FRIENDS’ 40TH ANNIVERSARY GALA, FUNDRAISER A BIG SUCCESS

Our May 18th gala at the Schiele Museum was a huge success. More than 100 guests enjoyed excellent food, music, fellowship, and a fantastic Silent Auction, which raised over $5,000 dollars. So, a big “Thank You” to members of the Friends Executive Board, charitable donors in the community, and especially to the generosity of time and spirit of the library administration and staff who helped make this possible.

The purpose of the event was to kick off the 40th Anniversary of the Friends of the Library. It was also to reveal our new logo and brochure and officially introduce our new website (www.friendsofgcpl.org). Ultimately, the goal of the Planning Committee was to increase our membership and raise awareness of the Friends in the community. To that end, the much-needed digital sign on Garrison became the priority. (This is a mock up.)

We are happy to report that in addition to the anonymous donation of $10,000 in honor and memory of Howard and Betty Teague and the $15,000 committed by the Executive Board of the Friends from this year’s Book Sale proceeds, we currently have raised approximately $40,000. Donations are continuing to come in as we seek to reach the goal of approximately $60,000.

REMINDER:
If you haven’t renewed your Annual Membership for the June 1, 2023 to May 31, 2024, now is the time take care of that! You can renew by going online to the Friends website at www.friendsofgcpl.org.

Also, you can switch over from an Annual to a Lifetime Membership and never again have to keep track of renewing every year!
FRIENDS ANNUAL BOOK SALE BREAKS RECORD

This year’s Friends Annual Book Sale, held on Monday, April 10th through Saturday, April 15th, was an unparalleled success. With the support of so many dedicated volunteers who worked tirelessly day after day, the Friends raised $35,000.00.

This was the first year the sale lasted for six days, and we will definitely replicate this schedule next year. The first day we made well over $13,000.00, which far exceeded any previous record.

Please mark your calendars for next year. The 2024 Book Sale will be held on Monday, April 1st through Saturday, April 6th. The Set Up day will be Monday, March 25th.

THE GCPL COMIC-CON RETURNS FOR FIRST TIME SINCE 2019

The 6th Annual Gaston County Public Library Comic-Con took place on Saturday, June 3rd at the Main. From the staff, the estimate was that 1,500 people attended this year’s event making it the second biggest Comic Con and the second largest single day program in the library’s history.

In a special “thank you” to the Friends, the library staff noted that the Friends of the Library are their favorite organization and that our financial support and advocacy for Comic Con was crucial to its success.

The Friends also auctioned off a Marvel Lego from the most recent movie raising an additional $300.00 towards the Digital Sign. What a great day for the library and the Friends!
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
RUN RESULTS ARE IN!

The Community Foundation Run held on Saturday April 1, 2023 at CaroMont Health Park was a rainy, thunderous experience, but the runners finished just before the down pour.

Thank you to David Poston for once again running for the Friends. An additional thank you to Ann Peninger and Melinda Pierce for picking up trash in the deluge. With your generosity and the match from the Community Foundation, the Friends netted $18,715.00. This amount surpasses all previous Run events.

A special thank you to Leigh Finley and the Ralph S. Robinson Foundation for their continued philanthropy.

40TH ANNIVERSARY
RECOGNITION DINNER

We will continue to celebrate the 40th Anniversary in September, the month of the first Friends meeting. We will honor Gail Silkstone, Bernie Carpenter, and Anna Martin who are the three remaining charter members.

The Friends will also recognize the many volunteers who work throughout the year to process books, prepare for the Book Sale, and countless other tasks.

The dinner will be Thursday, September 21 at 6:00 p.m. at Myers Memorial Methodist Church. More details to follow. Please look for your invitation in the mail in the coming weeks.
TALEWISE AND SHEPHERD SHAKESPEARE BRING THE COMMUNITY “ALL TOGETHER NOW” FOR PERFORMANCES

More than 1,100 attendees visited Gaston County Public Library to enjoy performances from Talewise and Shepherd Shakespeare in June, during GCPL’s Summer Reading program.

Talewise presented “Science Heroes: Saving Earth Together!”, an action-packed story that included exciting experiments and audience participation.

Shepherd Shakespeare presented a special, kid-friendly adaptation of William Shakespeare’s “A Midsummer Night’s Dream.” Shepherd Shakespeare believes in bringing the joy and wonder of the Bard’s timeless stories to all ages.

This year’s summer reading theme is “All Together Now”. Staff and patrons alike shared positive feedback on both performances.