

OCPL Director's Report

May, 2022

- 1. Programs and Services:** Much of the equipment from Empower Oconee is now available for checkout; some items have still not been received. Children's programs, particularly Story Times, have been well-attended. We are resuming some adult and family programming. We have resumed Family Movie Nights at our Westminster Branch, and Bingo at our Seneca Branch. We are also starting to use our new Local History position to expand our genealogy and local history offerings.
- 2. Usage Statistics and Narratives:** Usage statistics for March and April and individual branch/department narratives are attached.
- 3. Finance and Budget:** OCPL budget figures for FY22 year-to-date are attached.
- 4. Personnel and Training:** Christie Johnson has taken over Bookmobile operations and has been recruiting new volunteers. The library has also interviewed for the new Circulation Manager position at the Walhalla Main Branch. We are also currently advertising for our social work/Community Resource Associate position, which was converted to part time, and for a new Youth Services Assistant (full time). That position was made possible by the changes in the management structure at the Walhalla Library. The library held a "regular" in-person staff in-service in April, with the morning dedicated to all staff training in one place, and the afternoon being dedicated to projects and staff meetings at the individual branches.
- 5. Building and Grounds:** Striping of the Seneca Library parking lot occurred in April, as well as at the Westminster Branch. Our study and meeting rooms at all locations are being used more now as COVID restrictions have eased.
- 6. Technology:** Mi-Fi hotspots will no longer be supported by the State Library after May 22, 2022. The Director met recently with a representative from Kajeet to discuss pricing from continuing the service. The County Information Technology department replaced the Wi-Fi access points at all branches in February, and while there are still a couple of issues to work out, Wi-Fi is more robust than before. The work of replacement of switching technology in all of our branches has been delayed again due to supply chain issues (not having the power supplies we need in stock). Since the funding for this came from ARPA grant funding, the State Library has been notified.
- 7. Friends of the Library:** Used book sales have continued each Thursday from 11:00 to 3:30 p.m. The Friends had excellent sales figures in March (\$3,599) and April (\$3,624). They have also been selling some online and have also begun accepting credit cards with a Square reader, so sales have been strong.
- 8. Oconee County:** County has passed an ordinance that will allow County employees to receive COVID-19 service time bonus pay. County Council passed an amended version of the ordinance (increasing the amount) in May, so hopefully those checks will be issued later in May, 2022. The County Roads and Bridges Director and Library Director met virtually with SCDOT to further assess converting Westview Street at the Walhalla Library to one-way with additional angled parking for library staff.

9. State Library: We received an American Rescue Plan Act grant from the State Library for \$27,642.46 for new computer switches in our branches, and new Wi-Fi hardware. With supply chain issues, it might not be possible to complete the work in the grant period. The Director has reached out to the State Library for advice on whether we can at least pay for the equipment we have already received. Work on the State Library's FY23 budget has also been ongoing. If approved as requested, the 2020 Census numbers would increase state aid for Oconee County by around \$9,750.

10. Community Involvement: The Bookmobile was one of the features of the YMCA Healthy Kids Day event in Seneca on April 30. Bookmobile and Outreach Manager Christie Johnson and YS Librarian Darcy Arnall attended. The Walhalla Library also held a Cinco De Mayo event put on by the library's Hispanic Cultural Outreach Committee.

