

OCPL Director's Report

November 2024

1. Programs and Services: Programs were well attended in September and October. Unfortunately, with losing Kasey Swords in late summer to Anderson University we did not have as many children's programs, and had to cancel weekly Story Times. We did continue Mother Goose on the Loose at our Seneca location, at least through October. Branches have stepped in with some passive programs, like a Squishmallow scavenger hunt at the Westminster Branch in September, a Bigfoot scavenger hunt in October, as well as STEM Clubs, Explorer Clubs, and puzzle swaps. In October, the library saw a large uptick in usage at all of our locations with Hurricane Helene. Our buildings were spared any damage and our Internet and power were restored by Monday of the next week. We were a popular spot to charge devices, use the Internet, print documents for insurance, and so on.

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

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

4. Personnel and Training: The Evergreen Study is complete and the accompanying raises have gone into effect. The study also pointed out that the county as a whole is not just operating "lean," but more so "anorexic." While their recommendations for new staff across the county will probably not be feasible within budgetary restraints, it does indicate just how much we expect of all staff members, including senior staff. We also completed fall in-service training in October. We included a trip to Seneca to an escape room as a way of enhancing communication and having a fun, outside of the library activity for staff. It seemed to be well received. Thanks to Brittany Castro for all her work planning in-service. Three staff members attended the South Carolina Library Association conference in Columbia in October: the Director, Brittany Castro, and Emily Whitmire.

5. Building and Grounds: Facilities Maintenance began building a small (approximately 13' x 24') conference room at the rear of the Walhalla Library. We removed three sets of shelves from the non-fiction section, consolidated the books, and we are building the room in that spot. 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. There was a bid that was provisionally accepted on the ADA-accessible ramp in Seneca. More information about that will be shared at the November Board meeting.

6. Technology: We are still exploring air print capability in our existing print management, but will need to figure out if we can use our existing copier/printer configuration. The library is also adding Hoopla digital materials to our offerings, starting in late November, 2024. We are also making some changes to our electronic offerings. We have ended Knowledge City, as it was a specialized item that got little use. We will also be dropping LibGuides now our website is more robust.

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.

September Sales:

Basement Sales	\$1,700
Books on the Alley	1,587
Lobby	232
Online Sales	0
2nd Party	113
OCPL LFL	26
Cafe	0
Seneca	24
Total	<u>\$3,682</u>

October Sales:

Basement Sales	\$2,348
Books on the Alley	1,405
Lobby	297
Online Sales	207
2nd Party	0
OCPL LFL	7
Cafe	90
Seneca	102
Total	\$4,456

8. Oconee County: The Evergreen Study is complete. Raises have taken effect. While not every employee received the same *percentage* of raise, all staff did see increases. The study also indicated that we are fairly short-staffed across the whole of county government. The county is working on a new employee handbook/policy manual, which will probably take effect in July, 2025.

9. State Library: The State Library has resumed much of its training and exchanges. Tiffany Hayes visited in October to deliver training on effective staff communication. We will also be completing the annual state survey in November.

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 library in Walhalla became a pick up site for Food Share in September. Food Share provides fresh fruits and vegetables (as much locally grown as possible) for just \$20 per box or just \$5 per box for SNAP/EBT customers. Distribution is every other week. We will also be working with the YMCA to provide Know Diabetes by Heart training at the Walhalla Library, as well as cooking demonstration classes to support this and the Food Share distribution.

11. Other: We have added a number of items to the Library of Things. The wrap on the Bookmobile is finally complete. I also want to commend the staff for their performance after Hurricane Helene in September/October. While the libraries were spared any damage and were back in service by Monday of that next week, many of our staff were without power for several days or even a week or more. They continued to serve our users and make it to work even if they had few amenities at their homes.

