

OCPL Director's Report

May 2024

1. Programs and Services: Programs were well attended in March and April. Youth programs included a robotics-enhanced Lego program, Solar Eclipse viewing party, a special Ballerina Story Time, and the ever-popular Sensory Bins. See Youth Services report for more detail. Adult programs included a self-defense workshop and a program with First Light about the impact of sexual assault on the community. The library also sent pop-up seed libraries around to other branches. So far, 3,647 packs of seeds have been distributed, and another 1,702 packs were taken to be given out at Oconee Memorial Hospital. The Walhalla Library also assisted with scheduling appointments for a visit of the Raleigh office of the Mexican Consulate. The library was able to assist people with securing the needed documents (like birth certificates) for them to gain an appointment with the pop-up consulate visit so that they could get passports or matrícula consular (valid ID cards).

2. Usage Statistics and Narratives: Usage statistics for March and April 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: Adult Services Librarian Brittany Castro started with the library on March 25. The library held the spring staff training day on Good Friday, March 29. Amy Saylor and Imelda Lomeli conducted a great session about useful Spanish phrases for library customer service. All County and Staffmark employees have also attended mandatory training on sexual harassment conducted by the County.

5. Building and Grounds: County procurement is still working on all required specs and items needed for the bid process for the Seneca ADA ramp project. We are still looking into the drainage at the Westminster Branch parking lot as well.

6. Technology: We are on track for the library to be isolated on its own server, and that would alleviate many of the security concerns with USB drives, downloading documents to print, and so on. We are also exploring air print capability in our existing print management.

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 March*.

March

| | |
|--------------------|---------|
| Basement Sales | \$1,770 |
| Books on the Alley | \$1,656 |
| Lobby | 290 |
| Online | 280 |

| | |
|------------|--------|
| Cafe Sales | 56 |
| 2nd Party | 47 |
| | |
| Total | \$4099 |

*April was not yet available

8. Oconee County: The budget for the county has not been released. We don't yet know what impact the Evergreen Wage, Classification, and Time Use Study will have on the budget or on wages/salaries. The County did conduct mandatory training on harassment for all staff in April.

9. State Library: The House of Representatives did pass a version of the budget for FY25 with a \$0.25 increase in per capita State Aid. The State Senate also passed it, but added an amendment to the proviso that we are hoping to have removed. The State Library has been offering Gale Analytics, and we have begun looking at what kind of data it will give us. Sadly, Gale has discontinued it after March of next year (2025).

10. Community Involvement: See Kerry Leeper Brock's report for more news about working with community members on the Mexican Consulate's visit. Kerry and Amy Saylor are also continuing to help with the Clean of Heart Mobile showers every other Wednesday at Our Daily Bread in Seneca. We are also working with the City of Seneca and the City of Clemson (as well as the University) on the Black Heritage Trail project. We also continue to partner with Healthy Oconee Coalition.

11. Other: Now that we have a full staff, we are hoping to start working more diligently on improving staff training and also on our Library of Things.

| | Mar 2023 | Mar 2024 | Change | Apr 2023 | Apr 2024 | Change |
|---------------------------------|----------|----------|---------|----------|----------|---------|
| Visits to Library | 13,031 | 11,534 | -11.5% | 11,154 | 12,757 | 14.4% |
| Material Circulation - Adult | 12,732 | 11,210 | -12.0% | 11,563 | 12,279 | 6.2% |
| Material Circulation - Youth | 819 | 870 | 6.2% | 734 | 958 | 30.5% |
| Material Circulation - Juvenile | 9,546 | 7,631 | -20.1% | 8,083 | 8,350 | 3.3% |
| Total Material Circulation | 23,097 | 19,711 | -14.7% | 20,380 | 21,587 | 5.9% |
| | | | | | | |
| Internet Uses | 895 | 742 | -17.1% | 755 | 780 | 3.3% |
| Internet Hours of Use | 411 | 356 | -13.4% | 335 | 379 | 13.1% |
| New Cards Issued | 171 | 175 | 2.3% | 174 | 148 | -14.9% |
| | | | | | | |
| Programs - Adult | 11 | 8 | -27.3% | 16 | 14 | -12.5% |
| Programs Attendance - Adult | 85 | 71 | -16.5% | 96 | 62 | -35.4% |
| Programs - Youth 12-18 | 1 | 3 | 200.0% | 1 | 1 | 0.0% |
| Programs Att - Youth 12-18 | 9 | 1 | -88.9% | 3 | 0 | -100.0% |
| Programs - Juvenile 6-11 | 10 | 10 | 0.0% | 9 | 11 | 22.2% |
| Programs Att -Juv 6-11 | 206 | 119 | -42.2% | 683 | 105 | -84.6% |
| Programs - Children 0-5 | 30 | 13 | -56.7% | 28 | 14 | -50.0% |
| Programs - Att - Children 0-5 | 639 | 285 | -55.4% | 567 | 222 | -60.8% |
| | | | | | | |
| Outreach Activities | 18 | 20 | 11.1% | 24 | 24 | 0.0% |
| Outreach Act. Attendance | 429 | 574 | 33.8% | 978 | 938 | -4.1% |
| Public Training Sessions | 0 | 4 | | 0 | 5 | |
| Public Training Participants | 0 | 4 | | 0 | 26 | |
| Public Training Hours | 0 | 4 | | 0 | 5 | |
| Staff Training Sessions | 7 | 3 | -57.1% | 5 | 15 | 200.0% |
| Staff Training Participants | 7 | 24 | 242.9% | 10 | 41 | 310.0% |
| Staff Training Hours | 7 | 173 | 2371.4% | 59 | 91 | 54.2% |
| Number of New Volunteers | 0 | 0 | | 0 | 0 | |
| Number of Vol Hours | 44 | 77 | 75.0% | 38 | 63 | 64.5% |
| Meeting Room Use | 87 | 70 | -19.5% | 74 | 67 | -9.5% |
| Meeting Room Attendance | 1,038 | 738 | -28.9% | 869 | 681 | -21.6% |
| | | | | | | |
| Number of Web Site Hits | 10,696 | 10,426 | -2.5% | 10,496 | 10,810 | 3.0% |
| Wi-Fi Users | 108 | 115 | 6.5% | 110 | 125 | 13.6% |
| Wi-Fi Sessions | 658 | 792 | 20.4% | 697 | 821 | 17.8% |
| CloudLibrary Downloads | 2,936 | 3,770 | 28.4% | 3,094 | 3,541 | 14.4% |
| Flipster Users | 147 | 159 | 8.2% | 129 | 133 | 3.1% |
| Kanopy Users | 1,845 | 2,031 | 10.1% | 1,147 | 1,553 | 35.4% |
| Ancestry.com Hits | 433 | 175 | -59.6% | 350 | 27 | -92.3% |
| Interlibrary Loans | 19 | 40 | 110.5% | 22 | 39 | 77.3% |
| New Material Added | 1,166 | 1,119 | -4.0% | 1,152 | 1,084 | -5.9% |

