

OCPL Director's Report

September 2024

1. Programs and Services: Programs were well attended in July. The library usually takes a break from most programming in August at the end of Summer Reading. Youth Services lead the show again in July, with Explorer's Clubs, LEGO Clubs, Science Heroes program at the Walhalla Performing Arts Center, and more. See Youth Services report for more detail. Adult programs included a program on rum distilling and another on pirate monoprints. These all followed a pirate theme for the Summer Reading program, Adventure Begins at Your Library. The End of Summer Reading Bash was held at South Cove County Park, and was also well attended.

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 FY24 to date are attached.

4. Personnel and Training: Information from Human Resources about changes to the job descriptions and salaries resulting from the Evergreen Study should be coming soon. In anticipation of that, we asked to have the wages for Staffmark part time increased, and received permission to allow them to go to \$11 per hour. Several of our staff are taking part in the county training for AED and CPR in September. The goal was to have at least one or two from each branch participate.

5. Building and Grounds: There will soon be a bid schedule for the ADA ramp in Seneca. I should have more information about that by the Board meeting in September. We have approached Facilities Maintenance about building a small (approximately 13' x 24') conference room at the rear of the Walhalla Library. We will remove three sets of shelving from the non-fiction section, consolidate the books, and build the room there. The Friends of the Library will be financially supporting this effort. This will be for both staff and public, reserved in advance, just like our larger meeting room.

6. Technology: We are still exploring air print capability in our existing print management, but will need to probably take a larger look at our whole print management scheme before we're through. We have discovered a module called "Princh," that might allow us to use our existing Envision LPT1 print management set up. The library is also exploring adding Hoopla digital materials to our offerings.

7. Friends of the Library: Used book sales have continued each Thursday from 10:00 to 3:30 p.m. The Friends are actively raising funds for the small conference room in Walhalla.

July Sales:

Basement Sales	\$2,296
Books on the Alley	1,895
Lobby	273
Online Sales	203

2nd Party	80
OCPL LFL	48
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$4,795</u>

August Sales:

Basement Sales	\$1,909
Books on the Alley	1,931
Lobby	348
Online Sales	203
2nd Party	200
OCPL LFL	132
Cafe	75
Seneca	57
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$4,855</u>

8. Oconee County: We don't yet know what impact the Evergreen Wage, Classification, and Time Use Study will have on the budget or on wages/salaries, except that preliminary figures appear to indicate about a 7% increase on average for all positions.

9. State Library: The State Library has resumed much of its training and exchanges. Quientell Walker and Brittany Castro will attend an Adult Services Exchange at the Lancaster County in September. The State Library also still provides the Tutor.com database. The annual data survey will open in September and will have some new categories, like differentiating between public uses of the meeting rooms and library/programming uses of the meeting rooms.

10. Community Involvement: See Kerry Leeper Brock and Amy Saylor are 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. The library and the City of Walhalla collaborated to install a Story Walk on the Greenway Trail. The Bookmobile was also present for the Back to School night in West Union. It will also be in the Westminster Apple Festival in September. The library also held a Story Time in Spanish at the Walhalla Main Branch in August.

11. Other: We have added a number of items to the Library of Things. We are also looking at a couple of projects to improve the public spaces at our libraries. We will sadly be losing Youth Services Librarian Kasey Swords to Anderson University as of September 18. She will become their new Education Librarian.

	July 2023	July 2024	Change	Aug 2023	Aug 2024	Change
Visits to Library	13,813	14,376	4.1%	13,300	12,744	-4.2%
Material Circulation - LOT	0	187		0	144	
Material Circulation - Adult	13,305	13,399	0.7%	13,642	13,391	-1.8%
Material Circulation - Youth	1,145	1,102	-3.8%	1,018	874	-14.1%
Material Circulation - Juvenile	10,807	11,647	7.8%	10,236	9,758	-4.7%
Total Material Circulation	25,257	26,335	4.3%	24,896	24,167	-2.9%
Internet Uses	740	796	7.6%	865	804	-7.1%
Internet Hours of Use	328	407	24.1%	432	423	-2.1%
New Cards Issued	229	184	-19.7%	249	206	-17.3%
Programs - Adult	5	8	60.0%	1	10	900.0%
Programs Attendance - Adult	50	34	-32.0%	5	68	1260.0%
Programs - Youth 12-18	5	4	-20.0%	0	1	
Programs Att - Youth 12-18	39	20	-48.7%	0	3	
Programs -Juvenile 6-11	12	12	0.0%	0	3	
Programs Att -Juv 6-11	226	228	0.9%	0	18	
Programs - Children 0-5	7	4	-42.9%	5	6	20.0%
Programs - Att - Children 0-5	255	211	-17.3%	98	103	5.1%
Programs - All Ages	0	9		0	3	
Programs Att - All Ages	0	360		0	44	
Programs Att - Passive	0	244		0	151	
Outreach Activities	17	6	-64.7%	15	1	-93.3%
Outreach Act. Attendance	1,261	697	-44.7%	212	3	-98.6%
Public Training Sessions	0	0		0	0	
Public Training Participants	0	0		0	0	
Public Training Hours	0	0		0	0	
Staff Training Sessions	0	0		3	0	-100.0%
Staff Training Participants	0	0		4	3	-25.0%
Staff Training Hours	0	0		4	3	-25.0%
Number of New Volunteers	33	5	-84.8%	1	2	100.0%
Number of Vol Hours	97	45	-53.6%	50	34	-32.5%
Meeting Room Use	65	76	16.9%	58	63	8.6%
Meeting Room Attendance	1,009	987	-2.2%	326	759	132.8%
Specialized 1:1 Sessions	0	4		0	4	
Number of Web Site Hits	14,050	13,104	-6.7%	12,620	12,223	-3.1%
Wi-Fi Users	263	270	2.7%	258	263	1.9%
Wi-Fi Sessions	1,765	1,855	5.1%	1,967	1,862	-5.3%
CloudLibrary Downloads	3,546	4,210	18.7%	3,689	4,019	8.9%
Flipster Users	174	124	-28.7%	102	148	45.1%
Kanopy Users	2,098	2,702	28.8%	2,358	1,553	-34.1%
Ancestry.com Hits	380	376	-1.1%	223	373	67.3%
Interlibrary Loans	43	54	25.6%	83	47	-43.4%
New Material Added	560	930	66.1%	994	771	-22.4%

