

OCPL Director's Report

March 2024

1. Programs and Services: Programs were well attended in January and February. Kasey Swords, Youth Services Librarian, and Shannon Humphries, YS Assistant, have hit the ground running, so to speak, with regular Story Times at three branches (Salem has taken a hiatus due to lack of attendance). They've had good success with a variety of programs (see the Youth Services report for more details). Imelda Lomeli, a part time assistant in Walhalla, and also a Community Health Worker, had a well-attended program on personal growth presented in Spanish (assisted by Amy Saylor, our Spanish Interpreter/Community Resource Assistant). Quientell Walker presented several programs in February on genealogy basics and African-American genealogy. He also presented at Seneca High School along with Jennifer Moss from the Oconee History Museum. See his report for more details.

2. Usage Statistics and Narratives: Usage statistics for January and February as well as individual branch/department narratives are attached.

3. Finance and Budget: OCPL budget figures for FY24 to date are attached.

4. Personnel and Training: The Branch Services position was converted to an Adult Services position. The position has been filled. Our new staff member, Brittany Castro, starts in late March. One of the responsibilities of this position deals with is our need for more meaningful and more regular staff training (along with adult programming and compiling library statistics). In order to address staffing turnover issues, we have asked the county for an increase in Staffmark pay in the upcoming three-year's budgets.

5. Building and Grounds: There was some positive movement with the ADA-compliant ramp in Seneca. An ordinance to use Federal ARPA money was presented to County Council in January 2024. It passed with the third reading in February. We're still having an issue with drainage in the parking lot at the Westminster Branch, but Kyle Reid with Roads and Bridges and Jason Neal with Facilities Maintenance are looking at improving water runoff through installing drains in the parking lot and diverting runoff from the gutters.

6. Technology: We have put the lending of Mi-Fi units on long-term pause. The State Library did not move forward with a program to take the place of hotspot lending through a homework help grant during COVID-19 through Kajeet. As such, the library would have to pay for hotspots and unlimited minutes for users from library funds, which would be around \$40 per month per unit. Given the small number of people who borrowed the hotspots repeatedly, it does not seem desirable at this time to subsidize a small number of repeat users when those funds could be better utilized.

7. Friends of the Library: Used book sales have continued each Thursday from 10:00 to 3:30 p.m. The Friends had excellent sales figures in January and February.

January

Basement Sales	\$1,762
Books on the Alley	\$1,734
Lobby	259
2nd Party	0
Online	221
Cafe Sales	37
Seneca	82
Total	\$4,095

* February sales figures were not available at the time of this report.

8. Oconee County: County employees have completed the study from Evergreen Solutions for a Wage, Compensation, and Time Use. We will not know the outcome until after the budget comes out and County Council begins their deliberations on that. As noted above, in the budget for this year and the next two successive years, I have asked for an increase for the part time pay through Staffmark to be increased to \$12 per hour.

9. State Library: The Director and other members of APLA, the Association of Library Administrators in South Carolina, attended the budget hearing of the House Ways and Means subcommittee on K-12 Education in January when Leesa Aiken, State Library agency head, presented her budget there. Bill Whitmire, representative for Oconee and Pickens Counties, is the chair of that subcommittee. APLA is asking for an increase of \$ 0.25 per capita in State Aid to Public Libraries. This would mean an additional \$19,652 in State Aid for Oconee County. The Ways and Means Full Committee adopted the request, and the House of Representative passed the State Library's budget in March. It will still have to go to the Senate of South Carolina and then once those bodies have worked out any differences, it still will need the Governor's assent. The State Library is planning a South Carolina Libraries Directors Summit in March. We have applied for the 2024 Summer Reading grant from the State Library. The maximum award is \$2,000. It comes from Federal LSTA (Library Services and Technology Act) funds.

10. Community Involvement: See Kerry Leeper Brock's report for information about her ongoing work with Catholic Charities for the Clean of Heart Mobile Shower unit that is being utilized currently at Our Daily Bread in Seneca every other Wednesday. The Walhalla and Westminster Branches also hosted a USC student to take a survey about the need for increased transportation to health care.

