

Librarians and Patrons Adjust to Deep Cuts in Hours and Staffing

New Library Hours

Monday 10-6

Tuesday 12-8

Wednesday 2-6

Thursday 10-6

Friday Closed all day

Saturday and Sunday 1-5

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On January 27th, the Fulton county Board of Commissioners adopted a budget that was insufficient to keep library funding stable or anywhere near the 2013 level; the new budget reflected a 19 percent cut.

As a result, effective February 12th, only two branches in the AFPLS system remained open seven days a week: the Central Library and the Auburn Avenue Research Library. All other 31 branches are currently closed on Fridays and 20 of those branches are closed two days a week. In all, the system's weekly 1,562 public service hours have been trimmed to 996, a 36.2 percent reduction from last year.

Staffing levels have also been hit hard. The system has downsized by 70 part-time staff members and 50 full-time positions this year.

The materials budget, used to purchase books, e-books, DVDs and many other items, has been slashed.

(Above information from the following source:
lj.libraryjournal.com/2014/02/budgets-funding/)

So how have these cuts affected our Roswell Branch? Our library is now also closed on Friday and its availability reduced from 56 to 36 hours per week. (The new hours are listed on this page.) If you visit and notice that there seem to be fewer people to offer assistance, it's because there now remain only ten full-time employees (and no part-timers).



These remaining employees must balance their time between assisting patrons and staffing the circulation desk, reference desk and children's desks; conducting story hours; cataloging; reading reviews for collection development; weeding out-dated books; answering phones; managing hold lists and shelving books for pickup; processing books; repairing books; shelving books and magazines; emptying the book drop, and many other responsibilities.

Because of the number of hours the library is now closed, use of the meeting room has been severely curtailed and, consequently,

(Continued on page 2 ...Deep Cuts...)

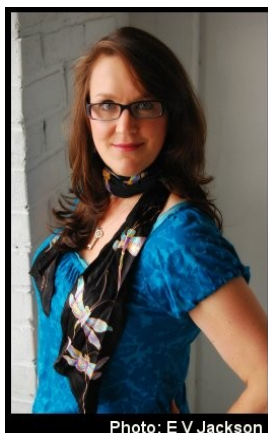


Photo: E V Jackson

Joshilyn Jackson Entertains Largest Crowd Ever at Roswell Reads Luncheon

Joshilyn Jackson, former actor and author of this year's Roswell Reads selection, *Someone Else's Love Story*, drew the largest crowd ever in the program's nine-year history. The ballroom at the Adult Recreation Center was alive with laughter as Ms. Jackson told us about creating her books and their characters and how they have a life all their own. Especially interesting was her quest to find a place for William, one of the main characters of our Roswell Reads book, and how she searched for a story for him for years.

If you ever have an opportunity to hear this author speak about her writing and her books, do not miss it. She is downright fun!

...*Deep Cuts*... (continued from page 1)

meetings and programs are being cancelled and, when possible, rescheduled. Even when programs are free or the financing is adequate through a Friends group or another source, nothing can take place when library staff is inadequate or the building is closed.

Thanks to our many generous donors, through our book sales and the lobby sales, the Friends have been able to greatly increase the number of programs and activities in Roswell, but our major funding source for library programs is in danger. If people aren't in the building as often, donations will drop, the book store and the lobby book racks will not get as much traffic, and our profits will fall. The restricted hours mean that our book sales will need

some creative rescheduling. To try to minimize the negative impact of the new schedule, Friends volunteers are endeavoring to keep the book store open more hours.

New Book Store Hours

Monday 10 - 5:30

Tuesday 12 - 7:30

Wednesday 2 - 5:30

Thursday 10 - 5:30

Friday Closed

Saturday 1 - 4:30

Sunday 1 - 4:30

Please note: the book store will close one-half hour before the library does.

The purpose of the Friends of the Roswell Library is to provide financial assistance to the library, to promote the library as a learning center for all citizens in the community, and to **act as an advocate** for improved library services. *Is it your time to act?*

Have You Ever Wondered If You Could Do Something?

Now may be the time when you stop merely grumbling and decide to let our Fulton County Commissioners know that you are unhappy with the current library situation. Since they are all up for re-election in May, their hearing may be especially keen. If you'd like to express your opinion, we've tried to make it easy for you.

Write your letter, or copy ours. If you would like a pre-written letter that you can personalize as you wish (or not), email the Friends at roswellgafriends@gmail.com, put 'Letter' in the subject line, and one will be emailed back to you. Also listed at the end of this article are some subjects you might want to address should you wish to compose your own letter or add something to the pre-written one from the Friends.

Decide to whom your letter should go. Roswell is shared by Commissioner Tom Lowe and Commissioner Liz Hausmann. If you go to fultoncountyga.gov/commissioners you'll find a nice map, all the commissioners, the districts they represent, and a box at the right where you may enter your address to determine your district and representative. Click on the picture of your representative and you will find an active link to his or her email. Click on it ... give your computer permission to open your email ... add "Libraries" to the Subject line ... copy/paste your letter in place ... hit SEND. (If this feature doesn't work on your computer, copy the email address and send your email in the usual manner.)

Feel free to send your letter to all the commissioners!

Should you wish to compose your own letter, here are some possible points about which to write:

Making the library less available to users by restricting hours and cutting staff will have far-reaching negative consequences.

