

## OCPL Director's Report

September, 2022

**1. Programs and Services:** Summer Reading 2022 was a major success for the OCPL. The Youth Services Librarian's report will have the details, but participation and completions were up over last year, and our programs were all well attended. The Youth Services department has continued that momentum into the late summer and fall. Our Community Resource Associate, Kerry Leeper Brock, who has hit the ground running, so to speak, has begun helping clients and is also still making good contacts with many of the county's social service agencies. We are also cooperating with county Emergency Services to create a database AND an app to collect and publicize a list of ALL social service and helpful agencies in the county.

**2. Usage Statistics and Narratives:** Usage statistics for July and August as well as individual branch/department narratives are attached.

**3. Finance and Budget:** OCPL budget figures for beginning of FY23 are attached.

**4. Personnel and Training:** Christie Johnson (Bookmobile manager) and Sue Andrus will attend the Assoc. of Bookmobile and Outreach Services conference in Arizona in October, and we will be showcasing the good work of other staff, like Darcy Arnall (who will be presenting a session at the South Carolina Library Association conference in Columbia in October about producing online video content) and Quientell Walker, who presented to the SC Department of Archives and History recently about African-American genealogy. We have had some turnover in the branches, and are working to fill remaining positions. Kayla Rucker was hired to replace Dan Polk as the Salem Branch manager. Our fall in-service will be on Monday, October 10.

**5. Building and Grounds:** The Westminster Branch closed early one day this month for the city to replace a power pole behind the branch. Better emergency exit lighting was installed in the garage of the Walhalla Branch.

**6. Technology:** The work of replacement of switching technology in all of our branches has been completed. The branches also have new Wi-Fi access points. They were not functioning well at the Westminster Branch, but that has since been repaired. All VOIP handsets were also replaced in this period (office phones).

**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 July and August. They have also been selling some online and have also begun accepting credit cards with a Square reader, so sales have been strong. They have a Saturday sale in September on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

**8. Oconee County:** The county is discussing bonding funds for capital projects, and while there probably will not be sufficient funding for a new branch, I have asked the county administrator to help us fund a truly accessible entrance at the Seneca Branch, as well as possibly enlarging the meeting room there at Seneca, the busiest branch.

**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. Since the switches have arrived and have been configured, we were able to pay for all of that and use a one-time disbursement of lottery funds (\$16,032) to pay for the conference attendance and for new PCs for various staff.

**10. Community Involvement:** OCPL is participating in Oconee Chamber of Commerce events, and help a workshop at the Walhalla main branch in July for non-profits. The library will also be participating in the next Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration on main street in Walhalla in September (24<sup>th</sup>).

**11. Other:** We are working with the City of Seneca on a new park to be located behind the library at the corner of Third and Walnut Streets, and we are partnering with the City of Westminster to help design a small amphitheater for Story Times and a Story Walk for the renovations they are working on for Anderson Park near the library.

**OCPL Bimonthly Report****Library Usage Statistics****Director: Blair Hinson**

	July 2021	July 2022	Change	Aug 2021	Aug 2022	Change
<b>Visits to Library</b>	12,754	13,449	5.4%	10,668	13,256	24.3%
Material Circulation - Adult	13,239	13,677	3.3%	13,406	14,573	8.7%
Material Circulation - Youth	1,256	1,303	3.7%	1,184	1,279	8.0%
Material Circulation - Juvenile	9,845	11,213	13.9%	8,406	10,808	28.6%
<b>Total Material Circulation</b>	24,340	26,193	7.6%	22,996	26,660	15.9%
<b>Internet Uses</b>	846	835	-1.3%	820	1,009	23.0%
Internet Hours of Use	394	371	-5.8%	351	469	33.6%
<b>New Cards Issued</b>	160	214	33.8%	179	225	25.7%
Programs - Adult	17	5	-70.6%	19	6	-68.4%
Programs Attendance - Adult	197	126	-36.0%	152	75	-50.7%
Programs - Youth 12-18	0	1		0	1	
Programs Att - Youth 12-18	0	25		0	3	
Programs -Juvenile 6-11	12	11	-8.3%	1	1	0.0%
Programs Att -Juv 6-11	845	239	-71.7%	24	32	33.3%
Programs - Children 0-5	25	13	-48.0%	3	8	166.7%
Programs - Att - Children 0-5	726	308	-57.6%	78	148	89.7%
Outreach Activities	18	13	-27.8%	10	10	0.0%
Outreach Act. Attendance	1,262	1,158	-8.2%	138	210	52.2%
Public Training Sessions	0	0		0	0	
Public Training Participants	0	0		0	0	
Public Training Hours	0	0		0	0	
Staff Training Sessions	1	0	-100.0%	4	1	-75.0%
Staff Training Participants	4	0	-100.0%	1	3	200.0%
Staff Training Hours	4	0	-100.0%	12	4	-70.8%
Number of New Volunteers	15	32	113.3%	0	0	
Number of Vol Hours	79	92	15.5%	28	41	47.7%
Meeting Room Use	29	34	17.2%	13	31	138.5%
Meeting Room Attendance	318	422	32.7%	129	179	38.8%
Number of Web Site Hits	12,260	12,949	5.6%	10,698	12,691	18.6%
Wi-Fi Users	353	275	-22.1%	347	280	-19.3%
Wi-Fi Sessions	2,746	1,981	-27.9%	2,434	2,021	-17.0%
cloudLibrary	2,413	2,968	23.0%	2,138	3,306	54.6%
Flipster	123		-100.0%	97		-100.0%
Kanopy	1,292	1,376	6.5%	1,617	2,493	54.2%
Ancestry.com Hits	171	66	-61.4%	250	405	62.0%
Interlibrary Loans	19	40	110.5%	29	60	106.9%
<b>New Material Added</b>	0	972		0	1,206	