11. Other: See Angie Clark's report about our new Bookmobile stop at the mill and store in Newry.

	Jan 2023	Jan 2024	Change	Feb 2023	Feb 2024	Change
Visits to Library	11,948	12,162	1.8%	11,381	11,892	4.5%
Material Circulation - Adult	13,412	13,013	-3.0%	11,629	12,048	3.6%
Material Circulation - Youth	793	910	14.8%	706	796	12.7%
Material Circulation - Juvenile	8,585	8,026	-6.5%	7,903	7,661	-3.1%
Total Material Circulation	22,790	21,949	-3.7%	20,238	20,505	1.3%
Internet Uses	817	651	-20.3%	847	729	-13.9%
Internet Hours of Use	384	321	-16.4%	342	361	5.6%
New Cards Issued	192	178	-7.3%	192	130	-32.3%
Programs - Adult	8	11	37.5%	8	17	112.5%
Programs Attendance - Adult	64	52	-18.8%	21	126	500.0%
Programs - Youth 12-18	3	2	-33.3%	3	1	-66.7%
Programs Att - Youth 12-18	31	1	-96.8%	20	0	-100.0%
Programs -Juvenile 6-11	11	9	-18.2%	12	9	-25.0%
Programs Att -Juv 6-11	123	95	-22.8%	713	112	-84.3%
Programs - Children 0-5	27	17	-37.0%	27	16	-40.7%
Programs - Att - Children 0-5	465	378	-18.7%	520	374	-28.1%
Outreach Activities	17	17	0.0%	21	22	4.8%
Outreach Act. Attendance	307	301	-2.0%	891	779	-12.6%
Public Training Sessions	2	4	100.0%	0	4	
Public Training Participants	1	4	300.0%	0	4	
Public Training Hours	8	0	-100.0%	0	0	
Staff Training Sessions	1	0	-100.0%	1	1	0.0%
Staff Training Participants	1	0	-100.0%	2	1	-50.0%
Staff Training Hours	3	0	-100.0%	2	75	3650.0%
Number of New Volunteers	0	0		4	4	0.0%
Number of Vol Hours	41	44	7.3%	51	71	39.2%
Meeting Room Use	56	67	19.6%	67	70	4.5%
Meeting Room Attendance	453	591	30.5%	637	606	-4.9%
Number of Web Site Hits	12,672	13,233	4.4%	12,369	11,278	-8.8%
Wi-Fi Users	245	232	-5.3%	196	184	-6.1%
Wi-Fi Sessions	1,042	987	-5.3%	983	874	-11.1%
CloudLibrary Downloads	3,648	3,675	0.7%	3,107	3,573	15.0%
Flipster Users	118	165	39.8%	103	139	35.0%
Kanopy Users	1,617	3,093	91.3%	1,188	2,696	126.9%
Ancestry.com Hits	33	78	136.4%	306	66	-78.4%
Interlibrary Loans	42	62	47.6%	25	45	80.0%
New Material Added	814	901	10.7%	818	739	-9.7%

OCPL Budget 2023-2024 3-11-2024

Account Number	Description	Budgeted	Spent	Percent	Balance
Local Budget					
010-206-30024-00000	Equip. Maintenance	2,703	2,703	100%	0
010-206-30025-00000	Professional -Staffmark	140,000	86,981	62%	53,019
010-206-30041-00000	Telecommunications	1,000		0%	1,000
010-206-30056-00000	Data Processing	29,477	29,424	100%	53
010-206-30059-00000	Copier Click Charges - Xerox	8,500	6,111	72%	2,389
010-206-30080-00000	Dues	750	750	100%	0
010-206-30084-00000	School, Training, Sem.	3,000	1,938	65%	1,062
010-206-30090-00000	Honorarium	900	900	100%	0
010-206-33022-00207	Bldg Maint - Walhalla	7,829	5,680	73%	2,149
010-206-33022-00208	Bldg Maint - Seneca	4,753	3,750	79%	1,003
010-206-33022-00209	Bldg Maint - Westminster	3,309	2,872	87%	437
010-206-33022-00210	Bldg. Maint - Salem	2,020	1,464	72%	556
010-206-34043-00207	Electricity - Walhalla	18,000	12,384	69%	5,616
010-206-34043-00208	Electricity - Seneca	12,000	8,549	71%	3,451
010-206-34043-00209	Electricity - Westminster	12,000	5,918	49%	6,082
010-206-34043-00210	Electricity - Salem	5,000	5,000	100%	0
010-206-34044-00207	Water - Walhalla	1,700	1,050	62%	650
010-206-34044-00208	Water - Seneca	2,000	1,579	79%	421
010-206-34044-00209	Water - Westminster	1,200	633	53%	567
010-206-40031-00000	Sm Capital Equip (Loc)	2,800	2,585	92%	216
010-206-40032-00000	Operational	6,000	5,897	98%	103
010-206-40032-00000-A	Youth Services	2,000	1,182	59%	818
010-206-40033-00000	Postage	500	38	8%	462
010-206-40034-00000	Food	500	271	54%	229
010-206-40101-00000	Books (Local)	85,000	54,299	64%	30,701
010-206-40102-00000	Periodicals (Local)	22,200	19,984	90%	2,216
010-206-40103-00000	AV (Local)	11,300	4,829	43%	6,471
010-206-80206-00000	Automobile Maint - Library	1,500	938	63%	562
010-206-81206-00000	Gasoline - Library	4,000	1,652	41%	2,348
010-206-82206-00000	Diesel - Library	3,000	1,580	53%	1,420
TOTAL LOCAL FUNDS		394,941	270,939	69%	124,002
MISC. FUNDS					
013-206-60010-00000	Gift's	65,592			65,592
013-080-00805-11001	Nettles Trust	67,760		0%	67,760
TOTAL MISC. FUNDS					133,351
State Aid Budget					
240-206-30056-00255	Data Processing (State)	\$13,558.61	12,697.40	94%	861.21
240-206-30080-00255	Dues (State)	\$500.00	277.00	55%	223.00
240-206-30084-00255	Schools, Training (State)	\$2,000.00	0.00	0%	2,000.00
240-206-40031-00255	Sm Capital (State)	7,065.42	2,891.07	41%	4,174.35
240-206-40032-00255	Operational (State)	\$15,000.00	10,550.34	70%	4,449.66
240-206-40045-00255	IT Equipment	\$8,500.00	4,548.92	54%	3,951.08
240-206-40111-00255	Books (State)	\$81,500.00	55,929.61	27609%	25,570.39
240-206-40112-00255	Periodicals (State)	\$32,356.00	29,858.41	92%	2,497.59
240-206-40113-00255	AV (State)	\$16,600.00	12,298.50	74%	4,301.50
Total State Aid Funds		\$177,080.03	59,424.99	34%	48,028.78

