



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY TO BUILD  
HARPER LIBRARY COMMEMORATIVE READING GARDEN**

SOUTHPORT, N.C., (August 14, 2023) -- The Friends of the Library–Southport and Oak Island (FOLSOI) plan to build a community commemorative reading garden at the back of Margaret and James Harper, Jr. Library in Southport.

“This commemorative reading garden will extend Harper Library’s community space to the outdoors. The garden will provide benches and areas for community members to enjoy a good book on a newly created brick garden patio featuring beautiful trees and native plants,” said Southport resident and FOLSOI president Carol Brolley. “We have approved a garden plan drafted by Brunswick Community College Horticulture Department student Misty Chrysostomides,” she added.

To raise money to complete the project, the commemorative garden patio will feature bricks engraved with the names of individuals, businesses and family members. Through a Commemorative Brick Fund Raising Campaign, patrons and residents can honor and celebrate the special people or times in their lives. These bricks will be placed in a beautiful garden behind the Library to be enjoyed by the community for years to come.

The garden will be planted with native trees, bushes, and perennials, turning the formerly unused space behind the library into a haven for book and nature lovers. As Ralph Waldo Emerson brilliantly stated, "Nature and books belong to the eyes that see them."

The Harper Reading Garden will be a gathering and teaching space for children. Outdoor areas

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lend themselves to fun and educational youth programs, such as Summer Reading, Storytime, and Arts & Crafts.

Adults will benefit as well with a comfortable space for Book Club Meetings, Writers' Workshops, Author Programs and many other outdoor events.

To have a bricked engraved and support the community reading garden, please visit the homepage at [www.folsoi.org](http://www.folsoi.org).

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*The Friends of the Library Southport & Oak Island (FOLSOI) is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization dedicated to supporting the Margaret & James Harper, Jr. Library in Southport, NC and the G.V. Barbee, Sr. Library in Oak Island, NC; their missions and programs. The organization, run strictly by volunteers, offers financial support for library programs, community outreach, and facilities improvements, through activities such as book sales, fundraisers, and dues collection, ensuring that extra funding beyond the libraries' regular budgets are protected and earmarked to enhance these two libraries' services. For more information, visit [www.folsoi.org](http://www.folsoi.org).*