Reducing library hours, especially on the weekend, is not good: working families use the libraries on weekends.

The decision to close all libraries on the same day each week was ill-conceived and foolish.

Children benefit greatly from library programs:

- literacy skills are improved by library visits;
- taking a child to the library is one way a parent can offer reinforcement, especially if the parent's skills are weak.

Circulation is up; computer use is up; we need staff members to support this use.

The lack of physical space at the library is detrimental to the community; even if programs are free, they can't be offered when staffing is inadequate or the building is closed.

Libraries are important contributors to a well-informed electorate; free access to information is an important feature of a democracy.

Endangered Eastern Hemlocks Planted at Library

If you look at the garden area across from the library entrance, you may notice three new young Eastern Hemlock trees. The trees are native to the Chattahoochee National Forest and further north. The trees were donated and planted by naturalist Will Lance, an avowed lover of the Hemlock. Will said, "...I was really devastated to learn...of an exotic insect wreaking havoc on Hemlocks across their range....I am thankful to the Friends for giving me the go



ahead to plant three [trees] at the Roswell Library. If things don't go well for the Hemlocks...trees like these can provide future seed stock...to use in re-establishing the species in its mountain habitat...."

Will has promised to water and care for the trees for the Friends.

For more information, visit the following web site: americanforests.org/magazine/article/the-last-of-the-giants/

<p>May Book Sale!</p> <p>Weds., May 14th (No scanners) 2-5</p> <p>Thurs., May 15th 11-5</p> <p>Friday, Closed</p> <p>Sat., May 17th 1-4</p> <p>Sunday, May 18th 1-4</p>	<p><i>Upcoming Atlanta Authors' Appearances</i></p> <p>Stacia Brown Saturday, April 19, 2:00 <i>Accidents of Providence,</i></p>  <p>a historical novel set in 1649 London during Cromwell's time.</p>	<p>Kevin Horgan Sunday, May 4, 5:00 (Note new time) <i>The March of the 18th: A Story of Crippled Heroes in the Civil War</i></p> <p>This is the true story of an invalid regiment serving behind the lines during the Civil War whose only desire was dignified service even after harrowing personal sacrifice.</p> <p>This is the Friends' Annual Meeting. Please join us for a short meeting, an enlightening author visit, and refreshments in the library.</p>
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Membership Renewal

Your address label shows when your membership expires. Thank you for your support.

- | | | |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$15 | <input type="checkbox"/> Student/Teacher \$5 | <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior (55+) \$10 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor \$50 | |

For information about volunteering, please either contact a Friends member or e-mail the Friends at roswellgafriends@gmail.com

This quarterly newsletter can now be distributed electronically. Please indicate how you would prefer to receive your newsletter: by US Mail ____; by email ____.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phones: Home _____ Cell _____

E-mail _____

Please mail to Friends of the Roswell Library (or FoRL), 115 Norcross St., Roswell, GA 30075

Message from the President

Happy Spring everyone – even though the weather just can't make up its mind. Thank you for taking the time to attend some of the recent events sponsored by the Friends of the Roswell Library – Roswell Reads, Atlanta Authors, Book Clubs (Noon Day Nosh and Mystery Readers), Yoga, ESL and many more. And *THANK YOU* for your donations of books, money (membership dues and other) and the gift of your volunteer time. We, and the library, appreciate it very much.

A few years ago I mentioned *The Happiness Project* by Gretchen Rubin. She commented, "Returning from vacation made me appreciate my beloved library anew. This library ...is perfect: a beautiful building, open stacks, Internet access and a terrific children's section....It was easy to take the library for granted – I'd been going there several times a week for seven years – but my brief absence reminded me how much I loved it ...". How much do we appreciate and take for granted our wonderful libraries? Do you miss being able to go on Fridays, now closed since the recent budget cuts? Do you miss some of your favorite staff folks? Your Friends group is working hard to ensure that other things, like new books, will not be affected, but it is a tall order.

You can always help the library with donations of books and money but more importantly, because of the current staffing and hours situation, by volunteering your time to help. I've listed a number of the opportunities following with the name of the person to contact. The hours and days vary so I hope you will be able to find time in your schedule to give back to your library with the gift of your help. You will be so appreciated.

Working in the library:

These positions require that you fill out a volunteer application and attend a one-hour orientation.

Reshelving books or perhaps searching for missing items
Emptying the book drop
Selecting books for the hold lists or the pick-up shelves for patrons
Getting new books ready to be shelved
Assisting with the summer reading programs
Helping with seasonal special projects like the patron count

Contact Margaret Bradford if you would like more information. margaret.bradford@fultoncountyga.gov or 770-640-3075

Working in the Friends' book store

Staff the store during library hours (training provided)
Continue to donate (books, magazines, DVDs, CDs, VHS tapes, books on CD and cassette), as always

Contact Carol Harrison if you would like more information. cwharrison@charter.net

Please consider helping us to save money by receiving your newsletter via email; just let us know your email address when you renew your membership and indicate your willingness to switch to email on the renewal form. You can also email us at Roswellgafriends@gmail.com.

Do you know that we also have the newsletters posted on forl.net, along with lots of other interesting information about Author Events, Book Clubs, Roswell Reads and links to the library's various programs? It's a wealth of information.

Jane Swift



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WWW.FORL.NET