## OCPL Budget 2022-2023 9-15-22

Account Number	Description	Budgeted	Spent	Percent	Balance
<b>Local Budget</b>					
010-206-30024-00000	Equip. Maintenance	2,500	2,475	99%	25
010-206-30025-00000	Professional -Staffmark	140,000	25,436	18%	114,564
010-206-30041-00000	Telecommunications	1,000	152	15%	848
010-206-30056-00000	Data Processing	28,817	27,058	94%	1,759
010-206-30059-00000	Copier Click Charges - Xerox	8,500	1,311	15%	7,189
010-206-30080-00000	Dues	750	203	27%	547
010-206-30084-00000	School, Training, Sem.	3,000	884	29%	2,116
010-206-30090-00000	Honorarium	900	900	100%	0
010-206-33022-00207	Bldg Maint - Walhalla	5,500	2,263	41%	3,237
010-206-33022-00208	Bldg Maint - Seneca	3,500	1,149	33%	2,351
010-206-33022-00209	Bldg Maint - Westminster	2,500	1,382	55%	1,118
010-206-33022-00210	Bldg. Maint - Salem	2,020	1,131	56%	889
010-206-34043-00207	Electricity - Walhalla	25,000	3,150	13%	21,850
010-206-34043-00208	Electricity - Seneca	16,000	2,333	15%	13,667
010-206-34043-00209	Electricity - Westminster	15,500	947	6%	14,553
010-206-34043-00210	Electricity - Salem	5,000	5,000	100%	0
010-206-34044-00207	Water - Walhalla	1,700	140	8%	1,560
010-206-34044-00208	Water - Seneca	1,200	327	27%	873
010-206-34044-00209	Water - Westminster	1,200		0%	1,200
010-206-40031-00000	Sm Capital Equip (Loc)	2,200	708	32%	1,492
010-206-40032-00000	Operational	6,000	5,630	94%	370
010-206-40032-00000-A	Youth Services	2,000	369	18%	1,631
010-206-40033-00000	Postage	500		0%	500
010-206-40034-00000	Food	500	28	6%	472
010-206-40045-00000	IT Equipment			#DIV/0!	0
010-206-40101-00000	Books (Local)	85,000	35,746	42%	49,254
010-206-40102-00000	Periodicals (Local)	22,200	18,520	83%	3,680
010-206-40103-00000	AV (Local)	11,300	3,043	27%	8,257
010-206-80206-00000	Automobile Maint - Library	1,500	52	3%	1,448
010-206-81206-00000	Gasoline - Library	3,000	611	20%	2,389
010-206-82206-00000	Diesel - Library	2,000	399	20%	1,601
<b>TOTAL LOCAL FUNDS</b>		<b>400,787</b>	<b>141,347</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>259,440</b>
013-206-60010-00000	Gift's	52,715			52,715
013-080-00805-11001	Nettles Trust	98,940		0%	68,328
<b>TOTAL MISC. FUNDS</b>					<b>121,043</b>
<b>State Aid Budget</b>					
240-206-30056-00255	Data Processing (State)	\$10,773.82	7,245.00	67%	3,528.82
240-206-30080-00255	Dues (State)	\$500.00		0%	500.00
240-206-30084-00255	Schools, Training (State)	\$2,000.00		0%	2,000.00
240-206-40031-00255	Sm Capital (State)	10,542.21		0%	10,542.21
240-206-40032-00255	Operational (State)	\$15,000.00	2,076.04	14%	12,923.96
240-206-40045-00255	IT Equipment	\$8,500.00	853.93	10%	7,646.07
240-206-40111-00255	Books (State)	\$81,500.00		0%	81,500.00
240-206-40112-00255	Periodicals (State)	\$31,664.00	7,646.99	24%	24,017.01
240-206-40113-00255	AV (State)	\$16,600.00		0%	16,600.00
<b>Total State Aid Funds</b>		<b>\$177,080.03</b>	<b>17,821.96</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>159,258.07</b>



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| **Transferred \$600 to General Telecommunications/Cell service Kerry**

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## **Ann Rogers Memorial Room**

July/August 2022

Quientell Walker, Local History Associate

Narrative

### **Publicity:**

I was asked by the Oconee County Friends of the Library to submit an essay for their newsletter. This essay was adapted into an article for the Friends to Friends Quarterly Newsletter. In time I hope to start working toward using other print and online avenues for publicity.

