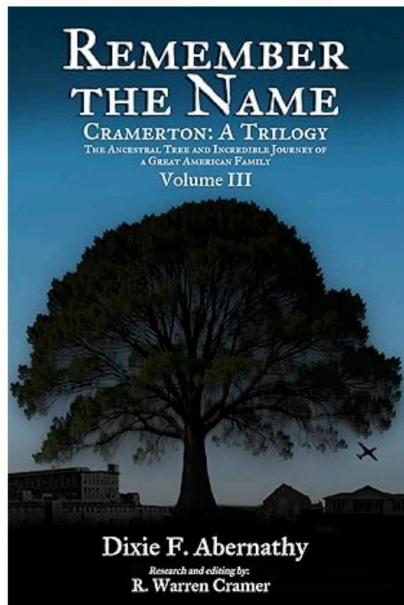
Warm thanks for your continued support,

--Friends of the Gaston County Public Library

**GIVING
TUESDAY**

Upcoming Meet the Author Events!

MEET THE AUTHOR



DIXIE ABERNATHY

Saturday

November 15, 2025

11:00 a.m.

The final part of her bestselling
Cramerton Trilogy

REMEMBER THE NAME

Gaston County Public Library
Main Library - Carol K. Reinhardt
Auditorium

1555 E. Garrison Blvd.
Gastonia, NC 28054
704-868-2164, dial 1

www.gastonlibrary.org



MEET THE AUTHOR

MANDY CASTO

Join author Mandy Casto to discuss her latest novel *Retreat to Bleecker Street*. Copies will be available for purchase. Light refreshments will be provided by the Friends of the Gaston County Public Library. This program is intended for adults.



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FRIENDS
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PUBLIC LIBRARY

Saturday, January 10, 2026

11:00 a.m.

Gaston County Public Library
Main Library
Carol K. Reinhardt Auditorium
1555 E. Garrison Blvd.
Gastonia, NC 28054
704-868-2164, dial 2
www.gastonlibrary.org



Meet the Author

DAVID POSTON



Join local poet, retired teacher, and longtime Friends of the Gaston County Public Library member David Poston to discuss his new collection of poetry *Letting Go*. This program is intended for adults.

Tuesday,
February 17, 2026
6:00 p.m.

Gaston County Public Library
Main Library
Multi-Purpose Room
1555 E. Garrison Blvd.
Gastonia, NC 28054
704-868-2164, dial 2
www.gastonlibrary.org



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FRIENDS
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Thoughts from Your President

Warm greetings!

The Friends continue into this beautiful fall with a whirlwind of activities. In fact, our matriarch and original Board member, Bernie Carpenter, remarked last week that “We have so many things going on; I can hardly keep up”. My response was “Well, Bernie, I think this is a good problem to have”. So, please read through the Newsletter to get a glimpse of our adventures since the last edition and join us on this perpetual journey into the winter months.

The Friends will once again join the global generosity movement “Giving Tuesday”. Our goal is to raise \$10,000 by Tuesday, December 2, 2025 by simply asking you to “do good”. The money raised will help us continue to support library programs, Summer Reading events, and more. Campaign information will be mailed to you soon and we very much hope that you will consider supporting our goal.

In late November (22nd), the Library (Main) will be transformed into a “Stars Hollow Fest” celebrating the 25th Anniversary of Gilmore Girls. There will be crafts and special activities, and I am confident that there will be coffee. We are also extremely excited about our “Putt-Putt for a Purpose” mini golf fundraiser coming January 30th and 31st, 2026. Please read about the fun two days of activities in the article enclosed. We hope you will join us and consider being a sponsor. Be sure to check out the website www.friendsofgcpl.org to learn more about the upcoming “Meet the Author” events. We are delighted to revive this popular juncture, during which books will be available for purchase and signing. Also, do not miss the “Meet the Board” article featuring the indomitable Angi Karchmer.

Lastly, the BOOK SALE is really just around the corner, APRIL 6-11, 2026. We continue to accept books, puzzles, games, DVDs, CDs and we have very recently received Legos and Star Trek items. So, feel free to donate these items as well.

We hope you will join us soon and often. We hope you all have a wonderful upcoming holiday season!