	Sept 2023	Sept 2024	Change	Oct 2023	Oct 2024	Change
Visits to Library	12,010	11,899	-0.9%	12,969	13,533	4.3%
Material Circulation - LOT	0	127		0	118	
Material Circulation - Adult	11,979	12,257	2.3%	12,184	13,299	9.2%
Material Circulation - Youth	830	775	-6.6%	850	875	2.9%
Material Circulation - Juvenile	8,550	8,675	1.5%	8,562	9,642	12.6%
Total Material Circulation	21,359	21,834	2.2%	21,596	23,934	10.8%
Internet Uses	810	667	-17.7%	937	781	-16.6%
Internet Hours of Use	396	177	-55.3%	465	375	-19.4%
New Cards Issued	188	167	-11.2%	155	190	22.6%
Programs - Adult	11	9	-18.2%	10	15	50.0%
Programs Attendance - Adult	62	13	-79.0%	88	55	-37.5%
Programs - Youth 12-18	3	0	-100.0%	1	0	-100.0%
Programs Att - Youth 12-18	18	0	-100.0%	3	0	-100.0%
Programs -Juvenile 6-11	3	5	66.7%	8	6	-25.0%
Programs Att -Juv 6-11	39	32	-17.9%	79	30	-62.0%
Programs - Children 0-5	9	2	-77.8%	8	2	-75.0%
Programs - Att - Children 0-5	80	10	-87.5%	83	7	-91.6%
Programs - All Ages	0	4		0	14	
Programs Att - All Ages	0	29		0	111	
Programs Att - Passive	0	178		0	117	
Outreach Activities	14	3	-78.6%	12	1	-91.7%
Outreach Act. Attendance	294	451	53.4%	1,048	250	-76.1%
Public Training Sessions	4	0	-100.0%	4	4	0.0%
Public Training Participants	4	0	-100.0%	3	4	33.3%
Public Training Hours	4	0	-100.0%	3	4	33.3%
Staff Training Sessions	0	3		8	7	-12.5%
Staff Training Participants	0	6		38	29	-23.7%
Staff Training Hours	0	14		259	207	-20.3%
Number of New Volunteers	1	0	-100.0%	0	0	
Number of Vol Hours	37	38	3.4%	35	39	10.0%
Meeting Room Use	62	58	-6.5%	70	64	-8.6%
Meeting Room Attendance	376	207	-44.9%	605	407	-32.7%
Specialized 1:1 Sessions	0	0		0	1	
Number of Web Site Hits	11,486	10,432	-9.2%	11,167	10,168	-8.9%
Wi-Fi Users	328	289	-11.9%	315	273	-13.3%
Wi-Fi Sessions	2,235	1,993	-10.8%	2,176	1,886	-13.3%
CloudLibrary Downloads	3,370	3,872	14.9%	3,447	3,786	9.8%
Flipster Users	195	106	-45.6%	112	84	-25.0%
Kanopy Users	2,130	1,774	-16.7%	1,793	1,782	-0.6%
Ancestry.com Hits	195	168	-13.8%	116	50	-56.9%
Interlibrary Loans	55	32	-41.8%	42	51	21.4%
New Material Added	975	894	-8.3%	954	1,128	18.2%