### **Digitization Project: OCPL Archive Collection:**

The OCPL Archive is mixture of library scrapbooks and photo slides, local organization photo albums, and the Seaborn Manuscripts. In an effort to preserve and provide access to these materials I plan to start digitizing this collection. Currently access is restricted by both storage location, and the varied condition of the items. For example, we have a scrapbook covering the early years of the library system, but it is unknown to our community. I have started reviewing parts of the Archive Collection, created a Digitization Priority List, and developed an equipment list. With approval from the Oconee County IT Department we were able to purchase the following items:

Epson Perfection V850 Pro Flatbed scanner  
Scan Snap SV 600 Overhead Scanner  
Dell Computer and Monitor  
SanDisk 2 TB Portable Solid State Drives

Currently I do have access to the staff Xerox Copier/Scanner. However, this device is limiting. First, I am unable to preview scans before scanning. By not having this ability I have to include various extra steps to ensure that scans produce quality files. Second, all scans have to be saved to a USB Flash Drive. This process is convenient, but I run the risk of having the Flash Drive becoming corrupted. Having a designated computer with the attached scanners reduces this risk. Third, the copier/scanner is located in the staff office area. Each scanning runs the risk of me losing, misplacing, or damaging items. By having the two scanner types, Flatbed and Overhead, I am able to scan our most delicate items without causing further damage.

When scanning of the OCPL Archive Collection is completed I intend to work through specific books in the Rogers' Room Collection. In Title 17 U.S. Code § 108, Limitations on exclusive rights: Reproduction by libraries and archives, permits libraries to make copies of an entire work for the purpose of preservation and/or replacement. I do not have an exact number, but I can estimate that there are about 10-20 known books.

### **OCPL Staff Training:**

With the successful conclusion of Summer Reading I was able to attend the August Circulation Staff Meeting. During the course of the meeting I informed the Circulation Staff that I am available for SC Room Training. In particular, on how to use the microfilm machines. After this I asked if there were particular things they would like to know. I was informed of the following topics:

- Instruction on how use the Rogers' Newspaper and Cemetery Index and how to find and/or select books or maps for patrons.
- A listing of the Microfilm Collection, with emphasis on the dates covered by the collection.
- It was suggested that I should create a Frequently Asked Questions list and end cap posters for the shelves in the Rogers Room.

At this time, a date has not been set for training. However, when time permits I will train up to 2 staff members at a time. I intend to have the training materials completed by September.

### **Rogers Room Statistics:**

Statistic Recorded	July 2022	August 2022
Walk-In	7	19
Phone Call	4	4
Email/Online	4	8
Books	7	54
Microfilm	5	33
Map	5	3
ScanPro 3000 Scan Count	0	214
ScanPro 3000 Printer Count	3	56
ScanPro 3500 Scan Count	6	7
ScanPro 3500 Printer Count	6	17
Questions Completed	13	36
Outstanding Questions	2	3

It is still too early to state if there is a specific trend in Rogers Room activity. Based on prior experience there is usually an increase in genealogy/local history traffic during May-July. So far the only metric that is consistent is that the majority of my inquiries stem from "Walk-In" patrons.

### **Seneca Area Museums:**

On August 5<sup>th</sup> I visited the Lunney Museum, and had an insightful discussion with Shelby Henderson and Nick McKinney. Also I was given a tour of the museum. During the course our discussion I was informed of several projects in Seneca as well as historical items of interest. At this time, the Seneca Area Museums are not providing genealogical research. This is an area that the library is more than willing to assist with.

I have visited three local museums, and each one provides a unique perspective on the history of Oconee County. The Oconee History Museum provides patrons an ability to follow the early history of the area to modern times. The Museum of the Cherokee provides a review of Oconee County during the time of the Cherokee. The Seneca Area Museums are focused on presenting, preserving, and providing access to the history of the City of Seneca. While these topics appear to differ the overall goal is to preserve the history of the area for future generations. The way OCPL can assist these organizations is by providing genealogical and local history assistance.

OCPL does provide genealogy and local history services. However, I would like to spend some time on crafting in-depth information guides on specific topics. For example, I have noticed an increased interest in how the area was changed with the construction of Lakes Hartwell and Keowee. This information can be found in the collection—but it is scattered amongst various books and maps. I intend to create a guide that includes books and maps, but more importantly a list of newspaper articles during this construction period. This information guide can then be shared and revised by the area museums. When it comes to genealogy the museums can refer people directly to the library. At this time, I am reviewing the services/fees at the Anderson, Greenville, and Spartanburg county libraries.

### **Oconee 250 Committee:**

I have been attending the Oconee 250 Committee Meetings. At the July Meeting I supplied a compiled list of battles that occurred in what is now Oconee County, and prepared a list of known American Revolution Veterans that lived or have been buried in Oconee County. At the August it was decided that we need to develop a mission statement before applying for grants to fund projects.

### **Outside Activities:**

- I was invited to attend the South Carolina Archives Association Summer Social. This provided me the opportunity to meet archivists from Clemson University, South Carolina Department of Archives and History, and other places around South Carolina. Also I was able to secure more contacts at Clemson University.
- We have successfully digitized the Seaborn *Cherokee Indian towns and Stage Coach Road* maps.



## **Bookmobile and Outreach Narrative, July/August 2022**

**Christie Johnson, Bookmobile Manager**

### **Operations**

All regularly scheduled stops were completed. Six volunteers worked with me, along with two Walhalla staff members who filled in. I completed my first quarter inventory.

Thanks to Leah Price at Westminster, I was able to hold a pop-up seed library giveaway program in August. I had 11 people take seeds from the bookmobile.

### **Outreach**

The Bookmobile was included in the End of Summer Bash at South Cove County Park in July. It was a great success, thanks to the hard work of Darcy and DJ from Youth Services. We had 22 people come on board the bookmobile at the bash.

### **Facilities/Vehicle Management**

Blair took the Bookmobile to Vehicle Maintenance for me in August to check the air conditioning again. It is working much better after this second trip for service.