11. Other: Work on the new library website template is nearly complete.

OCPL Bimonthly Report
Library Usage Statistics
Director: Blair Hinson

	Mar 2021	Mar 2022	Change	Apr 2021	Apr 2022	Change
Visits to Library	11,702	12,369	5.7%	10,676	10,899	2.1%
Material Circulation - Adult	12,439	13,594	9.3%	10,204	12,203	19.6%
Material Circulation - Youth	943	941	-0.2%	833	812	-2.5%
Material Circulation - Juvenile	6,906	7,846	13.6%	5,862	7,421	26.6%
Total Material Circulation	20,288	22,381	10.3%	16,899	20,436	20.9%
Internet Users	943	0	-100.0%	764	0	-100.0%
Internet Hours of Use	365	0	-100.0%	299	0	-100.0%
New Cards Issued	147	150	2.0%	85	154	81.2%
Programs - Adult	30	9	-70.0%	26	2	-92.3%
Programs Attendance - Adult	334	67	-79.9%	236	35	-85.2%
Programs - Youth 12-18	0	2		0	0	
Programs Att - Youth 12-18	0	44		0	0	
Programs -Juvenile 6-11	3	13	333.3%	3	11	266.7%
Programs Att -Juv 6-11	187	474	153.5%	175	166	-5.1%
Programs - Children 0-5	19	22	15.8%	20	18	-10.0%
Programs - Att - Children 0-5	419	346	-17.4%	313	334	6.7%
Outreach Activities	16	17	6.3%	13	17	30.8%
Outreach Act. Attendance	320	719	124.7%	231	719	211.3%
Public Training Sessions	0	0		0	4	
Public Training Participants	0	0		0	8	
Public Training Hours	0	0		0	40	
Staff Training Sessions	2	1	-50.0%	6	15	150.0%
Staff Training Participants	1	1		3	37	1133.3%
Staff Training Hours	2	45	2150.0%	9	136	1405.6%
Number of New Volunteers	0	0		1	0	
Number of Vol Hours	30	21	-30.0%	56	22	-60.7%
Meeting Room Use	12	52	333.3%	7	44	528.6%
Meeting Room Attendance	125	232	85.6%	93	297	219.4%
Number of Web Site Hits	12,527	10,696	-14.6%	11,319	10,496	-7.3%
Wi-Fi Users	96	108	12.5%	89	110	23.6%
Wi-Fi Sessions	521	658	26.3%	441	697	58.0%
E Book Downloads	2,716	2,936	8.1%	2,423	3,094	27.7%
Flipster	166	147	-11.4%	101	129	27.7%
Kanopy visits	243	1,845	659.3%	211	1,147	443.6%
Ancestry.com Hits	61	433	609.8%	60	350	483.3%
Interlibrary Loans	10	44	340.0%	17	41	141.2%
New Material Added	0	1,492		0	1,243	