010-206-30025-00000	Thomas & Hutton Engineering	ADA Ramp - Seneca Library	Enc. \$5,454.80
---------------------	-----------------------------	---------------------------	-----------------

Bookmobile and Outreach Narrative, January/February 2024

Operations

In January, 23 regularly scheduled stops were completed. Three volunteers worked with me, along with two Walhalla staff members. I ended service for ARP Church and the Oconee County animal shelter. We were only seeing 1-2 patrons.

In February, 25 regular stops were completed. Five volunteers, two of which are new and two Walhalla staff worked with me. I ended service for The Oaks Assisted Living because we were only seeing 1 patron. I added a new stop at Newry Mill Apartments.

Outreach

Walhalla High School special education class reached out for me to come visit. I had 17 students/staff come aboard for a tour. Maddie Owens assisted. They each received an OCPL tote bag with stickers, bookmarks and a build your on bookmobile activity sheet.

Statistics

Category	Jan 2024	Feb 2024
Stops	23	26
Hours Open	21.5	25.5
Total Attendance	254	330
Outreach Stops	12	15
Outreach Visitors	144	214
New Cards	0	2
Volunteers/Hours	3/27.75	5/26.25

Community Resource Report January-February 2024

Programming

January is Human Trafficking Prevention Month, so in addition to the "Human Trafficking" program held in Walhalla on January 31, books on human trafficking were highlighted in a Community Resource display at that branch during the month of January. (See attached picture)

Leading up to the "Mindfulness: Medicine for a Busy, Stressful Life" program in Seneca on February 28, books on Mindfulness were displayed in a Community Resource display at the Walhalla branch during the month of February. (See attached picture)

<u>Program/event name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Number of participants</u>
• Blood drive (Salem)	1/8/24	Salem	9
• Yoga	1/11/24	Walhalla OCPL	5
• CPR Review	1/11/24	Seneca OCPL	5
• Blood drive (Walhalla)	1/16/24	Walhalla OCPL	10
• Dementia Caregiver Support Group	1/19/24	Seneca OCPL	10
• Blood drive (Seneca)	1/22/24	Seneca OCPL	6
• Clean of Heart Mobile Shower	1/24/24	Our Daily Bread (Seneca)	2
• Blood drive (Westminster)	1/29/24	Westminster OCPL	7
• Human Trafficking (English/Spanish)	1/31/24	Walhalla OCPL	14
• Yoga	2/8/24	Walhalla OCPL	11
• Superacion Personal/Personal Growth (Spanish only)	2/10/24	Walhalla OCPL	22
• Dementia Caregiver Support Group	2/16/24	Seneca OCPL	6
• Clean of Heart Mobile Shower	2/21/24	Our Daily Bread (Seneca)	6
• Accessing Cancer Screenings (English/Spanish)	2/21/24	Walhalla OCPL	7
• Mindfulness	2/28/24	Seneca OCPL	10

Two "SC Bar Association Law Talks" requested for February (Landlord Tenant Law in Seneca and Consumer Law, Debt Protection in Walhalla) were unable to be accommodated by the South Carolina Bar Association.

One Mobile Clean of Heart Shower event (2/7/24) was cancelled due to issues with moving the mobile shower unit.

Assistance to Individuals/Families

The Community Resource Associate and Community Resource Assistant/Spanish interpreter assisted 11 individuals/families in January and 14 individuals/families in February. (We assisted one family on numerous occasions during this period.)