### **Statistics**

In July, the Bookmobile made 21 stops, for a total of 23.25 hours open, and served 271 patrons. Ten of those stops were Outreach stops, where we served 208 people. Volunteers accrued 39.5 hours of time.

In August, the Bookmobile made 21 stops, for a total of 22.5 hours open, and served 245 patrons. Nine of those stops were Outreach stops, where we served 182 people. One new card was issued. Volunteers accrued 35.25 hours of time.

**Branch Services Narrative**  
**July - August 2022**

**Sue Andrus**

**Professional Development**

Bookmobile Manager Christie Johnson and I joined ABOS (Association of Bookmobile & Outreach Service) and registered for their annual conference held in October.

**Adult Programming**

I have begun a series of Saturday workshops, starting in September. The first "Saturday Crafterday" has space for 10 adults who will make tiny, mid-century modern ranch Christmas houses! Maddie Owens and I made prototypes to discover level of difficulty and estimate completion times.



**Staffing Information**

Kayla Rucker has transitioned from Circ Assistant II to Branch Manager at Salem. Kayla has been with the library for more than 10 years and has lots of experience running children's programs and craft projects.

The library system has completed the first full year of the EPMS evaluation system. All full time employees have gone through the goal setting and evaluation cycle, so now the process begins again. We feel that this method, using measurable, well-defined goals, yields a reliable description of an employee's strengths and weaknesses.

## **Library Family**

Congratulations to Circ Assistant I Maddie Owens, who graduated from Tri-County Tech in July! We (of course) had a potluck lunch party to celebrate her, which was expertly organized by Abi White.

### **Programming, Operations, etc...**

- ❖ July concluded our Summer Reading 2022 program partnership with CRO Keowee Falls. 22 people attended the mini mason jar aquarium program, while 18 attended the Finding Dory cupcake liner craft program. All attendees received a free book. The CRO Keowee Falls committee has already approved funds for SR 2023.
- ❖ The Salem Library hosted story time for 17 attendees in July and 40 attendees in August.
- ❖ Our first LEGO club session for Tweens was held on August 8<sup>th</sup>. Two tweens were in attendance.
- ❖ The monthly book club met on July 26<sup>th</sup> and August 30<sup>th</sup> via Zoom. Four were in attendance for both programs. It was unanimous that the book club remain virtual at this time.
- ❖ 32 Minion take and make craft kits were distributed.
- ❖ Patrons continued to sign up for the SR 2022 program through July.
- ❖ The library/town hall lobby was appropriately decorated to celebrate Summer Reading.
- ❖ A back-to-school display was in the lobby throughout the month of August.
- ❖ An interactive Dog Man- themed bulletin board was added. Kids (and even adults) were eager to share their favorite children's book and add it to the board.
- ❖ Kerry Leeper Brock, Community Resource Associate, held her first session to meet with the community of Salem on August 8<sup>th</sup>.
- ❖ As of late August, the Salem Library staff worked to reinstate an ILL option from Greenville County Library System.
- ❖ For much of August, Salem Town Hall received donations for the Kentucky flood disaster relief in the building's parking lot. Many library patrons participated in this drive.
- ❖ On August 1<sup>st</sup>, Dan Polk's retirement party was held and well-attended.
- ❖ On August, 15<sup>th</sup>, Kayla Rucker was named the new Salem Branch Manager.
- ❖ The Circulation Assistant II position was open for applications until mid-August. Several applicants were chosen for interviews.

### **Building Management**

- ❖ In late July, there was a slight leak coming from the a/c unit. Maintenance arrived on the same day that the leak was and it was promptly repaired.
- ❖ In late August, a new VOIP phone was installed by IT.
- ❖ Due to severe weather on 8/30, the Salem branch lost internet access for nearly two days. IT was notified and OneTone repaired the issue on 9/1. A new modem was installed.

## Resource Allocation

- ❖ Our programming budget was used to purchase LEGO supplies for our ongoing LEGO Club meetings.
- ❖ The aforementioned budget was also used to continue our monthly "Take and Make" kits for children.
- ❖ We are currently in the process of collaborating with the Westminster Branch to further our "Library of Things" collection. One of those items, Salem's Pickle Ball set, has recently been cataloged and is available for check out.

Stats	Jul	Aug
Visits	2035	2133
New Cards	20	17
ILLs	2	4

**Facilities:**

We are going to purchase a pressure washer and carpet cleaner so that we can clean ourselves, as the maintenance department does not have time to do it. I wish to purchase these within the library system but I have learned we are supposed to have maintenance purchase them since they are for maintaining the facilities.

The flagpole rope has been removed and the roads and maintenance departments are ordering a new rope and pulley. They will remove the ripped piece of flag from the top of the pole.

We would like to invite Jason, the maintenance director, out to examine what they might be able to do to fix and improve certain aspects of the building, such as the weeds growing inside that we have to pull (they have tried to work on this before so there may not be a solution), redoing the caulking in the bathrooms, and the warped railing around the book return. I am taking pictures of several specific areas so that they have an idea of what we need. Jason knows our building and we are sure he will be on board.

The Lakes and Hills Garden Club continues their generous upkeep of the outside beds they planted. Our next step is conferring with maintenance and Seneca Light and Water about the pipes in the bed closest to the loading dock to see how we can dig to plant something there.

We have contacted our blinds and shades vendor to fix a fallen window shade.