OCPL Budget 2024-2025 - 11-12-2024

Account Number	Description	Budgeted	Spent	Percent	Balance
Local Budget					
010-206-30018-00000	Travel	2000	1070.65	54%	929
010-206-30024-00000	Equip. Maintenance	2,703	2,693	100%	10
010-206-30025-00000	Professional -Staffmark	145,000	51,421	35%	93,579
010-206-30041-00000	Telecommunications	0		#DIV/0!	0
010-206-30056-00000	Data Processing	30,026	29,784	99%	242
010-206-30059-00000	Copier Click Charges - Xerox	8,500	3,506	41%	4,994
010-206-30080-00000	Dues	750	80	11%	670
010-206-30084-00000	School, Training, Sem.	2,000	1,859	93%	141
010-206-30090-00000	Honorarium	900	900	100%	0
010-206-33022-00207	Bldg Maint - Walhalla	7,000	3,263	47%	3,737
010-206-33022-00208	Bldg Maint - Seneca	3,500	2,477	71%	1,023
010-206-33022-00209	Bldg Maint - Westminster	2,500	2,062	82%	438
010-206-33022-00210	Bldg. Maint - Salem	2,020	1,764	87%	256
010-206-34043-00207	Electricity - Walhalla	18,000	7,638	42%	10,362
010-206-34043-00208	Electricity - Seneca	12,000	3,380	28%	8,620
010-206-34043-00209	Electricity - Westminster	11,000	2,594	24%	8,406
010-206-34043-00210	Electricity - Salem	5,000	5,000	100%	0
010-206-34044-00207	Water - Walhalla	1,700	474	28%	1,226
010-206-34044-00208	Water - Seneca	2,000	637	32%	1,363
010-206-34044-00209	Water - Westminster	1,200	279	23%	921
010-206-40031-00000	Sm Capital Equip (Loc)	2,800	2,277	81%	523
010-206-40032-00000	Operational	6,000	5,946	99%	54
010-206-40032-00000-A	Youth Services	2,000	321	16%	1,679
010-206-40033-00000	Postage	500		0%	500
010-206-40034-00000	Food	500	190	38%	310
010-206-40101-00000	Books (Local)	87,000	34,668	40%	52,332
010-206-40102-00000	Periodicals (Local)	23,000	15,495	67%	7,505
010-206-40103-00000	AV (Local)	11,500	4,766	41%	6,734
010-206-80206-00000	Automobile Maint - Library	1,500	198	13%	1,302
010-206-81206-00000	Gasoline - Library	4,000	1,090	27%	2,910
010-206-82206-00000	Diesel - Library	3,000	615	21%	2,385
TOTAL LOCAL FUNDS		397,599	185,379	47%	212,220
MISC. FUNDS					
013-206-60010-00000	Gift's	51,934			51,934
013-080-00805-11001	Nettles Trust	67,760	6,890	10%	60,870
TOTAL MISC. FUNDS					112,804
State Aid Budget - \$197,452.50					
240-206-30056-00255	Data Processing (State)	\$17,910.78	8,666.64	48%	9,244.14
240-206-30080-00255	Dues (State)	\$500.00		0%	500.00
240-206-30084-00255	Schools, Training (State)	\$2,000.00	454.75	23%	1,545.25
240-206-40031-00255		7,065.42	1,059.65		6,005.77
240-206-40032-00255	Operational (State)	\$15,000.00	4,899.03	33%	10,100.97
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	32,100.22	39%	49,399.78
240-206-40112-00255	Periodicals (State)	\$32,356.00	28,338.91	88%	4,017.09
240-206-40113-00255	AV (State)	\$16,600.00	2,427.03	15%	14,172.97
Total State Aid Funds		\$197,452.50	79,447.18	40%	118,005.32

Adult Services
September-October 2024
Brittany Castro

Programs

Two adult programs had to be canceled due to Hurricane Helene; one was rescheduled for November, the other will be in December. I have three recurring programs that meet monthly: chess club, book club, and "Salem's Suitcase" (a travel program). I continue to have regular and new attendees at the chess and book club meetings. I am moving the travel program to another time of day to improve attendance. The Monarch butterfly program with Ranger Liz Boles Johnson from Parks, a law talk on estates and probate at Seneca, the quarterly puzzle swap, and a murder mystery program were all well attended. I also had two craft programs: Halloween diamond art coasters (Seneca) and recycled book page ghosts (Salem).

Library Card Design Contest

The winners of the library card design contest were Kalea Foster and Hannah Bonham. We have received the new cards. Any patron who signs up for a library card gets the choice between the standard OCPL card, the watercolor card, or the s'more card. The watercolor design has been particularly popular.