–Melinda Pierce

Membership Reminder

If you have not already renewed your June 1, 2025 to May 31, 2026 Friends membership, we certainly hope you will do so very soon! Another convenient option would be to convert to a Lifetime Membership. It's a one-time \$100, and you won't have to worry about renewing each year! To renew or upgrade your membership visit <https://friendsofgcpl.org/support/become-a-member/> or scan the QR code!



Putt-Putt for a Purpose: Library Mini Golf Fundraiser Coming January 2026!

Get ready to tee off among the bookshelves! **The Friends of the Gaston County Public Library** are excited to announce our first-ever Library Mini Golf Fundraiser, coming **January 2026**. This family-friendly event will transform the library into an 18-hole miniature golf course, complete with creative obstacles, themed holes, and plenty of fun surprises along the way.

Participants of all ages will have the chance to play a full round of mini golf inside the library, exploring familiar spaces in a whole new way. Local businesses and community partners will have the opportunity to sponsor holes, with proceeds directly supporting library programs, events, and educational initiatives.

Funds raised through the event will help sustain vital services like **children's storytimes**, **technology workshops**, and **community events** that bring people together through learning and connection. It's a playful way to support a serious cause — keeping our library strong, welcoming, and thriving.

So, gather your family and friends, grab your putters, and join us for a weekend of laughter, community spirit, and friendly competition.

Stay tuned for registration details and sponsorship opportunities at **www.friendsofgepl.org**. Let's make this inaugural Mini Golf Fundraiser a hole-in-one for the Gaston County Public Library!



Meet our first Friends Board Youth Ambassadors: Maggie Collins and Hazel Ritter

Maggie Collins is an 8th grader at Cramerton Middle School and is on the 'A' Honor Roll within the Gifted and Talented Academy. At Cramerton, she is a member of the Principal's Advisory Council, Eagle Pride Club, and Beta Club, where she represented Gaston County at the state convention last spring. Outside of school, Maggie babysits regularly and spends four days a week practicing and performing ballet with Gaston Dance Theater. She volunteers each summer at Camp Sunshine (a day camp for underserved students in Gaston County) and runs her own camp for elementary school students to raise money to support Camp Sunshine's efforts. During the summer, Maggie serves as an assistant swim coach for the Gaston Country Club's six-and-under team. She is a student member of the Friends of the Gaston County Library, an avid reader, and would love to support the Gaston County Library in any way she can.



Hazel Ritter is a sophomore at Highland School of Technology, where she ranks 4th in her class. She has been a volunteer at the Gaston County Library and a student member of the Friends of the Gaston County Library for the past two years, volunteering over 50 hours this summer alone. This summer, she also completed a 7-week internship at Kintegra Health, where she shadowed health professionals and interacted with patients in multiple healthcare settings. She also volunteers at Tricounty Animal Rescue and with Cancer Services. Hazel plays volleyball year-round, competing for both Highland's varsity team and Gaston Galaxy club team. At school, she is a member of the Highland Writers club, the Visual Art Advanced Placement Club, and the Health Occupations Students of America. She is recently certified in Adobe Illustrator, Photoshop, and Indesign and earned the Creative Writing Award last year. She would love to continue her work at the Gaston County Library as a youth member of our board.

Celebrate Gaston County 250 with the Friends!

Gaston County is celebrating its rich history as part of the America 250 NC initiative, and there are fun ways for everyone to get involved!

Passport Program

Pick up a Gaston 250 Passport at the Gaston County Public Library or the Gaston County Museum of Art and History. There are 13 participating museums and historical locations to visit and explore the county's rich history. Collect stamps from 8 out of 13 sites to earn a commemorative Gaston 250 pin. Return your completed passport to the Gaston County Public Library or the Gaston County Museum of Art and History to receive your pin!

Trading Cards Program

Discover Gaston County's history through 24 collectible trading cards highlighting local museums and historic sites. Cards can be collected by visiting participating locations or attending the community events listed below.



Upcoming Events

- **Cramerton Flannel Fest – Saturday, November 15**, Cramerton Centennial Center
- **Meet the Author: Dixie Abernathy – Saturday, November 15 at 11:00 a.m.**, Main Library Carol K. Reinhardt Auditorium.
 - Local author Dixie Abernathy will discuss the final book in her best-selling *Cramerton: A Trilogy* series. This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Gaston County Public Library, Gaston County Government, the Gaston 250 Committee, and the Gaston County Public Library.
- **Gastonia's Christmas in the City – Sunday, December 7**, Rotary Pavilion, Downtown Gastonia

Explore, collect, and celebrate Gaston County's history with us!