We hope to make the county administrator aware of some structural issues with the building (most notably the "accessible" ramp near the handicapped parking places) that were brought up in years past, in hopes that we will be able to get this on the county's radar for capital improvements.

In my personal power bill newsletter from Seneca Light and Water, I learned about the plans for the butterfly park on the city's part of the property. The article says that they hope to start on it this fall and that a student will help with designing the landscape for pollinator friendly plants. Hopefully this will come to fruition by spring 2023.

**Operations:**

Our August bingo program was successful with 21 attendees.

The Let's Talk About It book club will not meet this fall due to lack of interest from speakers.

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.

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

Statistics	July 2022	August 2022
Visits to library	5024	5050
New Cards Issued	87	113
ILL	21	27

**Staffing:** Cedric has left his full-time library position to take a retail position with a much higher salary. Nicole, a part time Staffmark employee, has been hired to fill his position. Michele has filled one of the open Staffmark positions and we will be hiring for the last open Staffmark position in September. I'm proud of all the staff for stepping up, doing extra closing shifts and Saturdays, and lots of extra time on the floor to keep our library running efficiently with only six employees.

Walhalla Library

July - August 2022

Tucker Brown, Circulation Manager

Staffing:

Currently the Walhalla circulation is fully staffed following the hiring of two new members to the team in July. Along with the new hires, our long term circulation assistant Maddie accepted a lateral move to the part-time county position with the added responsibilities of helping to support not only circulation, but also fill in at other branch locations and assist with tasks in collection management.

Meeting Room:

July –Cultural Outreach Committee, Foothills Care Center, Baby Read

August – Walhalla Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, League of Women Voters, Cultural Outreach Committee, The Oaks Home Owners Association

Study Room:

July 2022 – 37 uses

August 2022 – 24 uses

Facilities:

In the first week of July, a thunderstorm in the area caused a power outage at the Walhalla branch necessitating an early closure. Luckily the outage was short lived and the library was able to be open on time and offering its full array of services the next morning.

The Walhalla Fire Department performed their annual inspection for the branch in August to ensure that the library is up to code and safe for both the public as well as the staff. While the fire marshal did note a few issues, we were able to implement solutions within a 2-week period and are ready for the upcoming year.

Statistics:

Category	July 2022	August 2022
Visitors	3,991	3,736
New Cards Issued	69	64
ILL	16	23

## Westminster Report for July and August 2022

### Community, Staff, and Programming

- We had 22 people attend our movie showing of *Luca* in July.
- Advertising for the Bingo program held in July was posted on multiple community Facebook pages with numerous interactions of likes and shares. Based on this and the low capacity of the meeting room, staff were prepared to divide the one program into two 30 minute sessions of Bingo. There were 36 for the first session and 24 for the last. Everyone got to take home at least one prize and seemed to enjoy themselves.
- Library staff were very excited to see the Park Place Drive-In ice cream shop open next door to the library (Covid delayed them quite a bit). They brought each staff a token for free ice cream. When they found out we were hosting a Bingo program, they brought 10 more tokens for us to use as prizes.
- Staff created a popcorn themed display highlighting books that have been turned into movies.
- On August 16, Leah attended a Seed Saving program presented by the Oconee Cultivation Project, a local non-profit that educates the community in agricultural and culinary practices using local foods. The hope is to start asking for people to save seeds and return them to the BBW Seed Library. Hopefully with collaboration and word-of-mouth, the OCP can help us in these endeavors.
- To tie in with the upcoming Apple Festival events, the library hosted an adult craft program where cut apples were used as stamps to create festive bags. There were 9 who attended along with a representative from *The Daily Journal*.
- The staff are happy to have our new community resource associate Kerry working with us on Tuesdays. We have already had one successful referral to here and hope to have many more.

### Building Management

- A construction accident caused a power outage at the library on July 5 which resulted in the library being closed from 1 to 6 pm.
- Storms in Walhalla caused a complete Internet/Wi-Fi outage on July 7 from 5 to 6 pm.
- Staff had noticed the cordless VOIP phone would not allow calls to some phone numbers. Drew from IT came by and fixed the problem on August 30.
- After 3 months of issues with users not being able to connect to the Wi-Fi, IT did attempt a fix but it was not successful. The next plan is to replace the switch to see if that may be causing the issues.
- The water fountain filter was replaced in August giving the water bottle filling station another year of fresh water.
- The parking lot light post appears to have been backed into over the weekend of August 27-28 and is leaning out of the ground. Maintenance has been requested to come evaluate it. On August 31 maintenance came and it was decided the pole needed to be welded to fix it. Roads and Bridges were called in to assist to remove the pole and take it to be welded. The pole was fixed the next day and reinstalled.

### Resource Allocation

- The Westminster Library occasionally receives donations from an employee through Schneider Electric's contribution program. Some of these funds were used to purchase cedar planters to improve the library's curb appeal. The plan is to have them along with some new rocks in place by the end of September.



- Two new desk chairs were purchased using the Friends of the Library money given to the branch.
- During the month of August, the libraries hosted pop-up seed libraries featuring fall seeds (Salem will host theirs in September). They gave out a combined total of 339 packs of seeds.