Staff In-Service

I planned the staff in-service that was held on October 14. We began the day with an update/training on Hoopla from Bethany Culp and Leah Kelley from our tech services department. The afternoon was focused on teambuilding exercises.

Professional Development

On September 6, I attended the Adult Programming Exchange at Lancaster Library. It was a day of networking and hearing about programs that adult services librarians around the state have done or are planning. On September 25, I attended training and became CPR certified. I also attended the state library association conference (SCLA) on October 30. I came back with several that I'd like to implement over the next year. Finally, I joined the Collaborative Library Summer Program manual committee. This is a national committee of librarians & library staff tasked with creating the summer reading manual that libraries around the country use for summer reading programming ideas. My team is tasked with adult programs section for the 2026 manual (theme: dinosaurs).

Adult Services
September-October 2024
Brittany Castro



Bookmobile and Outreach Narrative, September/October 2024

Angie Clark-Bookmobile Manager

Operations

In September, 25 regularly scheduled stops were completed, along with 3 outreach. Five volunteers worked with me, along with two Walhalla staff members. I added two new stops. One is a new preschool that opened in Walhalla. The other new stop is in the Friendship community of Seneca.

In October, 22 regular stops were completed. Six volunteers assisted, along with two Walhalla staff. No outreach.

Special Outreach (September)

1. Apple Festival, Westminster- Maddie Owens assisted. This was the first time the bookmobile participated. We gave out mini tote bags, library logo cup, bookmarks, pencils with apple erasers, stickers and bracelets. I also had a table set up for kids to color their own bookmark or coloring sheet. We had 335 in attendance during the 4 hours we were there.
2. Ravenel Elementary- Literacy Night- Maddie Owens assisted. We were set up for 1.5 hours. We only had 16 come on the bookmobile. We did sign up 4 new cards and had a few checkouts.
3. Hispanic Heritage Festival, Walhalla- Reed Clark was my volunteer. We were set up for 6 hours and saw approximately 100 people at our table. Anyone 18 and under received a free age appropriate book. I had bookmarks, pencils, library logo cup and mini logo footballs to give away.

Statistics

Category	Sept 2024	October 2024
Stops	25	22
Hours Open	23.5	20.5
Total Attendance	405	364
Volunteers/Hours	5/25.25	6/25.5
Outreach Stops	3	0
Outreach Visitors	451	0
Outreach Hours	11.5	0
New Cards	6	1

Community Resource Report September-October 2024

Awareness/Promotion

At the Walhalla branch, we had a display with books, handouts and crisis lifeline number for Suicide Awareness in September and October. We also had a program on suicide, in Spanish, that was scheduled for September 25, 2024. Due to Hurricane Helene, the program was postponed until October 10, 2024.

<u>Program/event name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u># of participants</u>
• Mobile Clean of Heart Showers	9/4/24	Our Daily Bread (Seneca)	6
• Yoga	9/12/24	Walhalla OCPL	10
• Mobile Clean of Heart Showers	9/18/24	Our Daily Bread (Seneca)	12
• Dementia Caregiver Support Group	9/19/24	Seneca OCPL	8
• Yoga for Kids & Families	9/24/24	Walhalla	1
• Mobile Clean of Heart Showers	10/9/24	Our Daily Bread (Seneca)	11
• Medicare 101	10/9/24	Seneca OCPL	2
• Suicide awareness program (Spanish) "Concientización Sobre el Suicidio"	10/10/24	OCPL Walhalla	8
• Yoga	10/10/24	OCPL Walhalla	7
• Self Defense	10/10/24	OCPL Westminster	11
• Dementia Caregiver Support Group	10/18/24	Seneca OCPL	12
• Mobile Clean of Heart Showers	10/23/24	Our Daily Bread (Seneca)	13
• Mobile Clean of Heart Showers	10/26/24	Our Daily Bread	12

Assistance to Individuals/Families

The Community Resource Associate and Community Resource Assistant/Spanish Interpreter assisted 9 individuals/families in September and 14 individuals/families in October.