OCPL Budget 2024-2025 - 9-11-2024

Account Number	Description	Budgeted	Spent	Percent	Balance
Local Budget					
010-206-30018-00000	Travel	1000	541.35	54%	459
010-206-30024-00000	Equip. Maintenance	2,703	2,713	100%	-10
010-206-30025-00000	Professional -Staffmark	145,000	24,136	17%	120,864
010-206-30041-00000	Telecommunications	1,000		0%	1,000
010-206-30056-00000	Data Processing	30,026	29,784	99%	242
010-206-30059-00000	Copier Click Charges - Xerox	8,500	1,767	21%	6,733
010-206-30080-00000	Dues	750	80	11%	670
010-206-30084-00000	School, Training, Sem.	2,000		0%	2,000
010-206-30090-00000	Honorarium	900	900	100%	0
010-206-33022-00207	Bldg Maint - Walhalla	7,000	2,357	34%	4,643
010-206-33022-00208	Bldg Maint - Seneca	3,500	1,935	55%	1,565
010-206-33022-00209	Bldg Maint - Westminster	2,500	1,876	75%	624
010-206-33022-00210	Bldg. Maint - Salem	2,020	1,764	87%	256
010-206-34043-00207	Electricity - Walhalla	18,000	2,238	12%	15,762
010-206-34043-00208	Electricity - Seneca	12,000	1,281	11%	10,719
010-206-34043-00209	Electricity - Westminster	11,000	981	9%	10,019
010-206-34043-00210	Electricity - Salem	5,000	5,000	100%	0
010-206-34044-00207	Water - Walhalla	1,700	156	9%	1,544
010-206-34044-00208	Water - Seneca	2,000	226	11%	1,774
010-206-34044-00209	Water - Westminster	1,200	100	8%	1,100
010-206-40031-00000	Sm Capital Equip (Loc)	2,800	2,277	81%	523
010-206-40032-00000	Operational	6,000	4,662	78%	1,338
010-206-40032-00000-A	Youth Services	2,000	272	14%	1,728
010-206-40033-00000	Postage	500		0%	500
010-206-40034-00000	Food	500		0%	500
010-206-40101-00000	Books (Local)	87,000	32,909	38%	54,091
010-206-40102-00000	Periodicals (Local)	23,000	15,326	67%	7,675
010-206-40103-00000	AV (Local)	11,500	2,375	21%	9,125
010-206-80206-00000	Automobile Maint - Library	1,500		0%	1,500
010-206-81206-00000	Gasoline - Library	4,000	648	16%	3,352
010-206-82206-00000	Diesel - Library	3,000	362	12%	2,638
TOTAL LOCAL FUNDS		398,599	136,125	34%	262,474
MISC. FUNDS					
013-206-60010-00000	Gift's	52,242			52,242
013-080-00805-11001	Nettles Trust	67,760	6,890	10%	60,870
TOTAL MISC. FUNDS					113,112
State Aid Budget - \$197,452.50					
240-206-30056-00255	Data Processing (State)	\$17,910.78	8,064.99	45%	9,845.79
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)	7,065.42	1,059.65	15%	6,005.77
240-206-40032-00255	Operational (State)	\$15,000.00	920.04	6%	14,079.96
240-206-40045-00255	IT Equipment	\$24,520.30	1,500.95	6%	23,019.35
240-206-40111-00255	Books (State)	\$81,500.00	7,810.59	10%	73,689.41
240-206-40112-00255	Periodicals (State)	\$32,356.00	8,338.91	26%	24,017.09
240-206-40113-00255	AV (State)	\$16,600.00	976.24	6%	15,623.76
Total State Aid Funds		\$197,452.50	28,671.37	15%	168,781.13
010-206-30025-00000	Thomas & Hutton Engineering		ADA Ramp - Seneca Library		Enc. \$4489.80

Current Reciprocal Borrowing Policy

RECIPROCAL BORROWING WITH PICKENS AND ANDERSON COUNTIES:

The Oconee County Library System will offer residents of Pickens and Anderson Counties borrowing privileges for all circulating materials at all its service points provided that residents of Oconee County are afforded the same borrowing privileges in all that county's public library service points. In providing this privilege, it is understood that these out-of-county residents will agree to abide by all borrowing rules of the Oconee County Library System, just as Oconee County residents will be required to abide by the rules of the Pickens County or Anderson County Library.