Other Community Resource Activities/Collaborations

The Community Resource Associate and/or Community Resource Assistant attended/participated in the following in January and February:

- Healthy Oconee Coalition meeting

- South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault collaboration
- Cultural Outreach Committee, Cinco de Mayo planning meeting
- Mobile Clean of Heart planning/logistics meetings with Catholic Charities & Our Daily Bread
- OCPL Youth Services "Sit, Stay, Read" program at OCPL (Community Resource Assistant + her therapy dog)

Mindfulness

Madeline Horvath, M.Ed.
Bismarck, ND

Do you sometimes feel stressed, overwhelmed, or just "too busy" to take care of yourself? Mindfulness is a practice that can help you manage stress, improve your focus, and live more fully in the present moment. Mindfulness is a practice that can help you manage stress, improve your focus, and live more fully in the present moment.

February 28th at 4:30 PM
Bismarck Library

Scan this QR code to access library or events



Yoga Class

Calm your mind and body with yoga! This class is designed for people with any level of ability. Yoga is a practice that can help you manage stress, improve your focus, and live more fully in the present moment.

Free Knowledge of every month
11 AM @ Washburn Library

Scan this QR code to access library or events




17-408-B



♀ HUMAN TRAFFICKING



January 31 @ 4:30 PM
Waiwala Library

en español y en español con subtítulos
Free, open to all people. A program designed to raise awareness and educate the community about human trafficking. Free and open to all people. A program designed to raise awareness and educate the community about human trafficking. Free and open to all people. A program designed to raise awareness and educate the community about human trafficking.

Support provided by:
Waiwala Library & Friends




LA TRATA DE PERSONAS



miércoles, 31 de enero a las 6:30 pm
Biblioteca de Waiwala

en español y en español con subtítulos
Free, open to all people. A program designed to raise awareness and educate the community about human trafficking. Free and open to all people. A program designed to raise awareness and educate the community about human trafficking. Free and open to all people. A program designed to raise awareness and educate the community about human trafficking.

Support provided by:
Waiwala Library & Friends





17.40B.2

Salem Library
Jan/Feb 2024
Kayla Rucker
Branch Manager

Programming, Operations, Staff Development, etc...

- ❖ In the months of January/February, the Salem branch hosted ten programs.
- ❖ January's STEM club program saw the most attendance yet with nine children/adults. Children attending the program were able to take a mini wooden robot that they constructed home. February's session brought in eight children/adults.
- ❖ Page Turners, Salem's monthly virtual book club, had 2 attendees in January. The title discussed was Ginny Moon by Benjamin Ludwig. February's meeting had 3 attendees. The title discussed was The One Hundred Years of Lenni and Margot by Marianne Cronin.
- ❖ Salem hosted a seasonal Family BINGO Time on January 29th with thirteen total in attendance.
- ❖ Another monthly program, Kid Craftin', had three children/adults in attendance for January. January's craft was melted snowmen art, which was made using shaving cream, flour, and a canvas. February's Kid Craftin' provided a sand art necklace craft for Valentine's Day. Seven children/adults attended the program.
- ❖ February's LEGO Club (Elementary session) was the biggest success yet. 14 children/adults were in attendance.
- ❖ Our bimonthly program, Coffee and Crafts, had 7 adults in attendance. For this session, attendees made conversation heart wooden coaster sets for Valentine's Day.
- ❖ On February 1st, the student outreach services at Clemson University inquired about a community survey. Two senior nursing students interviewed the branch manager regarding how the library meets the community needs of Salem.
- ❖ In January, twelve craft kits (winter owl magnets) were given out. In February, the Salem branch distributed twelve Valentine's Day craft kits.

Building Maintenance

- ❖ On January 17th, we were informed that our security alarm had a low battery. Carolina Burglar and Fire Alarm promptly sent a technician the next day to replace the battery.

- ❖ On February 20th, our internet switchbox had to be replaced by IT. Internet was down for the last half of the day. It was back up the next morning. We will also be receiving a new back-up battery in the next few weeks.

Resource Allocation

- ❖ In January, the Salem staff focused on weeding the Easy collection. A box of these weeded items were given to Baby Reads. The Adult Fiction collection was weeded and sent to the FOTL.
- ❖ On February 28th, Kayla, Kasey, and Janet Prisk, chair of the Cliffs Residents Outreach, met to discuss Summer Reading 2024 plans. For the past two years, the CRO has graciously donated funds and provided volunteers for multiple Summer Reading programs for the Salem branch. An event/budget proposal for Salem was submitted to Janet on February 29th.

Stats	Jan	Feb
Visits	1643	1602
New Cards	20	7
ILLs	2	4

LEGO CLUB: ELEMENTARY SESSION FEBRUARY 2024



COFFEE AND CRAFTS: CONVERSATION HEART COASTERS SALEM LIBRARY




Narrative

Upcoming Digitization Project:

I have taken a break from digitizing the OCPL Scrapbooks, and have focused on an upcoming project with the Oconee History Museum. Together we accessed several local history books for digitization. These books are no longer in print and there is continued public interest in these specific books. I have obtained signed copyright permission from the selected authors, and I will begin the digitization process in April. During the OCPL Scrapbook digitization, I was able to work with Clemson University, and this partnership has now transitioned over to the University of South Carolina. When this project is completed, the digitized books will be available on the South Carolina Digital Library. At this time, I have not determined an official end date. After completing this priority project, I will resume digitizing the OCPL Scrapbooks.