OCPL Budget 2023-2024 - 5-1-2024

| Account Number | Description | Budgeted | Spent | Percent | Balance |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------|------------------|
| Local Budget | | | | | |
| 010-206-30018-00000 | Travel | 480 | 306.86 | 64% | 173 |
| 010-206-30024-00000 | Equip. Maintenance | 2,703 | 2,703 | 100% | 0 |
| 010-206-30025-00000 | Professional -Staffmark | 140,000 | 106,299 | 76% | 33,701 |
| 010-206-30041-00000 | Telecommunications | 1,000 | | 0% | 1,000 |
| 010-206-30056-00000 | Data Processing | 29,477 | 29,464 | 100% | 13 |
| 010-206-30059-00000 | Copier Click Charges - Xerox | 8,500 | 7,760 | 91% | 740 |
| 010-206-30080-00000 | Dues | 750 | 750 | 100% | 0 |
| 010-206-30084-00000 | School, Training, Sem. | 2,520 | 1,953 | 77% | 567 |
| 010-206-30090-00000 | Honorarium | 900 | 900 | 100% | 0 |
| 010-206-33022-00207 | Bldg Maint - Walhalla | 7,829 | 7,654 | 98% | 175 |
| 010-206-33022-00208 | Bldg Maint - Seneca | 4,753 | 3,875 | 82% | 878 |
| 010-206-33022-00209 | Bldg Maint - Westminster | 3,309 | 3,078 | 93% | 231 |
| 010-206-33022-00210 | Bldg. Maint - Salem | 2,020 | 1,464 | 72% | 556 |
| 010-206-34043-00207 | Electricity - Walhalla | 18,000 | 13,506 | 75% | 4,494 |
| 010-206-34043-00208 | Electricity - Seneca | 12,000 | 10,132 | 84% | 1,868 |
| 010-206-34043-00209 | Electricity - Westminster | 12,000 | 6,622 | 55% | 5,378 |
| 010-206-34043-00210 | Electricity - Salem | 5,000 | 5,000 | 100% | 0 |
| 010-206-34044-00207 | Water - Walhalla | 1,700 | 1,340 | 79% | 360 |
| 010-206-34044-00208 | Water - Seneca | 2,000 | 1,908 | 95% | 92 |
| 010-206-34044-00209 | Water - Westminster | 1,200 | 715 | 60% | 485 |
| 010-206-40031-00000 | Sm Capital Equip (Loc) | 2,800 | 2,712 | 97% | 88 |
| 010-206-40032-00000 | Operational | 6,000 | 5,948 | 99% | 52 |
| 010-206-40032-00000-A | Youth Services | 2,000 | 1,691 | 85% | 310 |
| 010-206-40033-00000 | Postage | 500 | 105 | 21% | 395 |
| 010-206-40034-00000 | Food | 500 | 500 | 100% | 0 |
| 010-206-40101-00000 | Books (Local) | 85,000 | 68,887 | 81% | 16,113 |
| 010-206-40102-00000 | Periodicals (Local) | 22,200 | 22,089 | 100% | 111 |
| 010-206-40103-00000 | AV (Local) | 11,300 | 5,890 | 52% | 5,410 |
| 010-206-80206-00000 | Automobile Maint - Library | 1,500 | 938 | 63% | 562 |
| 010-206-81206-00000 | Gasoline - Library | 4,000 | 2,071 | 52% | 1,929 |
| 010-206-82206-00000 | Diesel - Library | 3,000 | 1,898 | 63% | 1,102 |
| TOTAL LOCAL FUNDS | | 394,461 | 317,850 | 81% | 76,611 |
| MISC. FUNDS | | | | | |
| 013-206-60010-00000 | Gift's | 66,407 | | | 66,707 |
| 013-080-00805-11001 | Nettles Trust | 67,760 | | 0% | 67,760 |
| TOTAL MISC. FUNDS | | | | | 134,466 |
| State Aid Budget | | | | | |
| 240-206-30056-00255 | Data Processing (State) | \$13,558.61 | 13,328.23 | 98% | 230.38 |
| 240-206-30080-00255 | Dues (State) | \$885.00 | 885.00 | 100% | 0.00 |
| 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 | 3,354.63 | 47% | 3,710.79 |
| 240-206-40032-00255 | Operational (State) | \$14,615.00 | 13,460.12 | 92% | 1,154.88 |
| 240-206-40045-00255 | IT Equipment | \$8,500.00 | 6,053.22 | 71% | 2,446.78 |
| 240-206-40111-00255 | Books (State) | \$81,500.00 | 70,380.33 | 27609% | 11,119.67 |
| 240-206-40112-00255 | Periodicals (State) | \$32,356.00 | 31,858.41 | 98% | 497.59 |
| 240-206-40113-00255 | AV (State) | \$16,600.00 | 15,259.17 | 92% | 1,340.83 |
| Total State Aid Funds | | \$177,080.03 | 59,424.99 | 34% | 22,500.92 |
| 010-206-30025-00000 | Thomas & Hutton Engineering | | ADA Ramp - Seneca Library | | Enc. \$5,454.80 |