Following are the guidelines for Reciprocal Borrowing:

- No materials borrowed from one county's libraries may be returned to another county's libraries. (There is no courier service between counties.) If an item is returned to one of the Oconee County libraries, late fees will accrue to the maximum penalty until the items are picked up by the patron and returned to a branch library in Pickens/Anderson County.
- Residents of Pickens and Anderson Counties are entitled to free and unrestricted borrower cards provided that residents of Oconee County are given the same borrowing privileges in Pickens and Anderson County Library service points.
- Owning property in Pickens or Anderson County is not sufficient. The person must be a *resident* of the county.
- No item(s) may be checked out until confirmation has been received from the Pickens or Anderson County Library System indicating that the person is in good standing in Pickens or Anderson County, or whether they have a library card there.
- The following DIFFERENCES in procedures are necessary:
 - Staff must contact Pickens or Anderson County Library by phone (or email if necessary) to verify that the patron is in good standing.
- If the patron is in good standing in Pickens or Anderson, then the normal procedures for issuing library cards to patrons will be followed.
- If the patron is NOT in good standing, the patron will be informed of this and told that they must clear their account/record in Pickens or Anderson before they will be issued a free card from Oconee County Libraries, or they may pay the current out-of-county fee.
- The Oconee County Library is in no way responsible for any lost or damaged books that were checked out of the Pickens or Anderson County Libraries, and the same is true of Pickens or Anderson County.
- Note below the difference in responses to patrons who 1) are not in good standing, or 2) do not have a library card from the Pickens or Anderson Library.

ISSUING RECIPROCAL LIBRARY CARDS:

- We will follow our current registration procedures, including asking patron to fill out our library card application and getting proper identification with name and address. Parents must sign for children, just as we do for Oconee patrons.
- When verification of good standing is received, an Oconee card will be issued. In the patron's record, staff should make a note in the reciprocal borrower field.
- If the patron's record is NOT in good standing at Pickens or Anderson, they may *pay the normal out-of-county charges* to receive an Oconee County Library card.
- If the patron does not have a Pickens or Anderson County card, they may show correct identification that they are a resident of Pickens or Anderson County, and they may apply for an Oconee County card with *no out-of-county fees charged*.

Proposed Reciprocal Borrowing Policy

Changes highlighted in blue. Removal highlighted in red.

RECIPROCAL BORROWING WITH PICKENS AND ANDERSON COUNTIES:

The Oconee County Library System will offer residents of Pickens and Anderson Counties borrowing privileges for **most** circulating materials at all its service points provided that residents of Oconee County are afforded the same borrowing privileges in all that county's public library service points. **Go Passes, Library of Things, and eBooks and eAudiobooks are not included with reciprocal borrowing privileges. Reciprocal borrowers are not eligible for Interlibrary loans.** In providing this privilege, it is understood that these out-of-county residents will agree to abide by all borrowing rules of the Oconee County Library System, just as Oconee County residents will be required to abide by the rules of the Pickens County or Anderson County Library.

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- Residents of Pickens and Anderson Counties are entitled to free and unrestricted borrower cards provided that residents of Oconee County are given the same borrowing privileges in Pickens and Anderson County Library service points.
- The person must be a *resident* of Pickens or Anderson County. **Owning property in Pickens or Anderson County is not sufficient.**
- No item(s) may be checked out until confirmation has been received from the Pickens or Anderson County Library System indicating that the person is in good standing in Pickens or Anderson County, or whether they have a library card there.
- The following DIFFERENCES in procedures are necessary:
 - Staff must contact Pickens or Anderson County Library by phone (or email if necessary) to verify that the patron is in good standing.
- If the patron is in good standing in Pickens or Anderson, then the normal procedures for issuing library cards to patrons will be followed.
- If the patron is NOT in good standing, the patron will be informed of this and told that they must clear their account/record in Pickens or Anderson before they will be issued a free card from Oconee County Libraries, or they may pay the current out-of-county fee.
- The Oconee County Library is in no way responsible for any lost or damaged books that were checked out of the Pickens or Anderson County Libraries, and the same is true of Pickens or Anderson County.
- Note below the difference in responses to patrons who 1) are not in good standing, or 2) do not have a library card from the Pickens or Anderson Library.