Other Community Resource Activities/Collaborations

The Community Resource Associate and/or Community Resource Assistant attended/participated in/provided the following in September and October:

- Attended Community Impact Network meeting, September 3, 2024
- Met with OCPL Cultural Outreach Committee, Hispanic Heritage Festival for preparation/planning, September 5, 12 and 18, 2024
- Collaboration with the Department of Public Health at Mobile Clean of Heart Showers, September 18, 2024
- Participated in Hispanic Heritage Festival, Walhalla, September 21, 2024
- Attended the Dream Center's "Tiny Houses Symposium" (Easley), September 24, 2024
- Attended Community Impact Network meeting, October 2, 2024
- Amy assisted with Salvation Army's Angel Tree applications (Spanish translation), October 11, 2024
- Attended and assisted with OCPL Volunteer banquet, October 17, 2024
- Mobile Clean of Heart program received clothing donations from Salvation Army (Seneca), October 23, 2024 and United Way, Oconee County, October 24, 2024
- Attended United Way of Pickens County's "Empathy in Action: A Behavioral Health Simulation," Southern Wesleyan University, October 29, 2024
- Received grant from Dabo's All In Team Foundation for Mobile Clean of Heart Shower program (jointly with Catholic Charities and Our Daily Bread), October 29, 2024
- Assisted individuals with FEMA information and applications following Hurricane Helene, October 2024

Continuing Education

- Completed "Understanding the Role of Social Determinants of Health in Rural Environments," September 3, 2024
- Completed "COVID-19's Toll on Rural America," September 5, 2024
- Completed "Health Disparities and COVID-19: Caring for the Underserved," September 5, 2024
- Attended "Understanding the Role of Culture in Grief" seminar (Simpsonville), September 12, 2024
- Participated in Unite Us training, October 2, 2024 (Amy) and October 7, 2024 (Kerry)

Salem Library
Sep/Oct 2024
Kayla Rucker
Branch Manager

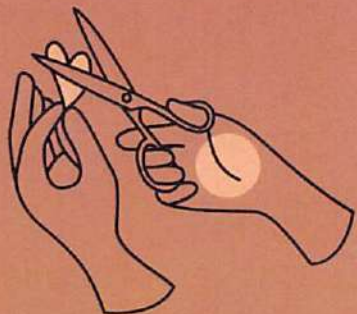
Programming, Operations, Staff Development, etc...

- 📖 Beginning in late September, Kayla took over Mother Goose on the Loose at the Seneca branch. This also continued through October, with plans to cover until a new Youth Services librarian is hired.
- 📖 The Salem branch is collaborating with the Keep Oconee Beautiful Association to provide recycling workshops to elementary students. While planning is underway now, the first workshop will begin in November.
- 📖 Family BINGO continues to be one of our most popular programs. For our fall session on October 21st, we had twelve attendees.
- 📖 Coffee and Crafts was another hit for October. We had 5 in attendance and attendees made their Halloween/Thanksgiving signs.
- 📖 One of our staple programs, STEM Club, had 6 in attendance for September.
- 📖 Our LEGO Club did not have any attendees in Sep/Oct. Revamping the program or changing the program to a bimonthly occurrence is in consideration.
- 📖 The Salem Library participated in the Town of Salem's Fall Festival on Friday, October 25th. Both staff members were in attendance and decorated a vehicle for the Trunk or Treat portion of the event. Candy and promotional library materials were handed out to over 200 attendees. We plan to participate again in the future.
- 📖 Salem's Zoom book club, Page Turners, has welcomed in 2 new members and continues to be a success.
- 📖 Kayla attended/assisted with the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner on October 17th. Our regular volunteer, Kathy Barringer, was in attendance and recognized for her contributions to the Salem branch.
- 📖 Abigail attended a 3-hour CPR training session in Walhalla on September 25th. She has since received her proof of certification.
- 📖 Both Kayla and Abigail attended staff training on October 14th. Each staff member participated in team building exercises and morning info sessions.