OCPL Budget 2021-2022 5-4-22

Account Number	Description	Budgeted	Spent	Percent	Balance
Local Budget					
010-206-30024-00000	Equip. Maintenance	1,255	1,255	100%	0
010-206-30025-00000	Professional -Staffmark	110,000	115,384	105%	-5,384
010-206-30041-00000	Telecommunications	920	760	83%	160
010-206-30056-00000	Data Processing	28,405	27,789	98%	616
010-206-30059-00000	Copier Click Charges - Xerox	10,000	5,087	51%	4,913
010-206-30080-00000	Dues	750	750	100%	0
010-206-30084-00000	School, Training, Sem.	1,014	1,014	100%	0
010-206-30090-00000	Honorarium	900	900	100%	0
010-206-33022-00207	Bldg Maint - Walhalla	7,000	8,205	117%	-1,205
010-206-33022-00208	Bldg Maint - Seneca	3,600	2,487	69%	1,113
010-206-33022-00209	Bldg Maint - Westminster	2,500	1,880	75%	620
010-206-33022-00210	Bldg. Maint - Salem	2,020	2,444	121%	-424
010-206-34043-00207	Electricity - Walhalla	22,000	13,223	60%	8,777
010-206-34043-00208	Electricity - Seneca	17,000	9,280	55%	7,720
010-206-34043-00209	Electricity - Westminster	15,500	7,283	47%	8,217
010-206-34043-00210	Electricity - Salem	5,000	5,000	100%	0
010-206-34044-00207	Water - Walhalla	1,400	1,391	99%	9
010-206-34044-00208	Water - Seneca	1,000	1,337	134%	-337
010-206-34044-00209	Water - Westminster	1,000	618	62%	382
010-206-40031-00000	Sm Capital Equip (Loc)	5,454	5,454	100%	0
010-206-40032-00000	Operational	4,705	4,703	100%	2
010-206-40032-00000-A	Youth Services	2,000	1,944	97%	56
010-206-40033-00000	Postage	35	33	94%	2
010-206-40034-00000	Food	500	374	75%	126
010-206-40045-00000	IT Equipment	3,217	2,540	79%	677
010-206-40101-00000	Books (Local)	93,000	83,570	90%	9,430
010-206-40102-00000	Periodicals (Local)	22,200	20,435	92%	1,765
010-206-40103-00000	AV (Local)	11,300	9,000	80%	2,300
010-206-80206-00000	Automobile Maint - Library	1,500	2,332	155%	-832
010-206-81206-00000	Gasoline - Library	2,500	2,973	119%	-473
010-206-82206-00000	Diesel - Library	1,500	1,315	88%	185
TOTAL LOCAL FUNDS		379,175	340,757	90%	38,418
Misc. Funds					
013-206-60010-00000	*Gifts, Donation (Loc)	39,145		0%	39,145
013-080-00805-11001	Nettles Trust	98,940	30,612	31%	68,328
TOTAL MISC. FUNDS					107,473
State Aid Budget					
240-206-30056-00255	Data Processing (State)	\$10,381.06	10,381.06	100%	0.00
240-206-30080-00255	Dues (State)	\$535.00	533.89	6507%	1.11
240-206-30084-00255	Schools, Training (State)				
240-206-40031-00255	Sm Capital (State)	\$6,715.33	6,707.02	100%	8.31
240-206-40032-00255	Operational (State)	\$12,913.94	12,623.16	98%	290.78
240-206-40045-00255	IT Equipment	\$12,520.00	12,322.10	98%	197.90
240-206-40111-00255	Books (State)	\$78,584.92	55,432.69	71%	23,152.23
240-206-40112-00255	Periodicals (State)	\$28,864.00	25,452.57	88%	3,411.43
240-206-40113-00255	AV (State)	\$16,600.00	11,329.49	68%	5,270.51
Total State Aid Funds		\$167,114.25	134,781.98	81%	32,332.27

Narrative

Objective:

In accepting this position as Local History Associate I have been given the mandate to make the Ann Rogers Room Collection more assessable to staff and patrons. Also I have been encouraged to create displays from collection contents and start doing programming to aid patrons with genealogy and local history interests. Taking the necessary time to accomplish these and future goals will be a challenge; however, it is a challenge that I willingly accept.

Equipment Donation:

The Oconee County Friends of the Library provided a generous donation toward the acquisition of a new ScanPro 3500 All-In-One Microfilm Scanner. This additional scanner will aid in the growing interest in researching local history and genealogy. I will be working on a press release and a social media post about this donation.

The ScanPro 3000, our older machine, went down in March. The machine was serviced by Palmetto Microfilm on March 24th. It was discovered that when the last update was installed that the incorrect machine was installed, thus causing only a partial installation of the update. The Technician corrected this issue, and the machine is functioning normally. I was advised to monitor this machine, and to let him know of any issues by June.

Obtaining Statistics:

I am expanding the process of gathering statistics for the Ann Rogers Room. The initial figures recorded for the January-February Bi-Monthly report only showed the number of questions received during that period. However, those statistics only present a narrow view of the activity in the Ann Rogers Room. In March I developed a more comprehensive method of gathering statistics, and these figures are reflected below.

Statistic Recorded	March 2022	April 2022
Walk-In	6	15
Phone Call	4	4
Email/Online	3	4
Books	14	16
Microfilm	13	15

Microfilm Scanner Count	19	94
Microfilm Printer Count	27	87
Questions Completed	11	13
Outstanding Questions	3	5

Key to Statistics:

Walk-In: Patrons that I have direct interactions with, and their primary concern is genealogy, local history, or state history.

Phone Call: Patrons that call me directly for genealogy or local history inquiries.

Email/Online: Patrons that contact me directly through email or by submitting inquiries through the online OCPL Genealogy and Local History Request form.