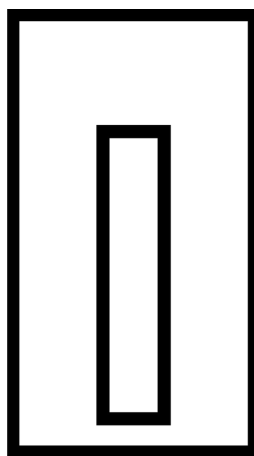
Friends Partner with Museum to Bring America 250 NC Exhibits to Gaston County

The Friends of the Gaston County Public Library are proud to announce a new partnership with the Gaston County Museum of Art and History to bring two America 250 NC traveling exhibits to Gaston County in 2026. Both exhibits will be on display at the Gaston County Museum in celebration of our nation's upcoming 250th anniversary.

As part of the Gaston County 250 initiative—an effort connected to the broader America 250 NC commemoration—the exhibits, *Making Our Voices Heard* (January–June 2026) and *When Are We Us* (July–December 2026), will explore themes of freedom, identity, and the ongoing fight for equality in North Carolina's story.

The Friends, who serve on the Gaston County 250 Committee, have agreed to sponsor these exhibits in support of “Visions of Freedom,” one of the key themes of America 250 NC, and the Friends' own project, “Fighting the Good Fight.” This collaboration highlights a shared commitment between the Library and the Museum to preserve, interpret, and celebrate the diverse voices that have shaped our state and our community.

More details about accompanying programs and volunteer opportunities will be shared in the coming months. The Friends look forward to joining the Museum in welcoming these powerful exhibits to Gaston County in 2026!



GASTON
COUNTY
MUSEUM
OF ART & HISTORY

The Summer of Love Book Festival

The Friends had a fantastic time over the last two months supporting two wonderful events with community partners. First, on August 30th, we had the privilege of being one of the few nonprofits to have a tent at the inaugural Summer of Love Book Festival in Stowe Park in Belmont, sponsored by our friends at the Belmont Bookshop. We were able to engage with book lovers from across the region, and even made a fun reel with members of the Friends of the Athens-Clarke County Library out of Athens, GA. We also made some great connections with authors for future Meet the Author Programs! See the flyer above about author Mandy Casto visiting us in January. Probably the biggest surprise was running into the great Belmont-native star Fortune Feimster and her mom Ginger, a Friends member and patron of the Belmont Library!



Fun Fact, the Friends of the Library have an Instagram! To see that fun reel with the Athens Friends and more follow us:
friendsgcpl



Meet the Board: Angi Karchmer

Growing up in Gaston County, Angela Karchmer found herself at the library almost every weekend. "I can remember coming to the Main Library when it was downtown on Second Avenue. It was always an adventure because you never knew what great book you would find to read." From movies shown in the old auditorium, to arts and crafts for kids, to the summer reading challenges she and her brother participated in almost every program the library had to offer, especially during the summer months.

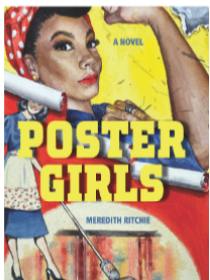
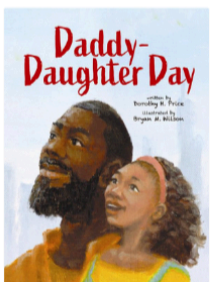
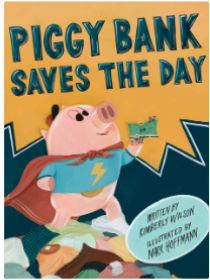
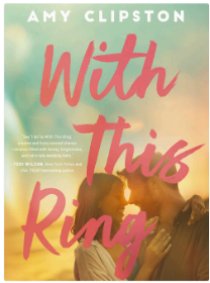
Both our parents were educators, so they instilled in us a real love for reading from a very young age. I regularly read past my bedtime and remember reading *The Lord of the Rings* with a flashlight after everyone else was asleep." The Library was such a dynamic place then and it still is today, she says. "There is something for everyone no matter what branch is in your neighborhood and we are so fortunate to have our libraries open and engaged with the community." With a career in Human Services, Angela has lived in Gaston County most of her life. After graduating from App State, she returned to Gastonia and found her niche with Gaston County Social Services and is now working with NC DHHS. "I really enjoy working with people", she said, "and no day is ever the same."