Bookmobile and Outreach Narrative, March/April 2024

Operations

In March, 19 regularly scheduled stops were completed, along with 2 special outreach programs. Five volunteers worked with me, along with two Walhalla staff members.

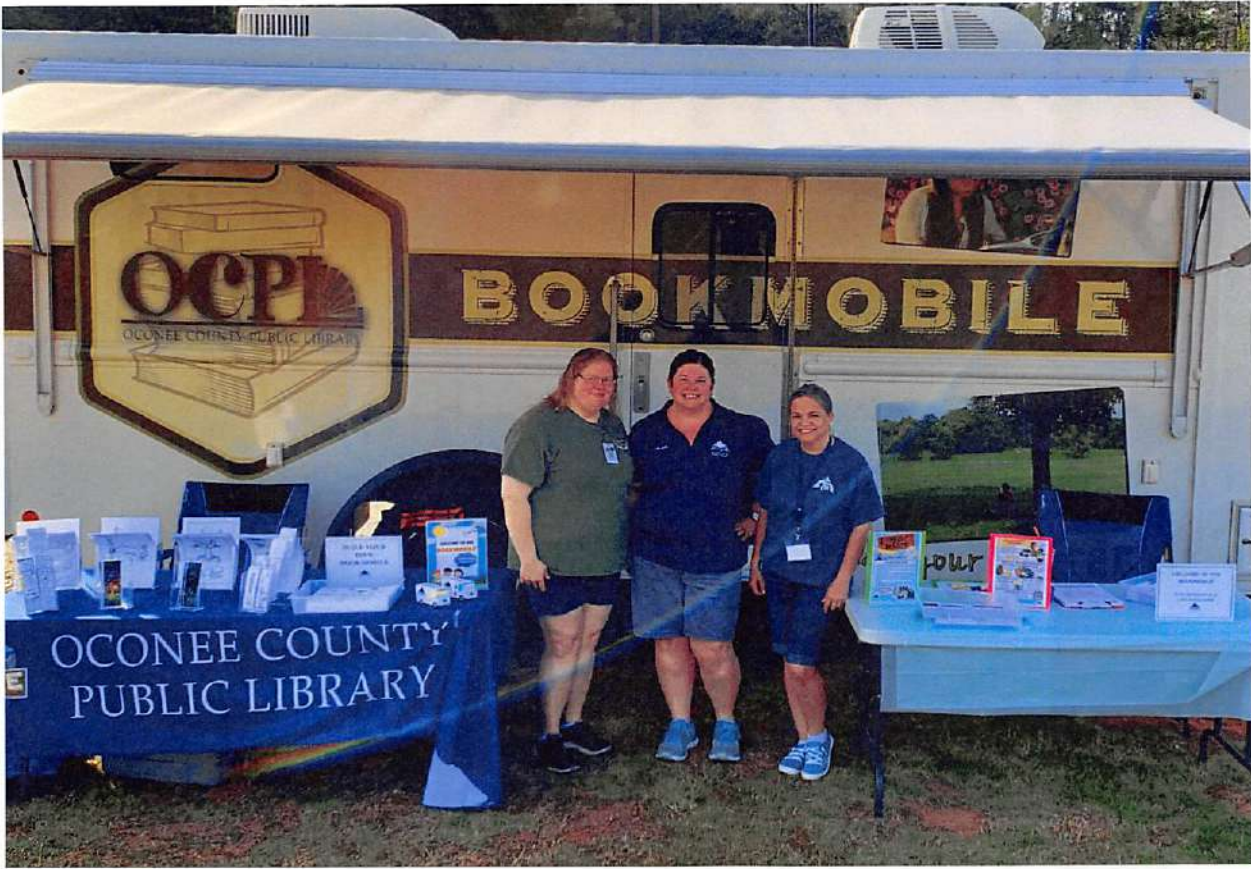
In April, 25 regular stops were completed, along with 1 special outreach program. Five volunteers, two Walhalla staff and one Seneca staff worked with me. I restarted service for Oaks Senior Living at their request. This was once an inside stop but now patrons have to come out to the bookmobile. I had my last visit at Golden Comer Preschool until the new 2024/2025 school year starts back up in August 2024.