Books: Number of books used in the Ann Rogers Collection for the month.

Microfilm: Number of rolls of microfilm used in the Ann Rogers Collection for the month.

Microfilm Scanner Count: The microfilm scanner maintains a cumulative count of scans. To record a monthly figure, I subtract the previous amount from the cumulative amount. (These figures only represent one machine).

Microfilm Printer Count: The microfilm scanner maintains a cumulative count of prints. To record a monthly figure, I subtract the previous amount from the cumulative amount. (These figures only represent one machine).

Questions Completed: The number of questions completed within the month.

Outstanding Questions: These are questions that older than one month, and have not been completed at this time.

Current Activities:

- I have been asked to deliver a presentation for the South Carolina State Library. This presentation will focus on African-American Genealogy in the Upstate as well as highlight the Ann Rogers Room Collection. In particular, Ann Rogers' Newspaper and Cemetery Index.
- I am working on arranging meetings with the local area museums. My goal in these meetings is to inform the museums of this new position, and to highlight that there is potential for collaboration with the library. Also I want to become more cognizant of

how the museums can assist patrons with questions that are beyond my ability to answer.

- I am engaged with working out how to best go through our bound volumes of the Journal-Tribune and the Daily Messenger. Also in May I will perform an inventory of the Ann Rogers Collection, with particular emphasis on collection development and an assessment of the Map Collection.
- In May I will begin an inventory of the Ann Rogers Collection, and go through Map Collection.

Bookmobile and Outreach Narrative, March/April 2022

Christie Johnson, Bookmobile Manager

I am thrilled to have been named as the new Bookmobile and Outreach Manager. My first day on the job was April 4, although I had been training as a backup for several months. I have worked for OCPL since the summer of 2010, first as a circulation assistant, and then for many years as Walhalla's Assistant Branch Manager. I am excited for the new challenges this job brings, and happy to be able to use the skills and knowledge I have built over the past years to further help the residents of Oconee County.

Operations

Although I wasn't the Bookmobile Manager as yet, I filled in for the entire month of March while the previous manager was out on leave, and took over the position at the beginning of April. Most bookmobile stops were completed during these months, with the exception of two canceled stops due to sickness at the stop (Oconee ARC), and one stop canceled due to a lack of volunteer or second staff member to assist. I was able to reach most of the regular patrons for the canceled stop and meet them at the earlier stop that day, so service was not completely lost to them. One Outreach stop, Seneca Heights, is on hiatus, as the patron we had been serving is in the process of moving locally. We may be able to add that back in once he is settled.

I have been enjoying getting to know the volunteers who are returning, and have met with two new volunteers, who will be starting as soon as the intake process is completed. Blair, Sue, and Janice have also been wonderful to fill in while I get into the swing of things in my new position.

I completed a materials inventory of all Bookmobile materials in April. My plan moving forward is to create a quarterly inventory schedule so that inventory is done completely each fiscal year.

Outreach

The Bookmobile continues to serve several assisted living homes and preschools/day care facilities on a regular basis, as well as providing services to several people at the Oconee County Detention Center. These patrons are so appreciative of what we do. I get notes from the Detention Center after every pickup. The residents at the assisted living facilities are so grateful that we come to them, since they rarely have a way to come to a library. And the children absolutely love coming on the Bookmobile. I hear from their teachers and some parents that our visits are a highlight of their month.

The Bookmobile participated in two large community events in April. James M. Brown Elementary School Kidsfest was on April 23, and the YMCA Healthy Kids Day was on April 30. Our Youth Services Librarian, Darcy Arnall, also participated in the YMCA outreach. I saw 79 people at JMB, signed up two new patrons and updated a very out-of-date card, and checked out a few items. Darcy and I saw 140 people at the

YMCA, I had one new card sign-up, and we checked out a few items. We were able to tell a lot of people about summer reading coming up soon, as well as let them see the Library on Wheels!