Month	Packs
June-December 2021	755
January '22	NA
February*	902
March	585
April	134
May	100
June**	209
July	50
August	481

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

\*includes 300 packs for kits  
 \*\*includes 150 packs for kits

**Youth Services Department**  
**July - August 2022**  
**Darcy Arnall, Youth Services Librarian**

### **Summer Reading 2022**

Summer Reading 2022 officially wrapped on July 29th, and it was a wonderful year! We ended the program with 1,327 participants, 611 completions, and 741,500 total minutes of reading among children, teens, and adults. Compared to 2021, our Summer Reading participation increased by about 25%, and our participants read about 45% more minutes. We distributed 19 grand prizes at the end of the program, including Amazon Fire tablets, LEGO sets, books, science kits, games, and more. For more detailed statistics about our Summer Reading Program, please see the attached report.

DJ and I spent a lot of time in August compiling Summer Reading statistics and finishing all of the necessary reports. I turned in our statistical data to the State Library at the end of August and compiled my own Summer Reading report at the same time. On August 24<sup>th</sup>, DJ and I met with a representative of the Cliffs Residents Outreach organization to discuss their involvement in SRP. In the spring, CRO donated some funds to SRP, and those funds were used for our Read to Succeed book bag giveaway and summer programming at the Salem Library. We had good outcomes from both programs, and we shared that information with CRO. CRO would like to partner with us again next year, and we are looking at different projects and initiatives that CRO can help fund. In August, I submitted the reimbursement request and end-of-project report for the LSTA Summer Learning Grant to the State Library. We fulfilled the budget obligations in the application with our two programs at the Walhalla Performing Arts Center. The Seneca Journal covered both programs, and they published some excellent photos and write-ups about both events (see attachments). Overall, the grant was again a successful project, and we plan to apply for something similar in 2023. However, we will be exploring some new options for performers, just to give our patrons a change of pace.

### **Programs**

In the second half of Summer Reading, we continued to have excellent participation and program attendance from our patrons. We held nine storytimes at the Walhalla, Westminster, and Seneca libraries in July, which were attended by a total of 226 people. Storytime took a break for a few weeks in August so that DJ and I would have time to plan for the fall, complete some professional development, and finish back-office projects. We started back on August 22<sup>nd</sup>, and for the five storytimes that we did before the end of the month, we had 98 attendees.

We had our second performer program at the WPAC on July 12<sup>th</sup>. Safe Haven & Educational Adventures brought a wide assortment of live animals and taught about conservation, pet care, and animal science. Afterward, their presenters allowed the audience to interact with, and even touch, most of the animals that they brought. After our record-breaking crowd at the Aquarium program in June, we were concerned that history would repeat itself at the Safe Haven program. Fortunately, our locally-focused marketing strategies and more descriptive advertising eliminated that problem. We had a good crowd of 215 people at the event, but there was still more than enough space in the WPAC for everyone who wanted to attend.

We presented a wide variety of programs in July, all of which were well-attended, but a couple of events were especially noteworthy. Because Sensory Playtime was so popular in June, and the spots filled up so quickly, we added an additional iteration of the program in July. That instance almost did not happen because the Walhalla Library had a power surge and outage right before the program was supposed to start. We managed to find some time to reschedule, and between the two Sensory Playtime sessions in July, we hosted 65 people. Due to its immense popularity, that program has been added to our regular school-year rotation. Surprisingly, our other stand-out program was for teens. For the past couple of years, the library has hosted escape room programs in the summer, and they have been well-attended. Previously, we used pre-packaged, escape-room-in-a-box games, and while they were fun, the games were sometimes difficult to solve and not conducive to large groups. In the spring, I started researching different options, and I discovered printable escape rooms that could be purchased on Etsy. We bought a pirate-themed game and decided to host the program after hours so that we could use the main part of the Walhalla library. There were lots of different clues and puzzles included in the kit, and we hid those items in various places throughout the stacks. The teens split up into teams and raced to complete the puzzles first and find the treasure (which was candy and free books). This program was so fun! All of the reservations were taken, and everyone who attended seemed to have a great time. There were a few hiccups along the way, and we learned some best practices for future escape room programs. The printable escape room required a lot more preparation, but the result was well worth it.

We wrapped up our Summer Reading activities on July 27<sup>th</sup> with the End-of-Summer Bash at South Cove County Park. The Bash is our participants' first opportunity to pick up their certificates and medals if they completed a reading log, and we also gave out grand prizes to the winners that attended. In addition, we gave out free snacks, snow cones, and books. We also invited several community organizations to participate in this event, and they all did a wonderful job helping make the party special. Oconee County Emergency Services brought a fire truck and sprayed water from one of their hoses over the beach area for the kids to play in. Oconee Humane Society brought several very sweet, adoptable dogs that the children enjoyed petting and playing with, and the Friends of the Library brought some of their mystery bags of books to sell to the attendees. Oconee County First Steps set up a booth to register children for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, and the Oconee County Sheriff's Office brought their SWAT tank for the kids to explore. The staff at South Cove are always incredibly generous with their facility for this event, and we appreciate it very much! Being able to use the park at no cost to us is an amazing resource for our Summer Reading Program. It is difficult to calculate how many people attended the Bash, but based on the count we were able to get, we think that about 700 people attended, and we gave away roughly 500 books.

Because June and July are always incredibly busy for Youth Services, we took a short programming break in August to regroup from the summer, complete all necessary reports for the State Library, and plan for the fall. Between July and August, Youth Services planned and presented a total of 27 programs, which were attended by 1,513 people.

