Upcoming book talks by local author, Johnette Rodriguez

Inspired by her grandmother's stories of growing up in the early oil fields of NW Louisiana (on the border of the huge East Texas strikes), Johnette Rodriguez has published a historical novel, set in 1914-1918, *Alma of Rag Town.* She will talk about the writing of this book, as well as reading from it, November 21, 11 a.m., at Cross Mills Public Library, in Charlestown, and December 5, 2:30 p.m., at Westerly Library & Wilcox Park.

Rag Town was named after the canvas tops of the tent-house community that sprang up near the oil fields. The narrative contains talk of the war in Europe and strong feelings about the German-heritage citizens who are living nearby. There's also an exploration of the Cherokee heritage in Alma's family.

But what drives the story is the picture of a family of six, struggling to grow together and to hang onto the love that sustains them. The mother cooks meals for the men working in the oil wells; the father tries for a strike in the nearby lake. The two older siblings hatch plans to deal with their father's alcoholism, and they also try to protect their mother and their younger siblings.

Call 401-789-0651 for more information.