Facilities/Building Management

I have rearranged the Bookmobile office to better suit my workflow. I have also made a couple of minor changes to the arrangement of materials on the vehicle. I have learned to drive the Bookmobile, which was a new experience for me, since I have never driven anything so large before. Thankfully, it is an automatic, and a CDL is not required to drive it. Joe Lenderman was very helpful to talk me through my first experience with backing the Bookmobile into our garage, which wasn't as harrowing as I had feared. Sue Andrus and I made a trip to Oconee County Vehicle Maintenance for a quick overview from Dwayne Peay as to what details we need to be aware of when caring for the Bookmobile.

Training

I spent many hours training with the previous manager over the past several months, and continued training and filling in during March. Many thanks to Brenda, Blair, Sue, and Joe for all the help they have provided.

I watched a webinar on Bookmobile and Outreach and had hoped to watch the rest of the series of eight videos done by this particular library. However, the first video was not as helpful as I had hoped. I may go back in the future and watch one or two of them.

I participated in OCPL's in-service day, where we learned about this year's summer reading program from Darcy and DJ, got a refresher course of some DISCUS resources from Sue as well as a lesson in group problem solving, and heard from Quientell about what he can and cannot do as the Local History Associate.

Statistics

In March, the Bookmobile made 21 stops, for a total of 26.75 hours open, and served 294 patrons. Twelve of those stops were Outreach stops, where we served 234 people. Eight new cards were issued. Volunteers accrued 10 hours of time, as we were still relying heavily on staff assistance during March.

In April, the Bookmobile made 22 stops, for a total of 32 hours open, and served 479 patrons. Eleven of those stops were Outreach stops, where we served 415 people. This was mostly due to the two large community events mentioned earlier. Five new cards were issued. Volunteers accrued 11 hours of time. This should be higher in coming months as we transition back to mostly using volunteers instead of a second staff member.

Branch Services Narrative

Mar - Apr 2022

Sue Andrus

Community Engagement

We applied for and received a Libraries and Health Cooperative Agreement grant which began in mid-March. This will fund a part-time social worker position based at the Walhalla Library.

Staffing Information

New positions have been created as follows:

Local History Associate – duties include evaluating current uncatalogued resources, disposing of unwanted ephemera, answering all genealogical queries, and presenting information about our resources to various groups. This position reports to the Library Director and has been filled by former Branch Manager Quientell Walker, who began on April 4.

Circulation Manager – it was decided that the position of Branch Manager II at Walhalla could be done away with, so the position of Assistant Branch Manager was renamed Circulation Manager and the job description remains essentially the same. This position reports to the Branch Services Manager.

Youth Services Assistant – the duties of the existing part-time position were expanded to become full-time, so the job description remains essentially the same. This position reports to the Youth Services Librarian.

Bookmobile Manager Brenda Lee retired in March after more than twenty years in the library system. Christie Johnson, formerly Assistant Branch Manager at Walhalla, took over as Bookmobile Manager on April 4.

Library Intern

Local resident Tucker Brown contacted me in mid-January to ask if he could complete the Practicum for his LS 489 class at the University of Southern Mississippi with us. Practicum is similar to a student teaching program and is designed to give students wide experience in the type of library system they plan to seek.

Tucker Brown began on February 10 and completed the required number of hours in mid-April. His presence has been a great asset at Walhalla, freeing up Cataloger Bethany Culp and Acquisitions Coordinator Leah Kelley from some circ desk hours, working on special projects like inventory, and helping Courier Joe Lenderman on high-volume days.

Library Family

We are happy to announce that Cataloger Bethany Culp and her husband Joey welcomed their baby Eliza Adeline to the world at the end of March.

Salem programs

Salem again has partnered with the Clemson Extension Service agent Kerrie Roach to host a gardening program in March. The program was How to Grow Vegetables from Seeds for Your Garden. We had a good turnout and had several door prizes to give out for the program. Salem has continued to have Family Story Time again. We have had regular attendance at these programs. Salem has also started to have in person craft programs for elementary aged kids. Salem continues to hand out kids and adult craft kits. Salem also offers digital programs like the Salem Recipe Club and our Zoom book club on a regular basis.