Genealogy Basics: African-American Genealogy:

I have resumed the Genealogy Basics Class Series. This year I developed a new class that pertains to African-American Genealogy. In essence, African-American Genealogy contains multiple roadblocks that impede using traditional genealogy resources. This class discusses the roadblocks, why they exist, and possible ways to overcome these challenges. The first class was on Tuesday, February 6th and part of it aired on a Fox Carolina news broadcast. I did not contact Fox Carolina; instead, they contacted us and I agreed, with approval from the Library Director, to be interviewed. This broadcast has enabled one patron to share the legacy of her Great-Grandmother, who served as a midwife in Oconee County.




GENEALOGY BASICS


AFRICAN-AMERICAN GENEALOGY

Tuesday, February 6th @ 3:00 PM
Walhalla Library

African-American Genealogy has its own set of roadblocks due to various historical events. Before giving up on your research, come and learn about several strategies as well as possible resources to overcome a roadblock. There will also be a timeline of historical events to help guide one through African-American History at this free event.
Ages 18 and older



Scan this code to register or visit oconeeibrary.org/events



Outreach:

I am still taking advantage of opportunities to provide outreach within the community. However, I did not expect my first foray into community outreach would be through a Fox Carolina broadcast. The only statistics I have for that day are the patrons that attended the Genealogy Basics African-American Genealogy class, but I have been informed people in the community saw the broadcast.

On Tuesday, February 20th I gave a presentation to the Lilly McIlhane Bowen Chapter of the National Society of the Daughter of the American Revolution. This presentation covered the resources in the Rogers Memorial Room, current projects, and a discussion on the importance of adding Women's History into the genealogy/local history collection. This organization provided an unexpected donation, and I used these funds to purchase several books for the Rogers Memorial Room.



The most unexpected presentation occurred on Wednesday, February 28th at Seneca High School. Jennifer Moss, Interim Director of the Oconee History Museum, was invited to speak at the First Annual Seneca High Black History Month Program. She in turn invited me to attend. Although, I had trouble with my presentation slides I was still able to deliver a short presentation on the Ann Rogers' Cemetery and Newspaper Indexes and discuss the life of Mrs. Endy Williams. She was a former slave that was born in the 1830s and died in Easley, SC in the 1940s. Mrs. Williams' life shows how personal stories are overlooked, but through concerted effort, her legacy shall live on.

Rogers Room Statistics:

I have added SC Room Presentations and SC Room Presentation Attendance to my statistics. Beginning with the March/April report, I will discontinue adding the ScanPro statistics. This is due to the unchanged status of the machines.

Statistics Recorded	Jan. 2023	Jan. 2024	Feb. 2023	Feb. 2024
Walk-In	17	11	9	6
Phone Call	3	8	4	3
Mail	-	0	-	1
Email/Online	1	3	1	4
Books	15	20	1	44
Microfilm	6	3	15	4
Map	1	3	0	5
SC Room Presentations	-	-	-	7
SC Room Presentation Attendance	-	-	-	337
ScanPro 3000 Scan Count	4	-	91	-
ScanPro 3000 Printer Count	10	-	101	-
ScanPro 3500 Scan Count	6	-	37	-
ScanPro 3500 Printer Count	4	-	48	-
Questions Completed	22	19	13	14
Outstanding Questions	3	0	3	0
Volunteer Hours	-	28	-	27.25

Facilities:

- Carolina Burglar and Fire replaced the battery and bypassed the connection to a now-disconnected phone number. This was not done at the time. The technician also cleaned the motion detectors.
- I read in the newspaper that the county council approved a ramp for the building. It is now good to go and Procurement will ask for bids.
- The thermostats were repaired as the transformer wires were old and causing the trouble we had been having.

Operations:

Our next painting class and trivia program will be in April. Everyone enjoyed the winter ones.

Bingo remains our most popular program and February's event was well attended. I took January off due to short staffing.

We continue to order items and weed books systematically in line with industry best practices. The staff is working hard to keep the shelves maintained.

Groups using the meeting room include the dementia caregiver support group, our mindfulness class, multiple HOA boards, Mentor Oconee, Oconee Writers Association, America's Boating Club, Baby Read, the Guardian ad Litem program, and others. The study rooms remain popular, especially with tutors and Baby Read sessions.

Staffing: We hired a new full time employee in February. We are currently at full staff. I appreciate myself and the other employees taking on more Saturdays and closing days and desk shifts during periods of illness and short staffing.

Statistics	Jan 2024	Feb 2024
Visits to library	4,931	4,715
New Cards Issued	100	64

Walhalla Library

January – February 2024

Tucker Brown, Circulation Manager

Programming & Events:

January and February saw Walhalla Library become the host of multiple adult programs for the community thanks to both Quientell Walker, our local history associate, and Kerry Leeper-Brock, our community resource associate.