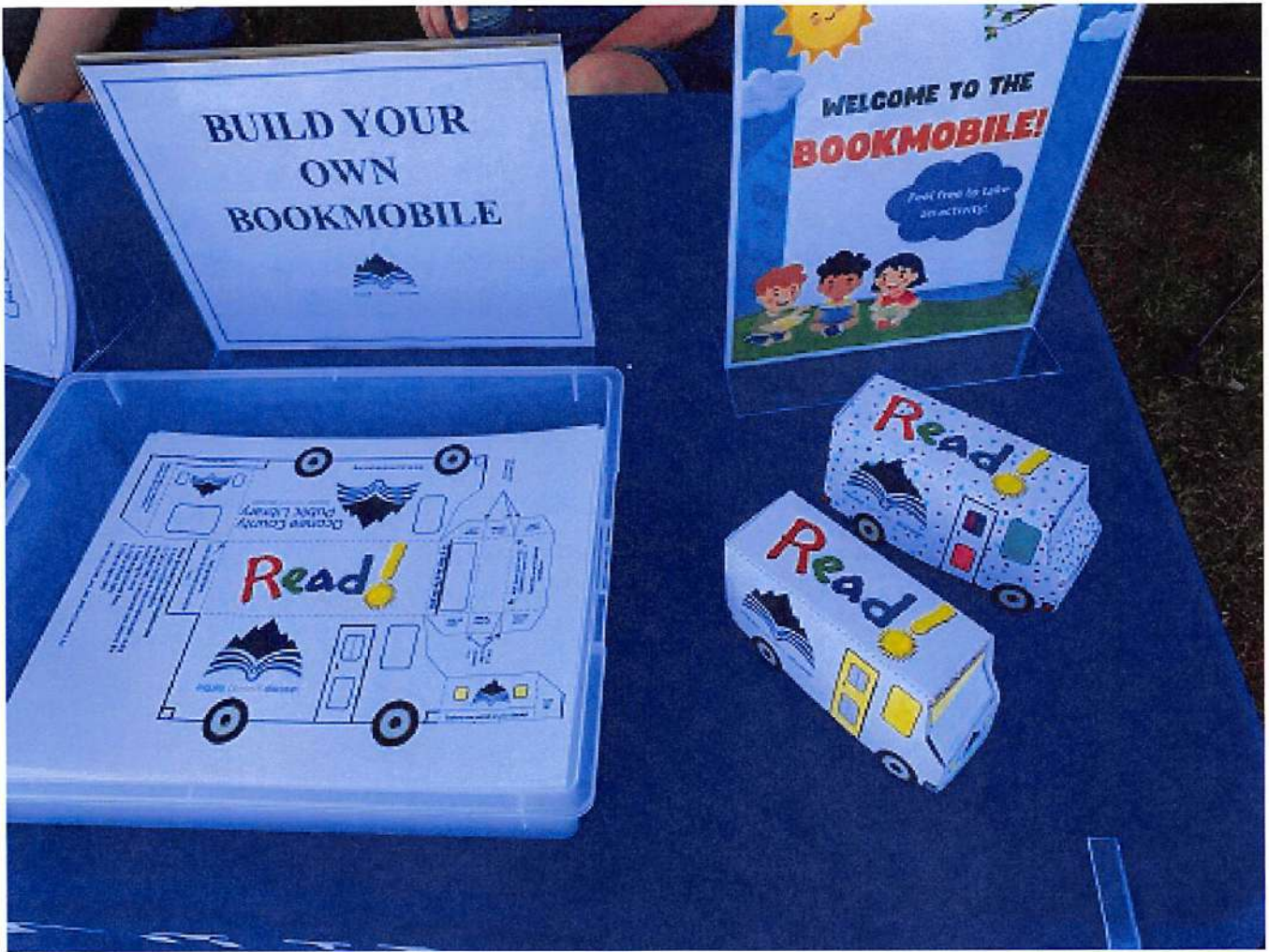
Special Outreach

1. Northside Elementary Literacy night- Maddie Owens and Kasey Swords assisted. I signed up 9 new cards and had a total of 48 come on the bookmobile. We gave out bookmarks and coloring sheets.
2. YMCA- Spring Break Kids Camp-Kasey Swords did story time. We had 30 in attendance which got to tour the bookmobile. I gave out goodie bags that had coloring sheets, bookmarks, stickers and a keychain pop-it.
3. YMCA Healthy Kids Fest- This was my biggest event since taking over as bookmobile manager. We had a great time and I got to talk to a lot of people about summer reading. Terri Varady, one of my volunteers and Susan Dillard from the Seneca branch assisted me. We had a total of 220 people come by our table. 85% of those toured the bookmobile. Terri was a big help, assisting patrons on the bookmobile. She is a regular bookmobile volunteer and does a great job. Susan and I handed out information on summer reading, bookmarks, coloring sheets and a build your own bookmobile sheet which was a big hit. (See pics below)

Statistics

| Category | March 2024 | April 2024 |
|-------------------|------------|------------|
| Stops | 21 | 26 |
| Hours Open | 23.75 | 28.75 |
| Total Attendance | 305 | 548 |
| Outreach Stops | 12 | 15 |
| Outreach Visitors | 215 | 444 |
| New Cards | 15 | 1 |
| Volunteers/Hours | 5/30hrs | 5/38.5hrs |









**Community Resource Report
March-April 2024**

Programming

In March, a self-defense workshop was held at the Salem Community Center, with 12 people in attendance. We also had a display of books and handouts on self-defense and martial arts at the Walhalla branch during the month.