One newer Library program that partners with the Gaston County Cooperative Extension Agency is the Seed Bank. Angela, who is a Master Gardener, has been amazed at the interest with the Seed Bank at the main library and each of the branches. Over the past three years, the program has grown (pun intended) to such an extensive level. The Seed Bank in Gaston County was started by another Master Gardener, Caroline Ingram. She's on the Friends of the Library Board as well. This program has really engaged a lot of people and grown to be quite expansive in such a short time Angela observed. "Just like other programs our libraries offer, the Seed Bank supports an interest that so many of us have."



In closing, Angela framed her time on the Board this way, "The Library is definitely my happy place and I am so fortunate to be able to volunteer on the Friends of the Library Board. It's really full circle for me. The Gaston County Library was such an integral part of my growing up here and continues to be a hub for so many great programs. I want to support that experience for others."



GASTON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY



NOV

8TH

**DISCOVER • CONNECT • CELEBRATE
COMMUNITY**

10 AM - 2 PM

Saturday, November 8th, 2025

1555 E. Garrison Blvd. Gastonia, NC 28054

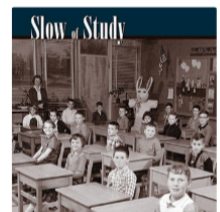
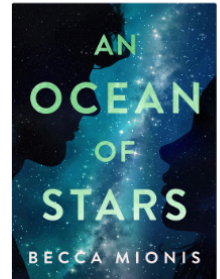
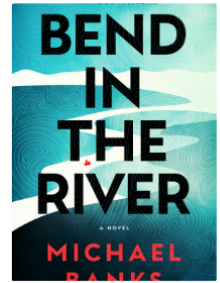
**Celebrate and connect with local authors, poets, storytellers,
and artisans with free live readings, performances, storytimes,
and crafts - all at your local library!**



North
Carolina
Arts
Council

All Library Programs are Subject to Change

This project was supported by the North Carolina Arts Council, a division of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources and the Gaston Arts Council. This series also received support from the Friends of the Gaston County Public Library. This program is also brought to you in part by the attendance of patrons like you...Thank You!



Giving Books a Second Life: The Success of GCPL's Recycling Program



Earlier this year, the Gaston County Public Library launched a book recycling partnership with Good Steward Ministries — and what a difference it's made. In just seven months, from February through August 2025, 37,703.75 pounds of books — that's over 19 tons — have been diverted from the Gaston County landfill.

Instead of ending up as waste, these books are being sorted, repurposed, or redistributed, giving them a second life in new hands and new places. The program has quickly become a quiet success story, running smoothly behind the scenes thanks to thoughtful coordination and community support. Library staff and Friends of the Library volunteers alike say the effort has changed the way they feel about discarding withdrawn or damaged materials. There's genuine relief — and even pride — in knowing that the books are being responsibly recycled rather than tossed away.

As the program continues, the Library remains committed to sustainability and stewardship, ensuring that every book serves its purpose — right up to the very end of its shelf life.



Austen 250:

A Regency Holiday Celebration

December 16, 2025 6:30pm

Celebrate Jane Austen's 250th birthday with trivia, a Jane Austen heroes dating game, holiday crafts, and more.

Carol K. Reinhardt Auditorium
Gaston County Public Library - Main
1555 E Garrison Blvd
Gastonia, NC 28054
www.gastonlibrary.org
704-461-8272



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Murder at the Disco! Supporting the Gaston County Museum of Art and History



Following on the heels of the Summer of Love Festival, we had then got to have a great time on September 20th at the Loray Mill with Murder at the Disco! This event supported our friends at the Gaston County Museum of Art and History, including its director Ali Pizza, who also happens to be a Friends board member! We had not one, but two tables at the event! We danced the night away to disco music, enjoyed great food and drinks, and had a fantastic time trying to figure out who did it! Congrats to the entire museum team for a stunning success. To find out more about the museum and its upcoming exhibits and programs visit www.gastoncountymuseum.org or scan the QR Code below!