ISSUING RECIPROCAL LIBRARY CARDS:

- We will follow our **current registration procedures**. The reciprocal borrower must fill out our library card application, as well as present a valid form of photo identification and proof of current address. Parents must sign for children, just as we do for Oconee patrons.
- When verification of **good standing** is received, an Oconee card will be issued. In the patron's record, staff should make a note in the reciprocal borrower field.
- If the patron's record is **NOT in good standing** at Pickens or Anderson, they may *pay the normal out-of-county charges* to receive an Oconee County Library card.
- If the patron **does not have a Pickens or Anderson County card**, they may show correct identification that they are a resident of Pickens or Anderson County, and they may apply for an Oconee County card with *no out-of-county fees charged*.

Out of County Resident Card:

Residents of Pickens or Anderson County may purchase an out of county resident card for an annual fee of \$20 in order to gain borrowing privileges for downloadable eBooks and eAudiobooks. Go Passes, Library of Things, and eBooks and eAudiobooks are not included with out of county borrowing privileges.

Proposed Reciprocal Borrowing Policy

RECIPROCAL BORROWING WITH PICKENS AND ANDERSON COUNTIES:

The Oconee County Library System will offer residents of Pickens and Anderson Counties borrowing privileges for most circulating materials at all its service points provided that residents of Oconee County are afforded the same borrowing privileges in all that county's public library service points. Go Passes, Library of Things, and eBooks and eAudiobooks are not included with reciprocal borrowing privileges. Reciprocal borrowers are not eligible for Interlibrary loans. In providing this privilege, it is understood that these out-of-county residents will agree to abide by all borrowing rules of the Oconee County Library System, just as Oconee County residents will be required to abide by the rules of the Pickens County or Anderson County Library.

Following are the guidelines for Reciprocal Borrowing:

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- The person must be a *resident* of Pickens or Anderson County. Owning property in Pickens or Anderson County is not sufficient.
- The Oconee County Library is in no way responsible for any lost or damaged books that were checked out of the Pickens or Anderson County Libraries, and the same is true of Pickens or Anderson County.

Issuing Reciprocal Library Cards:

- We will follow our current registration procedures. The reciprocal borrower must fill out our library card application, as well as present a valid form of photo identification and proof of current address. Parents must sign for children, just as we do for Oconee patrons.

Out of County Resident Card:

Residents of Pickens or Anderson County may purchase an out of county resident card for an annual fee of \$20 in order to gain borrowing privileges for downloadable eBooks and eAudiobooks. Go Passes, Library of Things, and eBooks and eAudiobooks are not included with out of county borrowing privileges

Summer Reading

This summer, 325 adults registered for our summer reading challenge. Of those registered, 155 completed at least 600 minutes of reading and were eligible for the grand prize drawing. Adults logged a total of 306,681 minutes of reading. Grand prizes for adults included a Cricut mini heat press, a mini drone, and an Amazon tablet. Head-Lee Nursery donated ten \$25 gift cards that were also given out as adult summer reading prizes.

Library Card Design Contest

The Library held a contest during August to design a new, limited-edition library card. The contest was open to all ages. We had 37 entries. Staff will vote for a winner. The winning design(s) will be announced in September during National Card Signup Month.

Programs

July and August were great months for adult programming. We were proud to partner with three community business/organizations for adult programs: Chattooga Belle Distillery, Celestial Sisters Wellness, and the Oconee County Beekeepers Association. Freda Merck of Celestial Sisters Wellness led a sound bath in the Salem Community Center. There were fifteen participants and the program was well received by all who attended. In Seneca, fifteen patrons gathered to make wreaths showcasing their team's colors for the upcoming football season. They were excited to have a Clemson related craft. I held a Puzzle Swap at Walhalla in July. Patrons were invited to drop in and trade the puzzles they no longer want for new-to-them puzzles. Fifteen patrons came out to the swap, many bringing 8-10 puzzles to trade. This is going to become a quarterly program.

A quarterly Saturday puzzle swap is part of my new goal of making adult programming more consistent. I would like to have recurring programs that adults can count on occurring on a regular basis. Initially, this regular schedule will consist of Chess Club (second Wednesdays at 4:30 in Walhalla), Salem's Suitcase (a travel program in Salem; third Wednesdays at 10 am), and Book Club (third Fridays at 10 am at Mountain Mocha).

Professional Development

After the bustle of summer reading subsided, I focused on professional development. In August, I completed three webinar trainings related to my duties: Adult Library Programs that Work, 3 Must Haves for New Hire Training, and Improving Communication Effectiveness for New(er) Managers and Supervisors.

Program Attendance

Chattooga Belle Dist.	5
Puzzle Swap	15
Craft (Painting)	8
Book Club	7
Sound Bath	15
Chess Club	11
Salem Travel	1
Beekeeping	5
Craft (Wreath)	15
Outreach	17

Brittany's presentation

was intriguing! She showed wonderful slides of the most important sights. I am looking forward to her next "tour" to Peru! And I will surely encourage friends to attend

Jeannie Ekson
Salem 8/21/2024

Bookmobile and Outreach Narrative, July/August 2024

Angie Clark-Bookmobile Manager

Operations

In July, 22 regularly scheduled stops were completed, along with 3 outreach. Four volunteers, one of which is new, worked with me, along with two Walhalla staff members. I did stop service at an assisted living facility, because I was only seeing one patron. It has only been the one patron since I took over bookmobile in November 2023.