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month. In addition to hosting First Light for a program entitled "How Does Sexual Assault Affect Our Community?" in Walhalla on April 16, we also had a display on Sexual Assault Awareness (books and take-aways) at the Walhalla branch. (See attached photo)

| <u>Program/event name</u> | <u>Date</u> | <u>Location</u> | <u># of participants</u> |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| • SC Bar Law Talk: Family Law | 3/5/24 | Westminster OCPL | 3 |
| • Mobile Clean of Heart Showers | 3/7/24 | Our Daily Bread (Seneca) | 3 |
| • Conoce Tus Derechos/Know Your Rights (Spanish only) | 3/9/24 | Walhalla OCPL | 20 |
| • Yoga | 3/14/24 | Walhalla OCPL | 7 |
| • Dementia Caregiver Support Group | 3/15/24 | Seneca OCPL | 6 |
| • Mobile Clean of Heart Showers | 3/21/24 | Our Daily Bread (Seneca) | 8 |
| • Blood Drive | 3/26/24 | Seneca OCPL | 3 |
| • Self-Defense | 3/27/24 | Salem Community Center | 12 |
| • Mobile Clean of Heart Showers | 4/3/24 | Our Daily Bread (Seneca) | 3 |
| • SC Bar Law Talk: Wills, Estates & Probate (See attached photo) | 4/9/24 | Westminster OCPL | 12 |
| • Yoga | 4/11/24 | Walhalla OCPL | 6 |
| • La Depression/Depression (Spanish only) | 4/13/24 | Walhalla OCPL | 8 |
| • How Does Sexual Assault Affect Our Community? (English/Spanish) | 4/16/24 | Walhalla OCPL | 11 |
| • Mobile Clean of Heart Showers | 4/17/24 | Our Daily Bread (Seneca) | 5 |
| • Dementia Caregiver Support Group | 4/19/24 | Seneca OCPL | 6 |

Assistance to Individuals/Families

The Community Resource Associate and Community Resource Assistant/Spanish interpreter assisted 9 individuals/families in March and 6 individuals/families in April. (One inquiry in April was unable to be addressed, due to voicemail not having correct phone number to return the call.)

Other Community Resource Activities/Collaborations

The Community Resource Associate and/or Community Resource Assistant attended/participated in the following in March and April:

- Meeting with Walhalla city councilwoman, Sarai Melendez and Mark Bloomer, City of Walhalla Planning & Zoning Administrator, March 14, 2024
- Cultural Outreach Committee, Cinco de Mayo planning meetings, March 19, 2024 and April 30, 2024
- Healthy Oconee Coalition meeting, March 28, 2024
- Community Impact Network meeting, April 3, 2024
- OCPL Staff In-service, March 29, 2024
- Center for Rural and Primary Healthcare Collaboration in Columbia, April 4, 2024
- Community Resource Assistant helping people to get documentation needed and sign up for appointments with the mobile Mexican Consulate on the internet, April 8-12, 2024
- Library resource table at the mobile Mexican Consulate at the Walhalla City Gym, April 22-26, 2024 (See attached photo)

Continuing Education attended

- The Customer Service Experience, SE Collaborative on-line, March 12, 2024 (60 minutes)
- Navigating Organizational Dynamics: Understanding and Addressing Incivility Within the Library Workplace, SE Collaborative on-line, March 12, 2024 (60 minutes)
- Creating a Person-Centered Library, Web Junction, March 13, 2024 (60 minutes)
- Better Together: Community Partnerships 101, SE Collaborative on-line, March 13, 2024 (60 minutes)
- Interventions for Burnout and Self-Care Techniques to Improve Well-Being, SC AHEC on-line, March 21, 2024 (90 minutes)
- Transdisciplinary Supervision, SC AHEC on-line, April 18, 2024 (90 minutes)
- The Hidden Biases in Healthcare Exacerbated by COVID-19, SC AHEC on-line, April 19, 2024 (120 minutes)





OCONEE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY



Life of Oconee
The Oconee River
The Oconee River
The Oconee River

OCONEE COUNTY
PUBLIC LIBRARY

OCONEE COUNTY
PUBLIC LIBRARY

OCONEE COUNTY
PUBLIC LIBRARY

NO SMOKING

OCONEE COUNTY
PUBLIC LIBRARY

Salem Library
Mar/Apr 2024
Kayla Rucker
Branch Manager

Programming, Operations, Staff Development, etc...

- ☞ The Salem branch hosted twelve programs for all ages during the months of March and April. We had a grand total of adults and children in attendance.
- ☞ Our most popular program during these two months was Spring Family BINGO (19 in attendance).
- ☞ Kerry Leeper-Brock coordinated a Self-Defense program with Kuk Sool Won of Clemson on March 27th. The class was well-received with 10 attendees.
- ☞ The Salem branch hosted a Betty B. Watkin's Pop-Up Seed Library during the week of March 18th-22nd. We distributed 123 packs of seeds, with watermelon and wildflower seeds being the most popular. Several patrons have requested another pop-up, so we will be hosting another at the end of June.
- ☞ To celebrate Easter/beginning of spring, we hid Peeps bunnies around the children's area. Each child that found all four received an Easter stamp or pencil. 10 children participated in this passive program.
- ☞ March 29th was our bi-annual staff training day. In addition to presentations/exercises in Walhalla, Abigail and Kayla worked on creating a programming material inventory at the Salem branch.
- ☞ Glasses for the April 8th partial eclipse were a hot commodity at the Salem branch. We distributed 30 pairs quickly and received a multitude of inquiries the week prior to the eclipse.
- ☞ April's Coffee and Crafts program brought in 4 attendees that made spring wreaths.
- ☞ Abigail and Kayla both attended the county Harassment Prevention training at Pine Street on Monday, April 29th.
- ☞ Due to loss of power, the Salem Library closed at 2 PM on Tuesday, April 5th.

Building Maintenance

- ☞ On Wednesday, April 24th, there was an issue with a sewage odor in the Town Hall's women's restroom. County maintenance stopped by to check it out but did not see an issue. The town may need to have the septic tank pumped in the near future.