Quientell hosted three separate genealogy programs in February at Walhalla that brought close to thirty individuals into the library. Kerry had First Light SC present a program on human trafficking for both English and Spanish speakers that ended up having 15 total people attend. Along with this, our translator Amy Saylor has started having a monthly yoga class at the library. Interest has been high for a regular class at Walhalla since last September when Amy taught a yoga class at each of the branches.

Lastly, one of our circulation staff at Walhalla hosted her own presentation for the Spanish community in February. Imelda Lomeli has been helping the library as a part of the cultural outreach committee for years now and was brought in as a circulation assistant last year. In February, Imelda made a presentation about personal growth and self-improvement in Spanish to the community and had twenty people attend.

Meeting Room:

January – Oconee 250 Committee, BabyRead, Oak Stone HOA

February – Friends of the Library Board, Riverstone HOA, Guardian ad Litem, BabyRead, Tamassee DAR, Tri-County Home Educators, Foothills Care Center

Study Room:

January – 28 uses

February – 36 uses

Facilities:

In late February, one of the employee restrooms developed a leak around the coupling on the toilet. Along with this, the floor drain had developed a strong odor. Facilities has contacted and by the next day had come by to change out the defective parts on the toilet as well as look at the drain issue. Apparently, the drain trap had dried out allowing odors to back flow into the restroom. As a quick fix, the technician from facilities added water to stop the issue and stated if the problem persisted, we may have to replace the flaps that stop the drying of the trap itself.

Statistics:

Category	January 2024	February 2024
Visitors	3561	3565
New Cards Issued	38	37
ILL	50	16
Hours Open	205	196

Westminster Report for January and February 2024

Community, Staff, and Programming

- January was all about snow at the Westminster Branch. The library hosted an indoor snowball fight with 20 adults and children. They had a great time playing around the library (after hours) throwing fake snowballs at each other. It will be repeated in February.
- The library also hosted an all ages snowflake coloring contest. We had 12 total participants and gave grand prizes to the best out of the teens, children, and pre-school ages. The snowflakes were on display at the library through February 9th and everyone who participated received a prize. Our youngest winner, Emmerson, returned to the library with her grandparents to show off her work! This is exactly the kind of interactions we like to see when doing something like this.
- Tiffany pulled some great books to be included with the display that focused on snow and snowflakes.
- Through our Community Resource Associate, Kerry, the library hosted a blood drive in January. We had seven total able to give and one attempt.
- Social media has allowed great ways to connect with other library staff and share resources and programs. One of these programs is to host scavenger hunts in the library. We have kind of done this before with a Big Foot Scavenger Hunt many years ago, but had never thought about doing anything else. For February, we decided to do a Love Your Library Scavenger Hunt where participants of all ages could search through the library for hidden hearts. Each heart had a number and letter on it that corresponded with a riddle. They had to find the answer to, "What did one book say to the other?" The answer, "I've been checking you out." We have had great success with this and will be repeating it through the year as a great way to engage users and offer a program that involves little preparation and flexibility. We had 46 participants.
- Our February snowball fight did not have quite the turnout as our January event with only 10 in attendance.
- We had five attendees for the Book Journaling for Beginners program held in February.
- Quientell presented Genealogy Basics and had 3 people attend.
- We have welcomed a new volunteer named Cindy. She is working on volunteer hours for her Master Gardener class. She will be helping us out with packaging seed envelopes for the BBW Seed Library. So far she has spent 26 hours packaging seeds for us.

Building Management

- The fire marshal came and did our yearly inspection on February 9. We had two issues with the batteries in the exit signs. Maintenance was contacted and they promptly replace the batteries.

Resource Allocation

- Due to the popularity of the Reminisce Kits at Seneca with the Dementia Support Group, half of the collection has been moved from the Westminster Library and will have a permanent spot at the Seneca Library. These items are still able to be requested to pick up at any location.
- The original memorial funds have been depleted which is amazing that they lasted for three years. This year we have used some of Westminster's Friends "Wish List" money and gift funds Westminster receives from Schneider Electric's employee program. We were lucky to receive many seed donations for this year and have only had to purchase a few seeds, mostly flowers (which are extremely popular). The biggest cost are the envelopes that are purchased to package the seeds in. A few more displays were purchased which have come in handy since we have even more seeds to offer this year.