### **Collection Development & Maintenance**

YS collection development is starting out well for the new fiscal year. During the programming break in August, we spent some time working on special collection projects, including Vox books, bilingual book packs, and math kits. Our current Vox books are extremely popular, but we had not purchased any new titles or rotated the collection in a couple of years. I ordered about 50 new titles, and DJ rotated our existing collection to different branches. We feel that rotating the collection periodically helps with circulation since most patrons pick up those books from browsing rather than

holds. Bilingual book packs have been an ongoing project for several months, but we were struggling to decide on the best design for the kits. We finally think we found a good solution, and the book packs are now awaiting cataloging. A year or more ago, Leah Kelley suggested adding math kits to our collection, and now that the collection management department has completed some of their other large projects, they want to tackle math kits. Leah has started researching books and activities that align with the South Carolina Department of Education math standards for grades K-5. Designing, compiling, and cataloging the math kits will be a multi-month project, but Leah has already made excellent progress. It is not unreasonable to estimate that these kits could be in circulation within this school year.

### **Community Outreach**

In August, I compiled a list of preschool outreach locations for the new school year. We have arranged monthly storytime visits with seven locations this year including St. John's Lutheran Preschool, Homestead Academy, Golden Corner Preschool, St. Mark's Child Development Center, Pennsylvania Children's Center, The Learning Center at Open Door Baptist Church, and Trinity Baptist Preschool. Now that DJ is full-time, we have more flexibility to add outreach locations to our schedule.

### **Collaboration**

In August, I emailed the media specialists and literacy coaches at all SDOC schools to share Summer Reading results and offer opportunities for collaboration in the new school year. Now that the schools are opening up again to outside guests and offering more family events, we want to reestablish any collaborative relationships that may have broken down due to the pandemic. The school visits that DJ and I made last May have also gone a long way toward helping us partner with the schools.

Blair and I have been researching some new circulating pass options. Our state park passes are still extremely popular, so we wanted to see what else we might be able to offer. Pickens, Greenville, and Anderson Counties all circulate passes to the Upstate Children's Museum, so I contacted the museum to find out what is involved in circulating passes at our libraries. I attended the August First Steps meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

### **Marketing**

In July, Bethany redesigned the new card and outreach brochures with library information. I had requested a new outreach brochure that was more informative for potential patrons, and, as usual, Bethany did an amazing job creating that resource.

### **Office Improvements**

The Youth Services office has been an ongoing project for several months, but in August, DJ and I finally completed most of what we wanted to improve. We reconfigured a lot of the furniture and added new shelving and containers to increase the storage space. We also re-did the supplies inventory spreadsheet and numbering system to reflect all of these changes. Our poster printer had been cantankerous for months, but DJ worked through several troubleshooting solutions in August, and the machine seems to be functioning correctly now.

### **Continuing Education**

DJ and I completed a webinar from the Eric Carle Museum on Open Book, Open Play on August 17<sup>th</sup>. I am also preparing for my first conference presentation at the South Carolina Library Association

Conference in October. I will be presenting information on videography based on everything I learned from presenting virtual programs during and after the pandemic.

## Program Attendance

LEGO Club	50
Storytime	324
Sensory Playtime	65
Safe Haven	573
I Read to Animals	215
Explorers Club	33
Escape Room	25
MakerCart	15

## Program Pictures

UNDERWATER CREATURES



COURTESY: THE OCEAN

Courtney Felton shows off a horseshoe crab to a young guest after the "Dive Deep" program last week at the Walhalla Performing Arts Center.

### OCPL hosts animal program with SC Aquarium

**BY LAUREN PIERCE**  
THE JOURNAL

WALHALLA — Local children took a "Dive Deep" last week when the South Carolina Aquarium came to town to present its "Dive Deep" program.

The Oconee County Public Library system hosted the aquarium at the Walhalla Performing Arts Center for its "Oceans of Possibilities" summer reading program.

More than 500 kids and adults showed up for the event, according to library director

Blaiz Hinson. "We may have to expand this. This is crazy," Hinson said. "I know we would get a crowd, but I didn't think... I had no idea that it was going to be this."

WPAC director Mark Thompson added it was the first sold-out kids program he's had at the center.

"Dive Deep" featured live animals that kids could see and learn about, including sea urchins, starfish, sea anemone, hermit crabs and horseshoe crabs. Those types of animals live near or on the bottom of the ocean floor.

1: Seneca Journal article on the SC Aquarium program at WPAC



PHOTO BY COURTNEY THE OCEAN

Safe Haven's Glenda Lafink handles and shows off an alligator to the crowd at the Walhalla Performing Arts Center.

### Upstate exotic animal rescue brings critters to WPAC

**BY LAUREN PIERCE**  
THE JOURNAL

WALHALLA — The Oconee County Public Library system once again brought in a full crowd for kids to get an up-close view of exotic animals.

The library system and Walhalla Performing Arts Center welcomed Safe Haven & Educational Adventures, an exotic animal rescue, on July 12 where the kids got to see and touch different critters — while also receiving a learning experience.

Animals included an alligator, prairie dogs, turtles, snakes and birds.

Youth services librarian Darcy



Above: Oconee County Public Library youth services librarian Darcy Arnull lets a young attendee pet a ferret. Left: Safe Haven's Brandon Palmiotto walks through the crowd with a prairie dog.

Arnull said "it's very encouraging" to see children's programs thriving. "We put a lot of thought and effort into planning these programs, so it's very rewarding to present them to kids and families who are so enthusiastic about what we're doing," she said. "Obviously, we believe that public libraries are extremely important for our community, especially for children and families, so we love to see people participating in and enjoying the programs that

we offer. And as our patrons participate, we get inspired to add more programs more regularly. I want to do the best that I can with the OCPL Youth Services Department, and seeing our patrons get excited about library activities is what motivates me to keep working."