Resource Allocation

- ☞ Grant funds from the Cliffs Residents Outreach were received towards the end of March. The majority of Summer Reading materials have been purchased and received. We are anticipating a very successful programming season. Each program (total of five) will provide each child with a free summer reading-themed book. The CRO will also provide volunteers for each of the five programs.
- ☞ We also received funds from the CRO to fund a coding robot (Ozobot) for our STEM Club. That was purchased at the end of April and will be introduced during May's STEM Club.
- ☞ Our take and make craft kits for kids have retained their popularity. For March and April, we distributed 24 kits. (Leprechaun puppets and Spring signs)
- ☞ Juvenile, Young Adult, and Adult fiction were weeded and sent to the FOTL to make room for new arrivals.

| Stats | Mar | Apr |
|-----------|------|------|
| Visits | 1482 | 1700 |
| New Cards | 6 | 8 |
| ILLs | 3 | 1 |

Narrative

Oconee SC 250 Committee:

At the request, of committee members I made several requested contacts and reported my results to the full committee. In short, I have implemented, with approval of the committee, subcommittees. These subcommittees will enable us to focus our efforts toward a successful celebration of the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution.

Spartanburg Genealogy Workshop:

I attended the Spartanburg County Library's Genealogy Workshop. This event provided an insight into researching African American, Children, and Dower/Widow Records. In addition, it presented an opportunity for a future collaboration on a potential future project.

Outside the library:

On Friday April 5th I attended the **Future of Tourism in Oconee County** breakfast at the request of Blair Hinson. Due to a prior commitment, Blair was unable to attend; however, he felt it imperative that library be in attendance at this event. Oconee County's strategic tourism plan is great; however, during the Q/A section I did pose the following question: "How can the library and local museums take part in this plan? For example, I had a patron travel from Texas to do genealogy research." The speaker spoke of the importance of libraries, and how tourist visit public buildings for information as well as other examples of how libraries help stir community engagement. The main theme I took away from this meeting is that I have to change my mindset on what I can do for the library. My original thought is to build a collection, and the patrons will come. However, this approach does not meet the current needs of today. Instead, I need to promote our historical collection and strive to develop a reflective collection address the needs of local patrons as well as visiting researchers. Lastly, this presentation underscored the need to develop various partnerships to ensure the continued viability of both local and out-of-state tourism.

Patron Inquiries:

I have noticed an uptick in more labor-intensive patron inquiries. I do not mind assisting patrons; however, I have noticed that several patrons have become more insist on immediate assistance. I remain professional, and inform them that it will take time to work on their request. Even after this, the patron tends to decline letting up the imposed timeframe. In these cases, I remain firm and provide a more realistic timeframe. After this, the patron either adheres to or declines our services. I am considering, with Blair Hinson’s approval, a draft addendum to the Reference Services Policy. At this time, it does mention Genealogy Research—but it does not reflect my current position.

Rogers Room Statistics:

| Statistics Recorded | Mar. 2023 | Mar. 2024 | Apr. 2023 | Apr. 2024 |
|---------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Walk-In | 16 | 10 | 6 | 4 |
| Phone Call | 9 | 3 | 5 | 3 |
| Mail | - | 0 | - | 0 |
| Email/Online | 3 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Books | 12 | 33 | 3 | 16 |
| Microfilm | 26 | 1 | 7 | 4 |
| Map | 0 | 2 | 3 | 0 |
| SC Room Presentations | - | 1 | - | 0 |
| SC Room Presentation Attendance | - | 4 | - | 0 |
| ScanPro 3000 Scan Count | 1859 | - | - | - |
| ScanPro 3000 Printer Count | 137 | - | - | - |
| ScanPro 3500 Scan Count | 299 | - | - | - |
| ScanPro 3500 Printer Count | 107 | - | - | - |
| Questions Completed | 35 | 27 | 19 | 8 |
| Outstanding Questions | 3 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Volunteer Hours | - | 24.5 | - | 34 |

Facilities:

- I did some basic weeding on our garden and one of the members of the Lake and Hills Garden Club said she wanted to volunteer her personal time to help with it.
- The grass has been cut twice in the last month so I hope this continues. Unfortunately despite my several requests in the winter, they will not be cutting back the crape myrtles until the fall when the busy season is over.
- I have asked Blair the best way to request that the city remove the fence/mural outside. It has fallen into disrepair and anything for a proposed storywalk and park should be more professional looking anyway. I offered to attend a city council meeting or get in touch with city officials.

Operations:

The April painting class was a hit. Bingo was well attended in March but not April (bad weather may have been a factor). Summer bingo will be packed.

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, multiple HOA boards, Mentor Oconee, Oconee Writers Association, America's Boating Club, Baby Read, a Call to Action, and others. The study rooms remain popular, especially with tutors and Baby Read sessions.

Staffing: We are at full staff. Staff training included in service in March and county harassment awareness training in April.

I am pleased to report that Susan Dillard is graduating from Tri-County with an associates in Administrative Office Technology and Jonathan Hunter graduated with his bachelor's degree from the University of Phoenix.

| Notable Statistics | March 2024 | April 2024 |
|---------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Visits to library | 4,623 | 4,786 |
| New Cards Issued | 95 | 64 |

Hopefully I and the other managers can meet with the new adult services librarian in May to coordinate our roles and get to know each other. (We had a meeting scheduled previously but it had to be postponed.)

Walhalla Library

March – April 2024

Tucker Brown, Circulation Manager

Staff Development:

The Walhalla branch hosted the entirety of the Oconee County Public Library on March 30th for a staff in-service day for training. On the docket was a representative of South Carolina Legal Services to discuss tenant law and rental agreements. With the overview of state law, we were also provided with where to find more information for our patrons and how to best have the public contact SCLS with any civil legal matters. Afterwards, our community resources assistant and Spanish translator Amy Saylor went over simple Spanish phrases for helping our non-English speaking community with library services and making them feel more welcome.

