

## **OCPL Director's Report**

September 2025

**1. Programs and Services:** Attendance at Summer Reading programming was excellent again this year. There were over 100 in attendance at the Riverbanks Zoo and Gardens program on animal camouflage (moved to the Walhalla Library from the WPAC), and over 250 attended End-of-Summer-Bash at South Cove County Park in late July. The branches have also conducted numerous programs. See the branch managers' reports for more on those.

**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 FY25/26 to date are attached.

**4. Personnel and Training:** New Youth Services Librarian Emily Johnson started with the library system on July 14. We still are seeking an assistant for Youth Services. Former assistant DH Wharton has agreed to assist Emily until we can hire a regular PT assistant. Branches have filled all vacant positions, but the Walhalla Library is still seeking to hire another PT circulation assistant. We have been working with county staff and the Sheriff's Department to plan for our October 13 Staff In-Service Training. We are specifically looking to train staff on situational awareness and de-escalation, which will be useful in dealing with some of our patrons, but also in their everyday lives.

**5. Building and Grounds:** We are still waiting to meet with the City of Seneca regarding the parking area at the Seneca Branch. The City of Westminster made a proclamation in August to honor the Victoria Oak at the Westminster Branch. We are experiencing a few issues with one of our HVAC units at the Walhalla Library. There is a coolant leak that is difficult to find. Unfortunately, it is also the unit that feeds the new small conference room, so that has limited our use of that space so far.

**6. Technology:** We have reduced the number of public PCs available at each location due to the new server configuration and the accompanying costs for virus protection and so forth. We have not seen a huge increase in computer usage since we restored USB access and offered Office products again. More people are using their own personal devices on our Wi-Fi than before.

**7. Friends of the Library:** Used book sales have continued each Thursday from 10:00 to 3:30 p.m. The Friends provided funding for youth and adult Summer Reading, Wish Lists for each location, and the furniture for the Macaulay Room. They also awarded two scholarships to graduating seniors for their essay contest.

The Friends' treasurer, Nancy Churchwell, will be relocating out of the area soon. They have not yet named a replacement. Sales figures were not available at the time of this report. If they are available before the Library Board meeting in September, we will provide that update at the meeting.

**8. Oconee County:** We are working with county grants writer Brittney Martin to identify possible grants to continue to fund a social worker/resource associate at the library. We will also be working with county administration to ask for funding for this critical part time position in the FY27 budget.

**9. State Library:** Kayla Rucker, Salem Branch head, will be attending the Association of Rural and Small Libraries conference in September thanks to a Continuing Education grant from the State Library.

**10. Community Involvement:** 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 also are picking up loaves of bread from Golden Corner Food Pantry to distribute at the branches for free each week. This is surplus that they would otherwise have to throw away. The SC Office of Resilience has been hosting group and individual assistance sessions at the Walhalla Library for people to apply for assistance or manage their cases in relation to Hurricane Helene. The Bookmobile participated in a Back to School night at Homestead Academy in Fair Oak.

**11. Other:** I would just like to commend our staff for all of the hard work with Summer Reading program in absence of a Youth Services Librarian. Emily Johnson started with the library system in mid-July, so she was able to be present and assist with a few events. Still, the largest share of credit for Summer Reading 2025 goes to other staff at the Walhalla Main Library, and to our branch managers.