In August, 24 regular stops were completed, one of which is a new stop at an assisted living facility. Two of the stops are preschools. We see them twice a month from August-May. They have stated the new 24/25 school year. Five volunteers, two of which are new, worked with me. One Walhalla staff assisted me.

Special Outreach

1. YMCA Kids Camp at Walhalla- Kasey Swords did story time. Everyone received a book of their choice, tote bag, library logo cup, bookmarks and a pencil. We had 60 in attendance who all got a tour of the bookmobile.
2. Town of West Union- Back to School Bash- The Town of West Union gave out free backpacks (900 total) and school supplies. Reed Clark, a new volunteer assisted. We had 372 visit our table. I gave out bookmarks, pens, pencils, build your own bookmobile and logo Frisbee. My goal for next year, is to give out free books to any child in attendance.
3. End of Summer Reading at South Cove Park- Terri Varady, one of my regular volunteers and Susan Dillard from the Seneca branch assisted. I signed up 4 new cards and the total count for the event was 250. We gave out books, bookmarks, pencils, build your own bookmobile and cups with the library logo. Patrons were able to check out books. 77 items were check out from the bookmobile.

Statistics

Category	July 2024	August 2024
Stops	22	24
Hours Open	17.75	24
Total Attendance	177	454
Outreach Stops	3	0
Outreach Visitors	682	0
New Cards	8	6
Volunteers/Hours	4/27hrs	5/24.75hrs

Community Resource Report July-August 2024

Awareness/Promotion

In July, at the Walhalla branch, we had a display with books and handouts for Sarcoma Awareness Month. In August, also at Walhalla, we had a display for Opioid Awareness, as well as a program by Aaron Zeller, MD, the chair of the Oconee County Opioid Response Taskforce, in light of National Overdose Awareness Day on August 31.

<u>Program/event name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
• Mobile Clean of Heart Showers 12	7/10/24	Our Daily Bread (Seneca)
• Ask A Social Worker 1	7/11/24	Walhalla OCPL
• Dementia Caregiver Support Group 6	7/19/24	Seneca OCPL
• Mobile Clean of Heart Showers 9	8/7/24	Our Daily Bread (Seneca)
• Landlord-Tenant Issues SC Legal Services program 5	8/7/24	Seneca OCPL
• Yoga 8	8/8/24	Walhalla OCPL
• Dementia Caregiver Support Group 7	8/16/24	Seneca OCPL
• Mobile Clean of Heart Showers 13	8/21/24	Our Daily Bread (Seneca)
• Opioid Awareness in Oconee County 5	8/29/24	Walhalla OCPL

Assistance to Individuals/Families

The Community Resource Associate and Community Resource Assistant/Spanish Interpreter assisted 11 individuals/families in July and 11 individuals/families in August, assisting one family multiple times during that period.

Other Community Resource Activities/Collaborations/Continuing Education

The Community Resource Associate and/or Community Resource Assistant attended/participated in/provided the following in July and August:

- Frostys provided by Wendy's (Clemson) for Salem OCPL Kids' Tie-dye T-shirt program, July 1, 2024
- Hosted Tamassee Starlight information table at Walhalla OCPL, July 12, 2024
- Attended Oconee Chamber of Commerce Non-Profit Vitality Group at The Tribble Center, July 18, 2024
- Provided Dementia Caregiver Support Group with Family Caregiver Support Program information and list of home care agencies, July 19, 2024
- Participated in Unite Us Workflow collaboration, August 1, 2024
- Hosted the Department of Public Health at Mobile Clean of Heart Showers, August 7, 2024

- **Attended Community Impact Network meeting, August 7, 2024**
- **Provided \$65.00 (FOL) scholarships for two ESL students to take classes at SDOC Adult Ed, August 8, 2024**
- **Provided a Community Resource Directory notebook for Oconee County Detention Center, August 14, 2024**
- **Met with OCPL Cultural Outreach Committee for Hispanic Heritage Festival planning, August 15, 2024**
- **Attended SC Thrive Training, August 22, 2024**
- **Advocated for continued transportation services (CAT Bus) in Oconee County, August 28, 2024**
- **Applied for Dabo's All In Team Foundation grant renewal for Mobile Clean of Heart Shower program, August 28, 2024**
- **Met with OCPL Cultural Outreach Committee, Hispanic Heritage Festival for crafts prep/planning, August 29, 2024**

Salem Library
Jul/Aug 2024
Kayla Rucker
Branch Manager

Programming, Operations, Staff Development, etc...