Services and Outreach:

The Mexican Consulate had scheduled a visit to Walhalla for the end of June to assist in providing the Mexican community of the area in acquiring national documentation such as passports. As part of the OCPL's missions to provide resources and connect people with their community, the Walhalla Library hosted signups for appointments as well as sessions to print official identification before the arrival of the consulate. Longtime volunteer Merab Perez Arellano, Walhalla councilwoman Sarai Melendez, circulation assistant Imelda Lomeli Sanchez, and the library's community resource associates Kerry Leeper Brock and Amy Saylor spent hours assisting the members of the public who were hoping to see the consulate to ensure that community members had everything they needed before their appointments.

Meeting Room:

March – BabyRead, Cottages at River Birch HOA, Guardian ad Litum, Tri-county Home Educators, Call to Action, Riverstone HOA

April – BabyRead, Guardian ad Litum

Study Room:

March – 43 uses

April – 48 uses

Facilities:

With the temperature rising in the beginning of April, the youth services area of the Walhalla Library began to get uncomfortably warm. Facilities came out to service the air conditioning unit only to find that the coils would have to be replaced before functionality would return. Thanks to the hard work and willingness to drive an hour away to pick up the parts in questions, facilities had the system back in working condition in a day.

Statistics:

| Category | March 2024 | April 2024 |
|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Visitors | 3382 | 3862 |
| New Cards Issued | 40 | 52 |
| ILL | 19 | 16 |
| Hours Open | 196 | 214 |

Westminster Report for March and April 2024

Community, Staff, and Programming

- Kerri hosted a Law Talk: Family Law in March with 1 person in attendance. The April Law Talk about Wills and Probate was very well attended with 10 participants.
- We gave out 100 Seed Starting Kits and received great feedback from people who were appreciative and excited to get started gardening for themselves, their kids, or their grandkids.
- We had one teen and two adults (out of eight registrants) come to make clay dragon eyes. This was a very easy and creative project the attendees were excited about and they created some unique creations.
- There were 25 attendees to our movie showing of *Wonka* on March 11.
- March and April are always busy with tax season. We gave out several paper copies of the Federal tax forms that we get via the IRS. We also helped several people print their returns or printed out the forms they needed.
- Staff have been doing an excellent job of shelf reading/keeping the shelves organized. It is very appreciated as a manager and for the users to be able to find materials.
- To go along with the spring season and the BBW Seed Library, gardening and outdoor books were put on display and on the endcap displays in the non-fiction area. Time Travel books and The Magic Tree House series were displayed on the endcaps in the Y and J sections. Our green display for March was Kermit the Frog with all kinds of green books ready for checkout.
- All Westminster staff attended in-service on March 30. The SC Law talk was very informative. The staff enjoyed Amy and Imelda's Spanish for Libraries presentation and interaction. Some seed library supplies had to be dropped off at the History Museum so the library staff took a few minutes to browse the wonderful collection that is housed there. It is great for staff to see the resources available in the county so they can enjoy them themselves and refer them to library users. After lunch, the staff did some light demo work and pulled down some of the 1979 carpeted wall that was missing pieces and falling off. The next step will be to prep and paint the nook area to make it more inviting.
- We had 46 kids participate in our Spring Scavenger Hunt in March. For this hunt, kids had to find the 8 bunnies that were "dressed" as book characters. These continue to be popular and we plan to try to create a Star Wars one for May the Fourth (Be With You) in May and a pirate themed/treasure hunt for the summer.
- The Westminster Branch gave out over 50 pairs of eclipse glasses and ran out a week before the eclipse. We were bombarded with phone calls and visits on the day of the eclipse. So much so staff began tracking the amount of inquiries. There were 76 calls or visits with the first call promptly when we opened at 10 am and the last call at 3:35 pm.
- Part-time employee Megan read to her daughter's class of 28 kids at Westminster Baptist Preschool. She also discussed the library and gave each child a bag with bookmarks, seeds, and library information.
- There were five attendees for our Maker Monday program where we used a laminator to make pressed flower bookmarks.
- A suncatcher painting program was held for elementary age kids. Despite having several registrants, no one showed up.
- James M. Brown Elementary School hosted a Fun Day at the end of April. They had a planting station and asked the library for some seeds. We were able to give them 200 packs of seeds from the BBW Seed Library.

Building Management

- The Fire Marshall followed up with our inspection and, with the batteries replaced, we passed inspection.
- The directors from Roads and Bridges and Facility Maintenance met at the library to look at and discuss possible solutions to our drainage issues. Hopefully, something can be done soon.
- A new baby changing station was installed in the women's restroom.

Resource Allocation

- Spring break saw an uptake in demand for the Go Passes, especially the State and Museum passes. Families are very appreciative of this service.