|                                 | July 2024 | July 2025 | Change | Aug 2024 | Aug 2025 | Change  |
|---------------------------------|-----------|-----------|--------|----------|----------|---------|
| Visits to Library               | 14,376    | 14,620    | 1.7%   | 12,744   | 12,367   | -3.0%   |
| Material Circulation - LOT      | 187       | 161       | -13.9% | 144      | 119      | -17.4%  |
| Material Circulation - Adult    | 13,399    | 12,580    | -6.1%  | 13,391   | 11,560   | -13.7%  |
| Material Circulation - Youth    | 1,102     | 1,986     | 80.2%  | 874      | 983      | 12.5%   |
| Material Circulation - Juvenile | 11,647    | 11,033    | -5.3%  | 9,758    | 8,711    | -10.7%  |
| Total Material Circulation      | 26,335    | 25,760    | -2.2%  | 24,167   | 21,373   | -11.6%  |
|                                 |           |           |        |          |          |         |
| Internet Uses                   | 796       | 934       | 17.3%  | 804      | 832      | 3.5%    |
| Internet Hours of Use           | 407       | 451       | 10.8%  | 423      | 429      | 1.4%    |
| New Cards Issued                | 184       | 202       | 9.8%   | 206      | 156      | -24.3%  |
|                                 |           |           |        |          |          |         |
| Programs - Adult                | 8         | 5         | -37.5% | 10       | 3        | -70.0%  |
| Programs Attendance - Adult     | 34        | 41        | 20.6%  | 68       | 20       | -70.6%  |
| Programs - Youth 12-18          | 4         | 3         | -25.0% | 1        | 1        | 0.0%    |
| Programs Att - Youth 12-18      | 20        | 14        | -30.0% | 3        | 4        | 33.3%   |
| Programs -Juvenile 6-11         | 12        | 8         | -33.3% | 3        | 3        | 0.0%    |
| Programs Att -Juv 6-11          | 228       | 172       | -24.6% | 18       | 39       | 116.7%  |
| Programs - Children 0-5         | 4         | 6         | 50.0%  | 6        | 5        | -16.7%  |
| Programs - Att - Children 0-5   | 211       | 266       | 26.1%  | 103      | 141      | 36.9%   |
| Programs - All Ages             | 9         | 6         | -33.3% | 3        | 4        | 33.3%   |
| Programs Att - All Ages         | 360       | 505       | 40.3%  | 44       | 70       | 59.1%   |
| Programs Att - Passive          | 244       | 532       | 118.0% | 151      | 309      | 104.6%  |
|                                 |           |           |        |          |          |         |
| Outreach Activities             | 6         | 5         | -16.7% | 1        | 3        | 200.0%  |
| Outreach Act. Attendance        | 697       | 383       | -45.1% | 3        | 231      | 7600.0% |
| Public Training Sessions        | 0         | 4         |        | 0        | 4        |         |
| Public Training Participants    | 0         | 4         |        | 0        | 4        |         |
| Public Training Hours           | 0         | 0         |        | 0        | 0        |         |
| Staff Training Sessions         | 0         | 0         |        | 3        | 0        | -100.0% |
| Staff Training Participants     | 0         | 0         |        | 3        | 0        | -100.0% |
| Staff Training Hours            | 0         | 0         |        | 3        | 0        | -100.0% |
| Number of New Volunteers        | 5         | 2         | -60.0% | 2        | 1        | -50.0%  |
| Number of Vol Hours             | 45        | 40        | -11.1% | 34       | 39       | 15.6%   |
| Meeting Room Use                | 76        | 33        | -56.6% | 63       | 62       | -1.6%   |
| Meeting Room Attendance         | 987       | 606       | -38.6% | 759      | 496      | -34.7%  |
| Specialized 1:1 Sessions        | 4         | 1         |        | 4        | 0        |         |
|                                 |           |           |        |          |          |         |
| Number of Web Site Hits         | 13,104    | 13,420    | 2.4%   | 12,223   | 10,780   | -11.8%  |
| Wi-Fi Users                     | 270       | 253       | -6.3%  | 263      | 228      | -13.3%  |
| Wi-Fi Sessions                  | 1,855     | 1,756     | -5.3%  | 1,862    | 1,568    | -15.8%  |
| Hoopla Checkouts                |           | 1,244     |        |          | 1,433    |         |
| CloudLibrary Downloads          | 4,210     | 3,751     | -10.9% | 4,019    | 3,980    | -1.0%   |
| Ancestry.com Hits               | 376       | 173       | -54.0% | 373      | 123      | -67.0%  |
| Interlibrary Loans              | 54        | 41        | -24.1% | 47       | 59       | 25.5%   |
| New Material Added              | 930       | 526       | -43.4% | 771      | 862      | 11.8%   |