GASTON
COUNTY
MUSEUM
OF ART & HISTORY





Stars Hollow Fest

11.22.25

10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Where you lead, I will follow...

Please join us on

Saturday, November 22 at 10 a.m.

as we celebrate 25 years
of *Gilmore Girls* with special activities,
crafts, and more!

All ages are welcome to attend!



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Gaston County Public Library-Main Branch

1555 E. Garrison Blvd

Gastonia, NC 28054

Carol K. Reinhardt Auditorium

704-868-2164

gastonlibrary.org



FRIENDS
OF THE GASTON COUNTY
PUBLIC LIBRARY

IN DEMAND LIST

Here's a list of book titles currently in demand at the library. This list is provided by Adult Services Supervisor Andrew Pierce.

FICTION

THE LADY ON ESPLANADE by Karen White. People and secrets from the past threaten to disrupt Nola Trenholm's new life in New Orleans in the third novel of the Royal Street series by *New York Times* bestselling author Karen White.

THE CHRISTMAS STRANGER by Richard Paul Evans. From the #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of the Christmas classic *The Christmas Box* and the #1 Netflix movie *The Noel Diary* comes a powerful and thought-provoking holiday story about love, loss, and the mysterious workings of heaven. Sometimes the universe sends us exactly who we need...

GIRL DINNER by Olivie Blake. From the *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Atlas Six*, *Girl Dinner* is a darkly fun novel about power, lust, and eating your fill, as wealthy moms and sorority girls practice a sinister new wellness trend...

OTHERWISE ENGAGED by Susan Mallery. A twisty, tender and wise look at how secrets can transform the powerful--and sometimes problematic--bond between mothers and daughters, from #1 *New York Times* bestselling author Susan Mallery.

THE PERFECT HOSTS by Heather Gudenkauf. A couple's gender reveal party turns deadly and everyone is a suspect in this gripping thriller from the *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Overnight Guest*.

QUEEN ESTHER by John Irving. After forty years, John Irving returns to the world of his bestselling classic novel *The Cider House Rules*, revisiting the orphanage in St. Cloud's, Maine, where Dr. Wilbur Larch takes in Esther--a Viennese-born Jew.

THE WIDOW by John Grisham. Grisham is back with his first-ever whodunit...as a small-time lawyer accused of murder races to find the real killer to clear his name.

NON-FICTION

LETTER FROM JAPAN by Marie Kondo. In her most personal book yet, the iconic star of the hit Netflix series *Tidying Up with Marie Kondo* and #1 bestselling author of *The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up* opens up about the cultural traditions that have inspired her philosophy--and can make our lives better today.

WE DID OK, KID: A MEMOIR by Sir Anthony Hopkins. Academy Award-winning actor Sir Anthony Hopkins delves into his illustrious film and theater career, difficult childhood, and path to sobriety in his honest, moving, and long-awaited memoir.

MAKE DO WITH WHAT YOU HAVE: 100 DELICIOUS NEW RECIPES FROM FAVORITE OLD SCHOOL MEALS by Kardea Brown. The *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Way Home* returns with over 100 fabulous recipes--delicious updates of her favorite childhood meals.

STAR OF THE SHOW: MY LIFE ON STAGE by Dolly Parton and Tom Roland. A stunning celebration of Dolly Parton's iconic career as a performer, featuring entertaining personal stories alongside more than 500 full-color photographs, including exclusive images and ephemera from her archive, and an eight-page gatefold listing her lifetime of performances.

100 RULES FOR LIVING TO 100: AN OPTIMIST'S GUIDE TO A HAPPY LIFE by Dick Van Dyke. On the eve of his 100th birthday, national treasure Dick Van Dyke brings us this autobiographical collection of stories, reflections, and life advice on how he's maintained a zest for life.

DVDs/BLU-RAYS

THE BEST CHRISTMAS PAGEANT EVER Kynlee Heiman, Judy Greer, Lauren Graham, Pete Holmes. Nobody is ready for the mayhem and surprises that ensue when six of the worst youngsters disrupt the town's yearly Christmas performance.