The library programs are free educational opportunities.

"We provide a safe, positive space

SEE HAVEN, PAGE 8B

2: Seneca Journal article on the Safe Haven program at WPAC



# IMPACT SNAPSHOT

## REGISTRATIONS

People who signed up for the program

1,327

## COMPLETIONS

People who completed at least one reading log

611

## COMPLETION PERCENTAGE

Percentage of registrations who completed the program

46%

# REGISTRATIONS

	E	I	T	A	Total per Branch
Bookmobile	0	1	0	7	8
Salem	24	40	5	34	103
Seneca	90	221	46	115	472
Walhalla	93	176	53	97	419
Westminster	67	129	47	82	325
Total per Age Group	274	567	151	335	

# COMPLETIONS

	E	I	T	A	Total per Branch
Bookmobile	0	0	0	2	2
Salem	2	11	3	17	33
Seneca	44	111	20	59	234
Walhalla	34	79	25	45	181
Westminster	40	55	21	43	159
Total per Age Group	120	256	69	166	
Completion Percentage	43.8%	45.1%	45.7%	49.5%	

## REGISTRATION GROUPS

E	Emergent Readers	Ages 0-5
I	Independent Readers	Ages 6-11
T	Teen Readers	Ages 12-17
A	Adult Readers	Ages 18+

# 2021

vs

# 2022

1,063

Registrations

1,327

Registrations

836

Kids (*under 18*)  
Registrations

992

Kids (*under 18*)  
Registrations

466

Completions

611

Completions

339

Kids (*under 18*)  
Completions

445

Kids (*under 18*)  
Completions

513,000

Minutes Read

737,500

Minutes Read



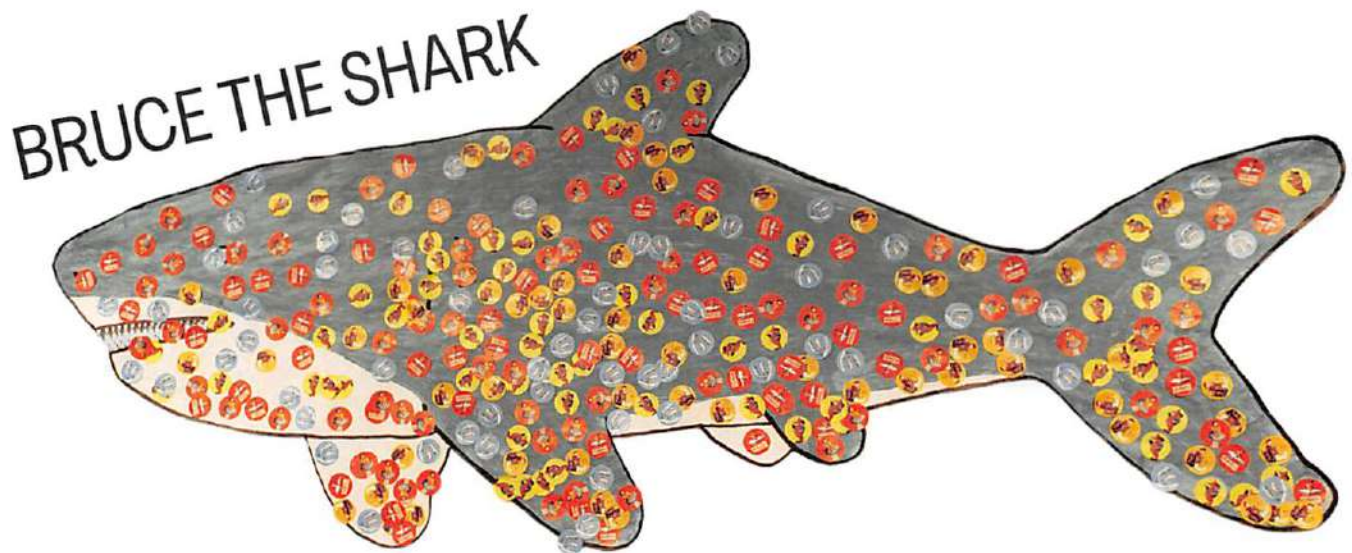
# READING LOGS

One completed reading log = 500 minutes of reading

## KIDS (UNDER 18)



## TOTAL (KIDS AND ADULTS)



This year, we hung up a 6-ft shark poster on the wall at the Walhalla Library. For every reading log turned in at Walhalla, the participant added a sticker to Bruce to defeat the shark. This is the final result at the end of July.

# EVENTS

44

Summer Reading Events  
in June and July

2,843

Event Attendees





# SCHOOL VISITS



DJ and Darcy visited 5 Oconee County elementary schools in May to promote Summer Reading. We did our promotional program for:

**2,368** people

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## PARTICIPATION INCREASES

Summer Reading participation at the schools we visited showed a small increase in registrations and a marked increase in completions.

**5.4%**

increase in  
registrations

**30.5%**

increase in  
completions

# GIVEAWAY BOOKS



We gave away free books at several programs throughout the summer. The total number donated was approximately:

**1,202** books

## SPONSORS AND VOLUNTEERS



Oconee County  
Emergency Services



THE CLIFFS



Oconee County  
Sheriff's Office

South Cove  
County Park