Salem Facilities Upgrade Project

Salem has now received the following for our upgrade/renovation project: new carpeting, new computer tables and chairs, and new DVD Spinner. The newest edition to our upgrade/renovation project are our new stool for the circulation desk and a new breakroom cabinet which holds our microwave and mini-refrigerator. Our new break-room cabinet was ordered from the Friends of the Library funds. We have also replaced the mini-fridge with a new black one to match the new cabinet. The last big improvement will be to replace the countertop with a new countertop for the circulation desk.

Covid-19 Pandemic procedures:

With the Covid-19 data beginning to fall again, we will not be wearing masks as often. We still might put on our masks when other come in the library with masks on, or when helping patrons at the public computers. The Salem branch will continue to monitor the Covid-19 virus and do what is necessary in the way of cleaning the computers and work areas to stay safe from the virus. We also have started to offer more in person programs.

Salem Collection Development

All through the pandemic Salem was still working at ordering quality new items for our branch. During July and August, we worked hard to spend our money on the best items we could get for our patrons. We continue to order well reviewed items for the Salem branch. By having a good collection development strategy, we can keep the demand up for circulation at the Salem Library. We continue to weed our collection on and as needed basis.

Volunteers

Salem has two library volunteers. Kathy Barringer is our current library volunteer. Sally Bouwman has continued to help with our special projects, including getting new carpeting. She came in and helped moved books for three days while we were installing the carpeting. We do appreciate the work that all of our volunteers do.

Seneca Library Branch Narrative, March/April 2022

Emily Whitmire Sluder, Branch Manager

Facilities:

The Lakes and Hills volunteers have now beautified the section of ground behind the book return. We are as always grateful for their help in beautifying the grounds.

After three years or so, the Roads and Bridges department passed the job of repainting our parking lot to Facilities Maintenance because they have "the good machine" to paint the lines. Jason, director of maintenance, painted them in one morning and they look great. He also installed the curb bumpers that I asked for at that time when someone drove over the sidewalk and destroyed a tree.

Our custodian has asked his department if we can have a professional carpet cleaning service come in. We used the machine from Maintenance a while back but it is not that great which our custodian agreed with. Our carpet shampooer is great but really meant for emergencies, as it is designed for home use. It has to be refilled too often. I have been researching new industrial carpet cleaners so that we can do it ourselves periodically. I am also considering getting a pressure washer in the next fiscal year, as Maintenance has told me that is a low priority for them to do.

Operations:

I have come up with ideas for adult and family programming in the coming months. We hope to host SC Legal Services and SC Works, and bring back (everybody's favorite) Bingo. We will also start showing movies in the future.

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

Same as last report: We are very disappointed with the decision by the county to remove USB port access from the public computers. There are a number of things you can't do (such as scan something to a USB and email it), and we have had to direct people to the Central-Clemson Library, which has been disheartening.

Users no longer have access to Microsoft Word and other Office products due to removal of the software in preparation for everyone to migrate to Office 365. We have encouraged people to create a Google account and use Google Docs, but it is very difficult for people to do this without assistance. The staff has not yet transitioned to Office 365.

We have found some workarounds, like free scanning apps for smart phones and a free online word processor to direct patrons to. It remains difficult to help people and frustrating when they have to just leave because we cannot provide a basic service.

Groups using the meeting room include an HOA board, America's Boating Club, Baby Read, and others. The study rooms remain popular.

Staffing: We are currently fully staffed. We had a good experience at in-service learning about databases and I will continue encouraging the staff to promote them.