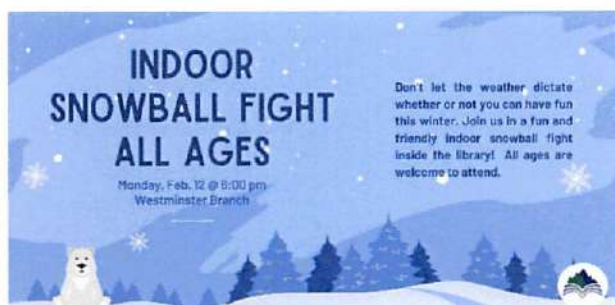
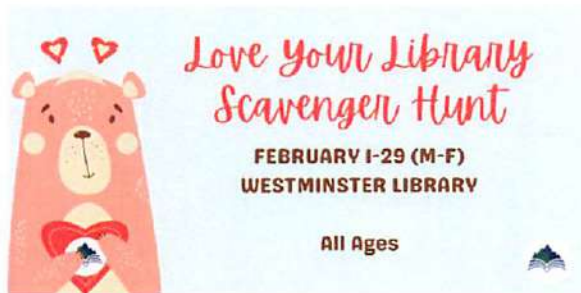
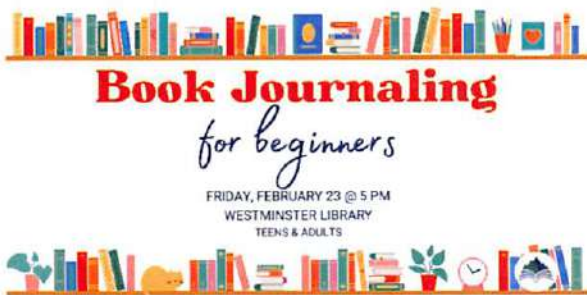
Westminster staff Tiffany, Megan, and Patsy have done an AMAZING job of sorting, counting, cutting labels, and packaging all of the seeds that will be available this spring. They packaged over 8,000 packs! Over 1,700 of these packs have been delivered to the Oconee History Museum. All other library locations have pop-up libraries scheduled in March and April. We are excited to see what this new year holds for the Betty. B. Watkins Seed Library. The new season launches March 1.

Use Statistics

BBW Seed Library

Year	Total Packs Taken
2021	2,000
2022	4,212
2023	4,772

Branch Statistics	January	February
Door Count	1773	1680
Meeting Room Use- Library Programs	7/35	10/53
Meeting Room Use- outside groups	16/86	10/54
New Users	20	20



Updates to the Children's and Teen's areas of the Walhalla Branch

Our physical spaces for children and teens at the Walhalla Branch were in need of some updating. I know Darcy had begun that process but wasn't able to finish before her time with OCPL was up. The Children's area was in need of new tables and seating, as well as more storage for our board book collection. Taking inspiration from the landscape of Oconee County, we purchased furniture with a woodland theme resembling logs and other outdoor features. We also added vinyl tree decals to the walls to continue the theme. I encourage you to stop by the library to see the updates for yourself, but I have also added some photos below.

The Teen area also got a facelift. A great desk area had been installed in the Teen alcove, so we added a sign, shelf, desk lamps, and some decorations to help make the area cozier for teens as they use the space for homework, studying, reading, etc. I have also added some photos of the teen area below. Keep in mind that this area especially is still a work in progress, and we hope to add some art supplies, card games, and more ways for teens to express their creativity and ownership of the space.

Summer Reading 2024

It seems like summer is still a long way away, but in the library world we're always thinking about and planning for summer reading. The Youth Services staff is very busy planning for this year's summer reading, featuring the tagline, "Adventure Begins at Your Library," and highlighting pirate-themed materials. Like in previous years, participants will be required to read 600 minutes to complete the program and will be rewarded with prizes like Greenville Drive tickets, free food vouchers, medals, and more! I have added a mock-up of this year's postcard to this report so you can see what this year's materials will look like.

We will also be hosting performances again at the Walhalla Performing Arts Center. This year our performers will be the Critter Keeper and Science Heroes. We have also been in discussions with the Blue Ridge Community Center in Seneca to host two additional performances at their location and hope to have that finalized soon. We will also be continuing with programs throughout the summer featuring the Summer Reading Kick-Off event at High Falls, the End of Summer Bash at South Cove, escape rooms, crafts, and much more!

Programs

After taking November and December to settle into our new roles, Shannon and I jumped into more regular programming in January and February. We continued doing Storytime at Walhalla and Seneca and added back our Storytime in Westminster every Wednesday morning. We were also able to add back Explorer's Club every month at Walhalla and Seneca, where participants take part in a STEM learning challenge; January's program featured an Arctic Adventure where kids learned about the polar ice caps, the effects of global warming, and how arctic animals stay warm. In February, we celebrated Heart Health Month by learning about the structures of the human heart, what a heart rate is and how to take it, and how blood pressure works. In our Homeschool Hangout program that happens each month at Walhalla, we featured a guided painting class and embroidery for beginners.

We also had tons of fun at our monthly LEGO Clubs at Walhalla and Seneca, as well as our Sensory Bin playtime at Walhalla.

The Youth Services department has also been doing programs for Teens and Tweens again, but we're having some trouble getting the word out to local teens. Our attendance has been very low. Teens are a historically difficult group to reach for libraries, but we're hoping continuity and excitement over summer reading will help bring more teens and tweens into the library and to programs.