Resource Allocation

- ☞ Two of our beloved book trucks were retired and sent to the FOL. A new fiction cart was purchased to match the other new book trucks.
- ☞ The Cliffs Residents Outreach approved another grant for Salem/Walhalla's summer reading 2025 program. The funds have been dispersed and ordering supplies/incentives will begin over the next few months.

Stats	Sep	Oct
Visits	1486	1724
New Cards	6	12
ILLs	3	8



COFFEE & CRAFTS: FALL DECOR SIGNS

SALEM LIBRARY



Ann Rogers Memorial Room
September/October 2024
Quientell Walker, Local History Associate

Narrative

Rescheduled Program:

Genealogy and quest for military records with presenter Mrs. Nan Jones has been rescheduled for Tuesday, November 12th at the Walhalla Library at 11:00am.

South Carolina State Library Adult Program Exchange:

I attended South Carolina State Library Adult Program Exchange held at the Lancaster County Public Library. I was a member of a group of Genealogy/Local History Librarians and we discussed various tidbits regarding our collections as well as how to assist patrons. It was wonderful to hear the various adult programming ideas, and see how other libraries reach out to these communities.

Seneca Family Search Center:

I received an invitation to visit the Seneca Family Search Center. It is located at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Seneca. People do not have to be a member of the church to use these genealogical resources. The room has two LDS Church Volunteers, several computers, and a small book collection. The volunteers were very friendly and provided me a lot information on the resources they provide. In future, I plan to visit for a longer period to see how our patrons can use these resources. In addition, I shared several resources we have in our Rogers Room Collection. Of particular interest is our microfilm collection and the Genealogy Basic Classes I offer. We discussed arranging a tour of the Rogers Room, and possibly we providing a presentation about its collection.

Rogers Room Statistics:

Statistics Recorded	September 2023	September 2024	October 2023	October 2024
Walk-in	5	5	16	4
Phone Call	2	5	3	0
Mail	0	0	0	0
Email/Online	3	2	4	0
Books	5	18	13	7
Microfilm	12	5	3	3
Map	4	4		0
SC Room Presentations	-	0	4	0
SC Room Presentation Attendance	-	0	19	0
Questions Completed	10	17	38	6
Outstanding Questions	2	0	3	0
Volunteer Hours	-	47.40	-	64
Specialized 1:1 Sessions	-	-	-	1

Seneca Branch Narrative, Sept/Oct 2024

Emily Whitmire Sluder, Branch Manager

Facilities:

- Update on ramp: The county has a bid for the project.
- I have plans to borrow a pressure washer to spray the outside of the building where stains are, to wash the windows, and to remove dead bugs, dirt doobers, 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 have to re-ask. They will need to borrow a bucket truck so it will take time.
- The mural/fence has still not been removed. The city has offered to store it until the park is ready to be built. However, I would like it to be completely replaced or for them to use some other type of structure if any.
- I have asked for a tree damaged in Hurricane Helene to be removed, but it was forwarded to Roads and Bridges who were very busy then. We will be contacting them again.

Operations: Kayla from Salem conducted Mother Goose on the Loose for us biweekly in the absence of a YS librarian. She did storytime at Salem for many years and MGOL before that, so we are grateful to her for doing this program. She will take December off and re-evaluate for January depending if someone has been hired.

Staffing: We are currently at full staff. At the end of October I attended the SCLA conference. We had a good in service day in October and everyone enjoyed it.