Statistics	March 2022	April 2022
Visits to library	4205	3767
New Cards Issued	69	61
ILL	24	19

Westminster Report for March and April 2022

Community, Staff, and Programming

- We attempted our first movie showing in over two years. No one came, but we will try again in April.
- The library hosted a *Bridgerton* themed tea tasting, crafts, and book/series discussion in March. This was also not attended by anyone. Adult programming took many years to build up and will probably have to be built up again since there has been little to none for over two years.
- In April we gave out 48 color-your-own Easter bookmarks.
- Our second attempt at showing a movie post-covid was a success with 35 in attendance.
- Our Earth Day program using recycled yogurt jars to plant succulents only had one person register. We will try to host the same type of program again in the future.
- Staff enjoyed and found beneficial learning about databases and the new positions in the library. The staff had a lot of fun playing the summer reading review game coordinated by Darcy.
- Two pop-up seed libraries were held at Salem and Walhalla with great success.
- Issues with the Wi-Fi have really impacted our users. They have a 50/50 chance of not being able to connect to the Wi-Fi and several users have left upset with the library. It's frustrating for staff when there is nothing we can do to resolve the situation.
- Our new part-time circulation employee, Megan, began working in March and has taken very well to the job.

Building Management

- Our new facilities maintenance employee has been coming frequently to clean the building and goes the extra step of cleaning up the grounds of litter.
- During the afternoon session of in-service day, the staff completed the building inventory, painted the lettering on the building, and pressure washed the sidewalk.
- Facilities maintenance restriped the parking lot including the stenciled area for the handicap parking.
- Leah's old and sluggish computer was replaced by IT in April.

Resource Allocation

The BBW Seed Library is still going strong. Between the Oconee History Museum, library location, and pop-up events, well over 2,000 seed packs have been given out in just two months.

Month	Packs
June '21	200
July	35
August	304
September	98
October	66
November	46
December	6
January '22	NA
February*	902
March	585
April	134

Table 1: Packs of seeds taken from the BBW Seed Library at library locations

*includes 300 packs for kits

Youth Services Department
March – April 2022
Darcy Arnall, Youth Services Librarian

Collection Development & Maintenance

YS collection development is on budget thus far for the year. Because we are approaching the end of the fiscal year, Darcy and Leah have been reassigning some line items in the Youth Services budget that we do not plan to use as originally designated. Using those funds and some donations, we purchased about 1,000 inexpensive juvenile books that we will be giving to children who participate in SDOC's Read to Succeed Camp this summer (more information below).

Programs

March and April are always the last two months of regularly-scheduled programming before we take a break for final summer preparations in May. As usual, we offered storytime at Walhalla, Westminster, and Seneca, and the sessions were attended by a total of 449 people (a 50% increase from the previous two months). We offered Midweek Makers every Wednesday, and those sessions were attended by a total of 43 people. Attendance was starting to drop off toward the end of April, so when we reintroduce this program in the fall, we may look at modifying the timing or structure of the program to hopefully increase interest. LEGO Club attendance was a little inconsistent in these months, but we learned that offering sign-ups seems to be the best way to bring it to patrons' attention. We dropped the pre-registration in March, and only 10 people attended. We added it back in April, and our attendance jumped to 30 people.

Our Explorers Clubs in March and April were both very spring-focused. In March, we learned about gardening and started seeds in egg cartons. In April, we learned about bees and butterflies, and the kids made wildflower seed bombs and beeswax lip balm. The Seneca Journal made an unexpected appearance at the April Explorers Club and printed some very nice pictures in the newspaper a few days later (see below). Explorers Club was attended by 12 people in March and 17 in April.

Teen programming took a bit of a down-turn in March and April. We hosted a Tiny Art program in March, and the students made book charms, painted small canvases, and crafted with Perler beads. Five people attended that program. Then, in April, we scheduled a word-games-themed program, but we had to cancel it due to lack of interest. We have a couple of teen programs planned for summer, and then we will keep experimenting with new ideas in the fall to find what works best for our community.

In total, we had 1,320 attendees at all of our in-house and outreach programs in March and April. Some pictures from the programs described are attached at the end of this report.