- 📖 July was another successful month for programming. In total, we had 66 attendees.
- 📖 Our most popular program was Harry Potter's Birthday Celebration. Each child was able to make their own wand to take home. Thanks to the Cliffs Resident Outreach, they were also able to take a copy of the second Harry Potter book home. There were 29 adults and children in attendance.
- 📖 There were two other CRO-sponsored events, DIY Treasure Map Game and 4th of July Tie-Dye. 32 were in attendance for these programs.
- 📖 Our STEM Club continues to be popular. We had 11 adults and children for the month of July and 7 adults and children for August.
- 📖 Abigail hosted a Coffee and Crafts program during July. Each attendee was able to make a set of pressed flower hanging jars. This program is targeted towards those 14 and up. There were 9 in attendance.
- 📖 Even with school back in session, our August programs were still well attended. Collectively, we had a total of 42 attendees.
- 📖 Brittany Castro, Adult Services Librarian, hosted a Sound Bath program on August 1st. There were 15 in attendance. We are looking into having this program or something similar again in the future.
- 📖 Family BINGO (held quarterly) is still our most popular program. Our end of summer session brought in 16 attendees.
- 📖 Our monthly book club, Page Turners, met on July and August. There were 3 in attendance in July and 4 in August. For July, we read I Cheerfully Refuse by Leif Enger and for August, True Biz by Sara Novic.
- 📖 There was an incident with a patron leaving their dog out in a hot car on July 12th. The patron was on one of the public computers. The Salem staff brought that the conditions outside were too hot for the pet, even though she insisted it was fine and that the doors were cracked. The staff again expressed concern 5 minutes and she took water that was offered to the dog and left. She has since returned and has not brought her dog with her.
- 📖 On July 17th, a storm knocked out Abigail's computer. It was taken by IT to be repaired and return the following week.
- 📖 On August 1st, one of our public computers had an issue with the network port. IT had to repair it. The computer was back up by August 6th.

Building Maintenance

- ☞ In late July, one of the light fixtures needed repair. Someone from maintenance promptly addressed and remedied this issue.
- ☞ On August 30th, a technician from Carolina Burglar and Fire Alarm came by to make sure our alarm was working properly.

Resource Allocation

- ☞ On July 29th, one of our regular patrons donated a telescope from his personal collection. It has been sent to the Walhalla branch to see if it can be added to our Library of Things.
- ☞ Since we've had issues with storms taking out multiple computers, IT has recommended that we purchase 2-3 back up batteries. We will be purchasing these in August.
- ☞ In July, a new book truck for our fiction section was purchased with FOL gift money.

Stats	Jul	Aug
Visits	1841	1765
New Cards	11	12
ILLs	2	6

DIY 4th of July Tie-Dye @ the Salem Library Monday, July 1st, 2024



Harry Potter Birthday Celebration:

Wand Making

July 29th, 2024

Salem Library



Narrative

Family History Month Programming:

October is Family History Month, and this year I intend to provide some genealogy/local history programs. Currently, I am working through several possible topics of interest. For example, I have noticed an increased interest in local and visiting patrons wanting information on what it was like to live in Oconee County during the time of their ancestors. In the past, most patrons were content with a general history—but this has shifted toward a more comprehensive history. I am able to provide patrons with general information; however, it would be beneficial to have local experts provide a detailed history on specific topics. This is still in the early stages, but I hope to have something planned soon.

Memorial Wall Committee:

Tanya Adkins, with Oconee County Veterans Affairs, reached out to me and several other local researchers to assist with a project. Oconee County has a Memorial Wall commemorating 210 service members that died while in military service, and it covers World War I through present-day conflicts. While the names are listed on the monument not much is known about the service members. The project is to reach out to the community and ask for photos and/or brief biographies of each service member. It is our hope to have this project completed in time for Memorial Day in 2025. A newspaper article appeared in *The Journal*, and some people have responded.

South Carolina State Library Adult Program Exchange:

The South Carolina State Library is planning to host an in-person Adult Program Exchange. I participated in the virtual meeting, and requested that Genealogy/Local History be included. A few days later a survey was sent out asking for program input. I added Genealogy/Local History as a topic, and offered to serve as a presenter. I was surprised that the State Library reached out to me to present as well as provide a list of possible presenters. Those I recommended were able to take part, and we held a virtual meeting to discuss our presentation format. In short, we are going to be in round table discussion group and provide slides for a PowerPoint presentation.

Rogers Room Statistics:

Statistics Recorded	July 2023	July 2024	August 2023	August 2024
Walk-In	6	11	20	9
Phone Call	3	2	14	4
Mail	0	0	0	0
Email/Online	5	5	3	1
Books	6	10	27	23
Microfilm	1	13	50	16
Map	1	2	0	4
SC Room Presentations	-	0	-	0
SC Room Presentation Attendance	-	0	-	0
Questions Completed	18	28	54	29
Outstanding Questions	-	0	-	2
Volunteer Hours	-	81.5	-	71.75

Seneca Branch Narrative, July/Aug 2024

Emily Whitmire Sluder, Branch Manager

Facilities:

- Update on ramp: The county is going to revisit the project with the original surveying company.
- I have plans to borrow a pressure washer next month to spray the outside of the building where stains are, to wash the windows, and to remove dead bugs, dirt dobbbers, etc. that I have not been able to remove by other means.
- I would like to take down the sign with the old logo on the side of the building (not the letters spelling out Seneca Library). We will ask them to do that when the air is cooler.
- Same as the last report:
The mural/fence has still not been removed. The city has offered to store it until the park is ready to be built. Hopefully it can be restored once that period is over, though I would still like it to be completely replaced or for them to use some other type of structure.