Programs:

Notable Statistics	Sept 2024	October 2024
Visits to library		
New Cards Issued		

Guided Painting – 4 Sept Bingo – 11;
October Bingo - 9

Hocus Pocus movie – 10 Medicare 101 –2

Outdoor Family Game Day – 3

Gnome craft (adult services) - 4 Law Talk
(adult services) – 6

Walhalla Library

September – October 2024

Tucker Brown, Circulation Manager

Staff Development:

The Walhalla Library hosted the library employees from every branch in October for an in-service. That time was used to go over the new offerings allowed by the system adding Hoopla to its repertoire of digital services in November as well as having Tiffany Hayes from the SC State Library come to discuss effective communication.

Programming:

With the loss of our Youth Services librarian halfway through September, we have tried to add in some programming option for the community to bridge the gap until we can find a new candidate and return to the more standard offerings that the Youth Services Department offers. The attendance has been varied, with some programs receiving a welcoming response and others having little to no attendance. We also tried a passive seek-and-find hunt through the children's area featuring characters from Aaron Reynold's *Creepy Carrots* children's book. This did receive a good response with children hunting high and low to find cartoon creeps and return to the circulation desk with a filled out card.

Meeting Room:

September – Oconee Chamber of Commerce, Babyread

October – SC Attorneys General, Babryread, Tri-county Homeschool Educators

Study Room:

September – 44 uses

October – 49 uses

Facilities:

With the damage that many buildings in the surrounding area suffered, the Walhalla library was spared from any issues with the hurricane at the end of September. Facilities did come by as the rain was first reaching the upstate to examine the foundation walls as there was water pooling in the back corner of the basement. It caused no damage and was determined to simply be a symptom of the ground being over saturated in such a short time that the moisture was seeping through the foundation. If the problem persists in the future in heavy rains, the issue will be returned to in order to find a long term solution.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Helene, the library did end up playing a pivotal role for the community as we were able to provide a space that still had electricity and functioning internet connections for the people of the area that had lost theirs. The Monday after the storm, the meeting room was opened and chairs, tables, and charging ports provided to allow the persons still waiting for updates on their homes to catch up on news and recharge their devices. Across the rest of the seating areas of the library, additional power strips were added to increase our ability to help charge phones, laptops, and other electronic miscellany for the people of Walhalla and the surrounding area until crews could restore services.

In addition to fixes, facilities also started new construction at the Walhalla library near the end of October. An additional conference room is being built to expand our ability to offer community group a space to meet on a smaller scale than our meeting room has but beyond the scope of our study rooms. The final three rows of non-fiction were removed and the items in the collection shifted to make room for the new addition. We hope to have construction completed in late November.

Statistics:

Category	September 2024	October 2024
Visitors	3,625	4,393
New Cards Issued	53	72
ILL	17	7
Hours Open	183	214

Westminster Branch Library—September and October, 2024

Leah Price, Manager

- Megan Black and Leah Price undertook CPR training in September
- Megan left for fulltime job with SDOC
- Displays: survival biographies, Constitution Week, Halloween, Haunted Library, mythology, and Apple festival display
- New water fountain filter installed
- Facilities Maintenance hired a new custodian for the library.
- The Garfield movie showing had 8 attendees.
- Squishmallow painting party: 10 kids attended
- Squishmallow scavenger hunt: 66 participated
- Letters to Veterans-30 sent to Veteran's affairs & 58 sent to Operation Gratitude for active service members (5 Salem, 45 Bookmobile, 38 Seneca, Walhalla, and Westminster)
- Despicable Me 4 Movie showing: 22 attended
- In collaboration and celebration of Westminster's Bigfoot Festival, October's scavenger hunt was a Bigfoot hunt. We had 49 participants.
- Received donation of puzzles for children's area
- We had three adults attend the Painted Ghosts program presented by Westminster.
- Kerry had 9 participants for her Self Defense program.
- Two candidates for the part-time position were interviewed but a decision has been delayed by staff sickness.
- The Law Talk scheduled for October was canceled by the presenter.
- The library tried to host a Rock, Paper, Scissors Tournament and Read Aloud but no one showed up for the program.