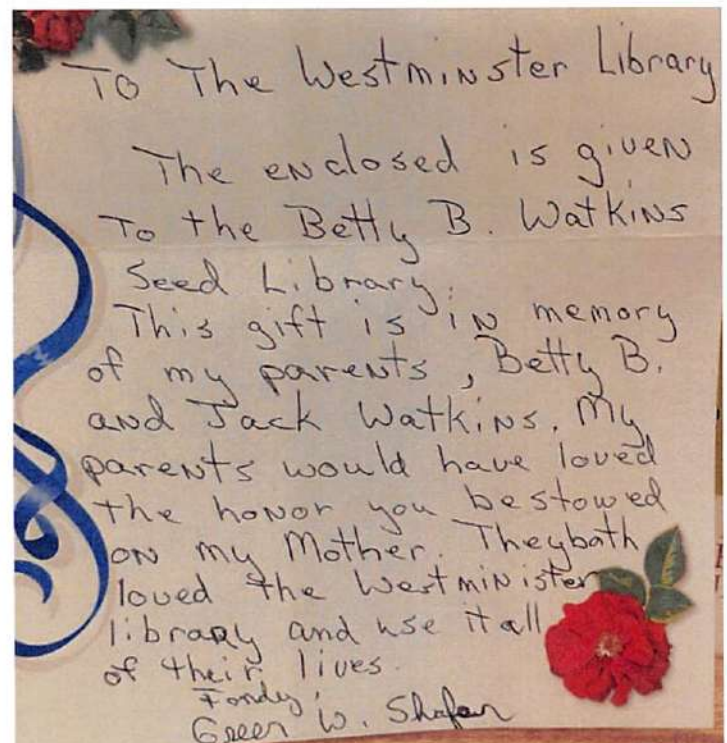
BBW Seed Library

- Now that the library has staff who can interpret Spanish, we are trying to make a more concerted effort to include materials in Spanish for the BBW Seed Library. A huge thank you goes to Amy for her work on these items.
- We received a very nice letter from the daughter of Betty B. Watkins thanking us for having the BBW Seed Library in her mother's honor. She also sent a donation of \$500 that is greatly appreciated since the original memorial funds have been spent.
- We received a large box of seeds from a patron. Unfortunately, they had expired 6 years ago. Sort of like how medicine does, the further away from the expiration date, the less viable the seeds are so it is a chance if they will grow or not. We still put them out making a note they may not grow. There are those gardeners who love a challenge and they were being taken.
- We also received 98 packs of seeds from The Living Seed Company from when we had joined their donation wait list in 2021.
- Besides the permanent locations, seed kits, and outreach, the libraries also hosted seed pop-up libraries so that others in different parts of the county have better access to the seeds. Salem hosted theirs in March and gave out 144 seed packs. The other locations hosted theirs in April with the Bookmobile giving out 50, Walhalla giving out 446, and Seneca giving out 441. That put us at a grand total of 2,004 for April. All of this together means we have given out over 3,700 seed packs this year and are well on our way to topping last year's total.

Use Statistics

| Branch Statistics | March | April |
|---------------------------------------|-------|-------|
| Door Count | 1697 | 1861 |
| Meeting Room Use- Library Programs | 12/88 | 12/59 |
| Meeting Room Use- outside groups | 8/76 | 14/83 |
| New Users | 19 | 22 |

| BBW | Total Packs Taken |
|------------|-----------------------|
| 2021-2023 | 10,984 |
| March 2024 | 1,643* |
| April 2024 | 2004* |
| | *does not include OHM |



Summer Reading 2024

In March, OCPL was awarded the annual LSTA Summer Reading Grant from the SC State Library. We will be using these funds to pay for our print materials needed for summer reading, to expand our outdoor game offerings in the Library of Things for more kid- and family-friendly games, and to add a Storywalk to the Walhalla Greenway. The YS staff will be purchasing these items and getting them ready for the public by June to coincide with Summer Reading.

I was also able to attend the SDOC Media Specialists' professional development day in April to share about summer reading and the library's services. It was a great opportunity to meet all the media specialists in one place to talk about ways OCPL can support them in their work. I shared information about Summer Reading 2024, and I was able to schedule several school visits for May to share about summer reading to the students and teachers.

Programs

Our regular programming for March and April was very successful with offerings like Storytime, Explorer's Club, Sensory Bins, and more! An extra special program was enjoyed in April, featuring the solar eclipse. Our viewing party was a huge success, with kids creating crafts, learning about the eclipse, and decorating our sidewalks with chalk. (See pictures below)

We were also able to partner with several community organizations for programs in April, as well. At our LEGO Club programs in April, members of the local robotics team, 343 Metal in Motion, showed our attendees how to build a robot with LEGO and program it to complete tasks. They were also able to encourage the attendees in STEM knowledge, robotics, and different projects the group is working on.

The Foothills Dance Conservatory visited the Seneca branch's storytime hour to provide a performance and storytime featuring their student ballerinas to promote their upcoming performance of "Sleeping Beauty" in May. Staff from the Conservatory read "Sleepy Beauty" while the student dancers danced and acted out the book, along with other fairy tales. This program was even featured in a full-page spread by *The Seneca Journal* on Saturday, April 27. (See pictures below)

We also partnered with SC Dogs Therapy Group to provide a Dog Yoga Storytime on Saturday, April 20. The Therapy Group were offering similar programs in surrounding counties and were excited to host one in Oconee County. However, we had no one sign up for the program, and it was cancelled. We will be hosting the SC Dogs Therapy Group again during the Summer Reading Program for their annual "I Read to Animals" program and look forward to working with the group in the future for other ideas.

Community Outreach

During March and April, the YS staff was excited to attend a family night at Northside Elementary School, an Eggstravaganza learning celebration at JM Brown Elementary School, and Career Day at Orchard Park Elementary School. We were also able to host SHARE Headstart for a library tour and storytime.

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. We concluded these visits for the school year in April, as most of these preschools do not run over the summer. We will pack back up in the fall.

Program Attendance

| | |
|----------------------------|-----|
| LEGO Club | 53 |
| Storytime | 460 |
| Sensory Playtime | 15 |
| Ballerina Storytime | 59 |
| Explorers Club | 50 |
| Outreach | 697 |