Operations:

Summer reading went well. Everyone really enjoys checking out the Library of Things items. We hosted Family Game Day and set up some of the outdoor activities. The other programs were also well-attended. We hosted Bingo, a movie, a painting class, and trivia. We also hosted a law talk from SC Legal Services and the dementia caregiver support group.

Staffing: One of our part time employees left for a better-paying job, and as of September we have replaced him. As always, I appreciate people filling in when we are short-staffed.

Notable Statistics	July 2024	August 2024
Visits to library	5665	4860
New Cards Issued	88	98

Walhalla Library

July - August 2024

Tucker Brown, Circulation Manager

Staff Development:

Since DJ Wharton’s move to circulation at the end of May this year, her experience with our library system has been indispensable, especially with the increased numbers of patrons we see during our summer months. With both her institutional knowledge of our systems and procedures over the years and the amount of changes in policy and offerings, she has undertaken looking over the training materials we have in order to update them and make them current. This will help to ensure that our community receives the upmost service from our staff at the library and to smooth any future training for new employees.

Meeting Room:

July – Saint Paul the Apostle Church, BabyRead, Guardian ad Litem,

August – Carolina Family Engagement Center, BabyRead, Guardian ad Litem, Widows and Widowers Anonymous

Study Room:

July – 48 uses

August – 36 uses

Facilities:

Walhalla has not required any work from Facilities Maintenance through the end of summer. After their last visit to go over the air conditioning units and perform preventative maintenance on the units that were struggling, we have had no issues with the temperature throughout the library.

In other updates for the Walhalla Branch, we have now become an official pickup point for the FoodShare program offered through the South Carolina Feed and Seed. This program offers fresh fruits and vegetables, many grown by local farmers, to families in the area at a reduced rate to assist in connecting the community with healthier food options. Every two weeks the volunteers will be staging in our lobby for people to pick up their pre-purchased boxes.

Statistics:

Category	July 2024	August 2024
Visitors	4,550	3,895
New Cards Issued	47	63
ILL	28	22
Hours Open	234	234

Westminster July and August 2024

Leah Price

July

- There were 25 kids and two dads running around the library during our Nerf Night (total of 45 with parents).
- There were six in attendance for the movie showing of *Ghostbuster: Frozen Empire*.
- The Blood Connection had a mobile blood drive on July 30 and had nine donations/attempts.
- Our weekly scavenger hunts continued to be popular during the month of July. We had a total of 125 participants search the library for mermaids, treasure maps, pirate hats, and Jolly Rogers.
- There were 57 packs of seeds taken from the BBW Seed Library.
- Brittany's Sea Shanty Sing-a-long had to be canceled. We may try something similar in the future.
- There were four attendees who came to use their imagination creating sea monster and dragon eyes out of clay.
- The city of Westminster has started bulldozing the land beside the library to create the new playground park. We are excited to see how fast it progresses, but have not been a fan of the amount of red dirt that has spread across everyone's cars and the building.
- Staff really enjoyed decorating for the pirate theme of summer reading this year. Everything went well and we had decent attendance for our events.
- Patrons have enjoyed the new Library of Things kits that were added and the process being streamlined into one form has really helped the staff in their customer service.

August

- We hosted a Taco Tuesday suncatcher craft where tweens and teens could paint a taco-shaped suncatcher. We had three attend which is decent for that age group and with school starting back.
- Our August scavenger hunt was based on Eric Carle's *10 Little Rubber Ducks*. Kids searched the library for pages from the book to find out what animals the ducks encountered on their ocean journey. Each kid that matched the animals correctly got to choose a rubber duck to take home. We had 58 participants.
- In celebration of school starting back, we hosted a drop-in bookmark program where all ages could use a laminator and sequins to make bookmarks. We had 7 drop by.
- A librarian from the Forbush Memorial Library in Westminster, Massachusetts, reached out to us because she wanted to exchange postcards with all of the different Westminster cities in the USA. We were happy to help. She sent us several postcards from her patrons that we had on display. We then had several different postcards available for our patrons to draw or write on telling Westminster, MA, all about Westminster, SC. It was a great interaction and something fun and different to do.
- There were 44 packs of seeds taken from the BBW Seed Library in August. We have restocked and are ready for fall crops.