Community Outreach

The Youth Services department has continued with our outreach to local Childcare facilities including: Tamasee DAR, Trinity Baptist Preschool, Golden Corner Preschool, and The Learning Center at Open Door Baptist Church. We also attend the Bookmobile's visit to Golden Corner Preschool two times a month to assist.

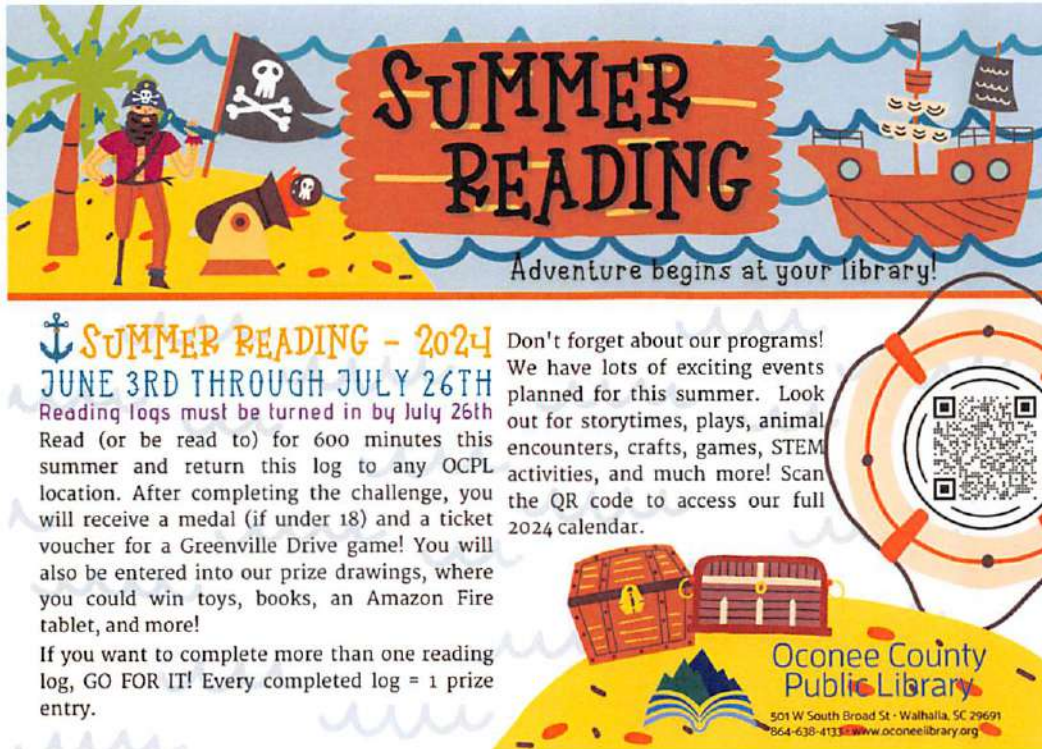
I am also excited to have been offered more opportunities to visit local school and get to know the students, teachers, and families. In February, I was able to attend Ravenel Elementary School's Family Literacy Night, where I introduced myself and shared OCPL's many resources for students and families. I will also be attending a training for the school district's Media Specialists in April to provide a training for them on Summer Reading and the library's resources.

Program Attendance

LEGO Club	42
Storytime	508
Sensory Playtime	39
Sit, Stay, Read	18
Explorers Club	39
Homeschool Hangout	49
Outreach	422

Summer Reading Postcard

Front



SUMMER READING

Adventure begins at your library!

SUMMER READING - 2024
JUNE 3RD THROUGH JULY 26TH





Reading logs must be turned in by July 26th

Read (or be read to) for 600 minutes this summer and return this log to any OCPL location. After completing the challenge, you will receive a medal (if under 18) and a ticket voucher for a Greenville Drive game! You will also be entered into our prize drawings, where you could win toys, books, an Amazon Fire tablet, and more!

If you want to complete more than one reading log, GO FOR IT! Every completed log = 1 prize entry.

Don't forget about our programs! We have lots of exciting events planned for this summer. Look out for storytimes, plays, animal encounters, crafts, games, STEM activities, and much more! Scan the QR code to access our full 2024 calendar.

Oconee County Public Library
501 W South Broad St - Walhalla, SC 29691
864-638-4133 www.oconeeibrary.org



Back



TREASURE MAP

HOW IT WORKS

Read (or be read to) for 600 minutes. Each badge is worth 60 minutes. Color in each stop on the map as you read. When completed, return this card to any OCPL location to receive a medal (under 18 only) and a Greenville Drive ticket voucher.

REMEMBER: Every completed reading log = one grand prize entry! How many logs can you complete?

SCAN ME to log online at **Beanstack!**

EACH STOP ON THE MAP = 60 MINUTES OF READING!

Name _____

Under 18 (age _____) 18 or over

Email _____

Phone # _____



Children's Area



Teen Area