WEAPONS. Julia Garner, Josh Brolin, Amy Madigan. When all but one child from the same class mysteriously vanish on the same night at exactly the same time, a community is left questioning who or what is behind their disappearance.

DOWNTON ABBEY: THE GRAND FINALE. Michelle Dockery, Hugh Bonneville, Elizabeth McGovern. When Mary finds herself in a public scandal and the family faces financial trouble, the household grapples with the threat of social disgrace. The Crawleys must embrace change with the next generation leading Downton Abbey into the future.

FREAKIER FRIDAY. Lindsay Lohan and Jamie Lee Curtis. 22 years after Tess and Anna endured an identity crisis, Anna now has a daughter and a soon-to-be stepdaughter. As they navigate the challenges that come when two families merge, Tess and Anna discover that lightning might strike twice.

Poet's Corner:

John Thomas York

THE VIEW FROM DEEP GAP

Navigating a snaky road,
creeping along in a cloud
and listening to Doc on the tape deck,
I found a mountain

materializing out of thin air
(out of thin air the bare
blue trees, the Parkway overpass),
and then I stopped to stare

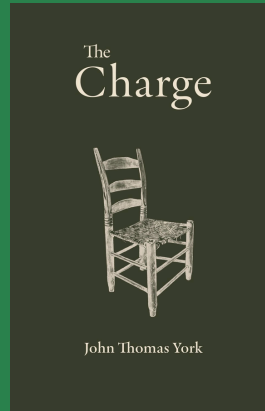
at the wide valley covered by a fog
as level as the ocean.
And the ridge on yon side might've been
the Hills of County Down,

or the Highlands, the Beacons, the Atlas
Mountains: who knew they were
so close, the Mothers and Fathers, their songs
like seeds in black furrows,

Pretty Saro walking a dark holler
and weeping, reading a poem
she will long understand, her lover
a poor man, cursed for to roam?

And I, a pilgrim heading home,
heard the old song
in the fading light, and felt the everlasting
charge in flesh and bone.

From a series of poems about Doc Watson in
Appalachian Places: Stories from the Highlands.
Also appeared in the chapbook *The Charge: Poems
Remembering Doc Watson and the Watson Family*
(Redhawk, 2024). To order the book and read more
about John Thomas York, visit
redhawkpublications.com.



John Thomas York has an MFA in Creative Writing from UNC-Greensboro. He has been a Mellon Fellow at UNC-Chapel Hill and received fellowships from the Council for Basic Education and the National Endowment for the Humanities. For over thirty years he has taught English in the public schools. In 2003 he was named Teacher of the Year by the North Carolina English Teachers Association. His work has appeared in many regional journals and in anthologies such as *Word and Witness: 100 Years of North Carolina Poetry* and *The Southern Poetry Anthology, Volume III: Contemporary Appalachia*. He has published three previous chapbooks: *Picking Out*, *Johnny's Cosmology*, and *Naming the Constellations*. In 2011, he received the first James Applewhite Poetry Prize from North Carolina Literary Review. He and his wife, Jane McKinney York, live in Greensboro, with their daughters, Elizabeth, Kathryn, and Rachel.

—David E. Poston





1555 East Garrison Boulevard
Gastonia, North Carolina 28054
Phone: 704-868-2164
Fax: 704-853-6012
Email: gcplfriends@gastonlibrary.org
Website: www.friendsofgcpl.org

Return Service Requested

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US Postal Service

PAID

Gastonia, NC
Permit No. 181

GCPL Book Clubs

The Happy Bookers
Monthly - Dallas

A Novel Idea Book Club
2nd Tuesday of the month - BC@BC

As the Page Turns Book Club
Monthly - Union Road

Chapter Chat Book Club
Monthly - Stanley

The Last Chapter Book Club
Monthly - Main Library

Pages from the Past
1st Friday of the month - TECH@Lowell

Contact your local library branch for more information.

LIBRARY CLOSINGS

- **Veterans Day** - Tuesday, November 11th
- **Thanksgiving** - Thursday, November 26th - Saturday, November 28th
- **Christmas** - Wednesday, December 24th - Friday, December 26th
- **New Year's Day** - Thursday, January 1st