

FRIENDS NEWS



SEEDING ARTFUL AGING

Johnson City Public Library has been selected as one of only fifteen non-profit organizations throughout the US to receive a grant from Aroha Philanthropies through its new national initiative, "Seeding Artful Aging." This generous grant will support a series of six eight-week workshops held at the library during 2017. Disciplines include writing and storytelling, sculpture, black and white photography, and Appalachian music.

These workshops are open to adults aged 55 and over and are free of charge. Local teaching artists will lead each workshop in a supportive, socially engaging atmosphere. No previous experience is required. Enrollment is by lottery from those registered for each workshop.

Covering an eight-week period, each workshop will meet weekly from 90 minutes to 2 hours and consist of individual and group instruction. At the end of the workshop, a special event will allow participants to share their work with the community. Enrollment is limited to 10-15 participants for each workshop.

Call the library at 434-4356 for more information.

RADIO FREQUENCY IDENTIFICATION

The change to the radio-frequency-identification system for the entire library holdings continues. Most of the tedious work has been done. Patrons may have noticed one or two volunteers working in the stacks at a cart loaded with a laptop. This legion of volunteers has been "tagging" the entire collection with a new label that will integrate with a radio-wave (versus magnetic wave) checkout system. Inside the cover of each item will to be a white, square label. This is the RFID tag.

Every item in the collection (roughly 167,000 pieces) gets tagged: books, reference, CDs, DVDs, LPs, graphic novels, Tennessee Room, and magazines.

There will be multiple self-check-out units throughout the library which will also alert the security system to let the book through. The very last installation for check out (rather than check-in) will be the new security gates. This is targeted for January.

Patrons will probably notice right off that checking out a book is much quicker.

Work has also begun in the back room, behind the sorting stacks, to the right of the circulation desk, to open the walls and install the sorting bins and electronics for returning books. The circulation desk as we know it will also undergo an alteration but remain in service even after the automated check-in system is up and running in the summer of 2017.

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