Branch Statistics	July	August
Door Count	2,143	1,770
Meeting Room Use-Library Programs	15/209	7/57
Meeting Room Use-outside groups	8/60	10/64
New Users	30	27
Passive Programs Participants	191	102

**Youth Services Department
July - August 2024
Kasey Swords, Youth Services Librarian**

Staff Changes

In July, our Youth Services Assistant, Shannon Humphrey, alerted OCPL that she would be leaving the library to pursue working from home. The assistant position has been listed, candidates have been interviewed, but no acceptable candidates have been found to fill the position. I have also put in my notice with OCPL, and my last day with the library will be September 18. I will be working for Anderson University as the Education Librarian. I have very much enjoyed my time with OCPL, and I thank you all for your support and help as I have worked in this position over the last ten months.

Summer Reading 2024

Summer Reading 2024 officially ended on July 26th, and it was a great summer for the library! Our final statistics included 1,361 participants, 723 total completions, and 886,111 total minutes read. These are increases across the board from last year's summer reading, with our total completion percentage rising from 38% in 2023 to 53% this year! You can read more about the summer reading program in the attached 2024 report.

This year's report to the State Library was completed at the end of August, as well as the reports for our LSTA Summer Reading grant awarded by the State Library. With the \$2,000 awarded by this grant we were able to purchase more items for our Library of Things, some printed materials to support summer reading, and a brand new Storywalk placed on the Walhalla Wanderweg Greenway leading to OCPL. The Library of Things outdoor games, including Ladder Toss, Slammo, Bocce ball, Ring Toss and more, were added to the collection at the end of May 2023. These new items have been checked out 40 times (as of August 15, 2024), with an average circulation of 1.82 times per item. In comparison, in the almost two-and-a-half years since the older items in this collection have been added, they have only circulated an average of 1.4 times per item. The new items have circulated more in three months than the older items have in 2.5 years. This was a great validation of the success of these purchases.

Programs

We held many programs in July and August. July continued our regularly scheduled programming with weekly storytimes, Explorer's Club, Sensory Bins, LEGO Clubs, and more. We had great turnout at all these programs, as well as special summer reading programs like pirate-themed movie showings, Pirate Yoga, crafts, I Read to Animals, and Pirate Bingo. All these programs held in July totaled 367 attendees. We also held a

program in July at the Walhalla Performing Arts Center featuring Science Heroes' treasure-hunting show with science experiments. There were 95 people present for this program.

We wrapped up our Summer Reading activities on July 30th with the End-of-Summer Bash at South Cove County Park. We invited several community organizations to participate in this event. Oconee Humane Society, Oconee County First Steps, Oconee County Sheriff's Office all attended the event and provided information about their respective programs to the attendees. The staff at South Cove are always incredibly generous with their facility for this event, and were so helpful and supportive throughout the planning of the event. Being able to use the park at no cost to us is an amazing resource for our Summer Reading Program. There were roughly 250-300 people that attended this event.

Because June and July are always incredibly busy for Youth Services, we took a short programming break in August, only providing weekly Storytimes at the Walhalla, Westminster, and Seneca branches.

Program Attendance

LEGO Club	19
Storytime	878
Sensory Playtime	8
Science Heroes	95
I Read to Animals	42
Explorers Club	15
Craft, Pirate Bingo, and Pirate Yoga	53

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total Participants		1,946	985		498	1,063	1,327	1,232	1,361
Total Completions		533	292		164	466	611	465	723
<i>Percentage Complete</i>		27%	30%		33%	44%	46%	38%	53%
Total Minutes						513,000	741,500	712,866	886,111
Adults Participants					158	227	335	336	325
Completions					73	127	166	149	155
<i>Percentage Complete</i>					46%	56%	50%	44%	48%
Minutes								318,733	306,681
Under 18 Participants		1,946	985		340	836	992	896	1,036
Completions		533	292		91	339	445	318	539
<i>Percentage Complete</i>		27%	30%		27%	41%	45%	35%	52%
Minutes								394,133	545,879
12-17 Participants		461	162		68	83	151	124	142
Completions		103	52		15	33	69	53	67
<i>Percentage Complete</i>		22%	32%		22%	40%	46%	43%	47%
Minutes									80,730
6-11 Participants		1,181	558		186	522	567	535	669
Completions		357	172		46	196	256	188	371
<i>Percentage Complete</i>		30%	31%		25%	38%	45%	35%	55%
Minutes									369,809
0-5 Participants		304	265		86	231	274	237	225
Completions		73	68		30	110	120	77	101
<i>Percentage Complete</i>		24%	26%		35%	48%	44%	32%	45%
Minutes									95,340
Bookmobile Participants		37	29		117	141	8	8	13
Completions		8	11		87	92	2	5	3
<i>Percentage Complete</i>		22%	38%		74%	65%	25%	63%	23%
Minutes									3,796
Salem Participants		177	63		9	48	103	59	107
Completions		54	23		0	24	33	10	37
<i>Percentage Complete</i>		31%	37%		0%	50%	32%	17%	35%
Minutes									73,071
Seneca Participants		672	353		97	334	472	403	381
Completions		166	93		18	125	234	152	167
<i>Percentage Complete</i>		25%	26%		19%	37%	50%	38%	44%
Minutes									270,550
Walhalla Participants		555	285		151	356	419	439	438
Completions		164	86		28	148	181	184	383