Summer Reading 2022

Summer Reading preparation is still moving steadily forward, and we accomplished a lot of our goals for March and April. Darcy and Blair submitted our LSTA Summer Learning Grant in early March, and we received word that it was approved in early April. The grant will be used to pay the performer and venue fees for our events at the Walhalla Performing Arts Center. We have also received two donations of funds, one from the Friends of the Library and one from the Cliffs

community, to fund other aspects of our summer program. The donation from the Friends will be used for various expenses including professionally-printed reading logs, prizes for kids and teens, food for the End-of-Summer Bash, and miscellaneous supplies for other programs. The funds from the Cliffs community will help fund our Read to Succeed project. As previously stated, we have purchased 1,000 juvenile books, which we have used to pack 100 book bags for students who will attend the Read to Succeed Camp. The Cliffs donation also went toward our purchases of reusable bags printed with the OCPL logo and small stuffed animals (reading buddies). Each student will receive a bag, a stuffed animal, and ten books at no cost. The Read to Succeed Camp is for rising 4th-graders who have tested below-grade level in reading, therefore the books that we are donating are on levels appropriate to help them practice their skills.

At In-Service in April, Darcy and DJ presented an overview of the Summer Reading Program so that OCPL staff will know what to expect this year. We have also ordered our reading logs and finalized our June and July events. We have a wide variety of activities planned for 2022, and we are looking forward to seeing how they are received. Darcy completed designing the printable June calendar, and July will hopefully be put together in May. We have also contacted all of our Summer collaborators to schedule their programs, including SC Therapy Dogs for I Read to Animals, South Cove County Park for the End-of-Summer Bash, and Sodexo for the Summer Meals program. As in previous years, the SDOC Food Service department will be at all four brick-and-mortar branches every week-day from June 1st to July 29th (excluding the week of July 4th) serving free sack lunches to anyone 18 and under.

Darcy finished editing the Summer Reading promotional video near the end of March, and it is already live on our YouTube channel with over 100 views. We sent the video, along with a flyer and other important information, to the media specialists and literacy coaches at the Oconee County schools in early April. Since the schools are starting to allow outside guests, we also offered to visit any schools that were interested to promote Summer Reading in May. So far, we have five elementary schools on our calendar, and we will be spending several hours at each location to promote Summer Reading to all of their students.

Collaboration

Darcy attended the First Steps meetings in March (in-person) and April (virtual).

Community Outreach

On March 1st, Darcy and DJ visited Blue Ridge Elementary as part of their Read Across America celebration. They did storytimes and activities for all six grade levels and saw a total of 399 people. It was a long, but very fun, day! On March 18th, the virtual ELA teacher for SDOC brought 35 of her middle-school students to the Walhalla Library for a field trip. We gave the students a tour of the library, taught them some basic information about our services, showed them our 3D printers, and helped them register for library cards. This was our first field trip since the pandemic began, and we loved it! On April 29th, Darcy and DJ visited the kindergarteners at James M. Brown Elementary to do a life-cycles activity with them. On April 30th, Christie and Darcy participated in Healthy Kids Day at the YMCA in Seneca and saw about 140 people. Christie gave tours of the Bookmobile, and Darcy handed out small prizes and information about Summer Reading. Our preschool outreach visits were able to proceed mostly as planned in these months. We did nine preschool storytimes, which served a total of 219 people.

Program Pictures



1: Blue Ridge Elementary Read Across America, first-graders enjoying the activity scarves with Darcy



4: St. John's Preschool enjoying the bubble machines



2: Blue Ridge Elementary Read Across America, fourth-graders listening to a story



5: Storytime (Walhalla), shaker egg fun



3: Tweens and Teens Tiny Art Crafternoon



6: April Explorers Club, observing live caterpillars



PHOTOS BY CALEB GILBERT | THE JOURNAL

Learning about bees, butterflies and caterpillars at the library

Students from the Seneca Library's Explorers Club met at the library recently to do various activities with youth services librarian Darcy Arnall. The activities included learning about bees and butterflies, looking at caterpillars, making seed bombs and making homemade lip balm using bee's wax.

