

Behind the Lines

Since 1987

From the desk of Leah Barnhard
Executive Director
Wichita Public Library Foundation
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In the news! You might have read or heard the Wichita Public Library is continuing its efforts to use your tax dollars as efficiently and effectively as is possible. As much as we know how you use your library today, we have to be prepared for tomorrow. Change and technology are costly no matter how you use Library services. From walking in the door, calling or online, your Library is still the best value in town. *Your continued support makes us special.*

Did you know? What a success Summer Reading has been! With 11,653 children and teens participating in the program and funding support from the Celia and Leonard Levand Trust, the West Wichita Optimist Club and the Wichita Cultural Funding Grant. And then there are the books - 157,630 children's books were borrowed by summer readers of the Library during June and July. With each child reading an average of 13 books, they kept the Library very busy. *And this doesn't count the impact of school readiness!*

A special thank you goes to all of the area businesses who supported the Summer Reading with coupons and gift certificates. They make our Summer Reading program a very special part of summer vacation. *Private sector support makes it happen!*

The next time you hear people say no one uses a library anymore, please share this very important fact: **11,653 children and teens can't be wrong!**

Big Read Wichita is just around the bend with Rooster Cogburn, Mattie Ross and a host of characters getting ready as we read this year's Big Read title, "True Grit" by Charles Portis. Join co-chairs Mayor Carl Brewer, Sedgwick County Commission Chairman Jim Skelton and Wichita Public Schools Board of Education Immediate Past President Lynn Rogers as we kick-off with the pre-party on Saturday, September 21, at the Wichita Art Museum from 2 – 4 p.m. For more information about all of the Big Read events, visit www.bigreadwichita.org or call the Library, 261-8500.

Looking for books to keep? The Friends of the Wichita Public Library book sale is set for September 5 – 7 in the Central Library Auditorium. The member preview sale is Wednesday evening, September 4 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The Public Sale starts Thursday. Sale hours are Thursday 10:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m. and Friday and Saturday, 10:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Proceeds from the sale are used to support programs and collections at the Library. *Tell everyone you know. We hope you can make it!*

Join us for the Wichita Wagonmasters Chili Cook-off! With the help of the Wichita Public Library and Activate Wichita, we will be dishing out “Rooster Cogburn” chili in honor of the 2013 Big Read. Help us win the \$500 prize for the best Chili for Charity and support your Library. *Save the date - September 28!*

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Leah Barnhard
223 South Main
Wichita, KS 67202
e-mail: foundation@wichita.lib.ks.us
Web site: <http://www.supportwichitalibraries.com>
316-261-8523