# OCPL BUDGET 2025-2026- 9-8-25

| Account Number                         | Description                  | Budgeted            | Spent     | Percent   | Balance           |
|--|------------------------------|---------------------|-----------|-----------|-------------------|
| <b>Local Budget</b>                    |                              |                     |           |           |                   |
| 010-206-30018-00000                    | Travel                       | 1500                |           | 0%        | 1,500             |
| 010-206-30024-00000                    | Equip. Maintenance           | 2,745               | 2,600     | 95%       | 145               |
| 010-206-30025-00000                    | Professional -Staffmark      | 150,000             | 21,121    | 14%       | 128,879           |
| 010-206-30041-00000                    | Telecommunications           | 0                   |           | 0%        | 0                 |
| 010-206-30056-00000                    | Data Processing              | 31,749              | 26,308    | 83%       | 5,441             |
| 010-206-30059-00000                    | Copier Click Charges - Xerox | 8,500               | 1,629     | 19%       | 6,871             |
| 010-206-30080-00000                    | Dues                         | 750                 | 80        | 11%       | 670               |
| 010-206-30084-00000                    | School, Training, Sem.       | 2,500               | 1,361     | 54%       | 1,139             |
| 010-206-30090-00000                    | Honorarium                   | 900                 | 900       | 100%      | 0                 |
| 010-206-33022-00207                    | Bldg Maint - Walhalla        | 7,000               | 6,700     | 96%       | 300               |
| 010-206-33022-00208                    | Bldg Maint - Seneca          | 4,000               | 1,571     | 39%       | 2,429             |
| 010-206-33022-00209                    | Bldg Maint - Westminster     | 3,000               | 1,524     | 51%       | 1,476             |
| 010-206-33022-00210                    | Bldg. Maint - Salem          | 2,000               | 1,464     | 73%       | 536               |
| 010-206-34043-00207                    | Electricity - Walhalla       | 18,000              | 2,111     | 12%       | 15,889            |
| 010-206-34043-00208                    | Electricity - Seneca         | 12,000              | 1,170     | 10%       | 10,830            |
| 010-206-34043-00209                    | Electricity - Westminster    | 9,000               |           | 0%        | 9,000             |
| 010-206-34043-00210                    | Electricity - Salem          | 5,000               | 5,000     | 100%      | 0                 |
| 010-206-34044-00207                    | Water - Walhalla             | 1,700               | 161       | 9%        | 1,539             |
| 010-206-34044-00208                    | Water - Seneca               | 2,000               | 188       | 9%        | 1,812             |
| 010-206-34044-00209                    | Water - Westminster          | 2,250               |           | 0%        | 2,250             |
| 010-206-40031-00000                    | Sm Capital Equip (Loc)       | 2,800               | 2,624     | 94%       | 176               |
| 010-206-40032-00000                    | Operational                  | 6,000               | 3,307     | 55%       | 2,693             |
| 010-206-40032-00000-A                  | Youth Services               | 2,000               | 403       | 20%       | 1,597             |
| 010-206-40033-00000                    | Postage                      | 500                 | 274       | 55%       | 226               |
| 010-206-40034-00000                    | Food                         | 500                 |           | 0%        | 500               |
| 010-206-40101-00000                    | Books (Local)                | 87,000              | 39,507    | 45%       | 47,493            |
| 010-206-40102-00000                    | Periodicals (Local)          | 23,000              | 16,735    | 73%       | 6,265             |
| 010-206-40103-00000                    | AV (Local)                   | 11,500              | 2,669     | 23%       | 8,831             |
| 010-206-80206-00000                    | Automobile Maint - Library   | 1,500               |           | 0%        | 1,500             |
| 010-206-81206-00000                    | Gasoline - Library           | 4,000               | 1,397     | 35%       | 2,603             |
| 010-206-82206-00000                    | Diesel - Library             | 3,000               | 841       | 28%       | 2,159             |
| <b>TOTAL LOCAL FUNDS</b>               |                              | <b>406,394</b>      |           | <b>0%</b> | <b>264,748</b>    |
| <b>MISC. FUNDS</b>                     |                              |                     |           |           |                   |
| 013-206-60010-00000                    | Gift's                       | 72,510              |           |           | 72,510            |
| 013-080-00835-92056                    | Nettles Trust                | 60,827              |           | 0%        | 60,827            |
| <b>TOTAL MISC. FUNDS</b>               |                              |                     |           |           | <b>133,337</b>    |
| <b>State Aid Budget - \$197,452.50</b> |                              |                     |           |           |                   |
| 240-206-30056-00255                    | Data Processing (State)      | \$22,710.00         | 10,692.06 | 47%       | 12,017.94         |
| 240-206-30059-00255                    | Copier Click Charges - Xerox | \$3,000.00          |           | 0%        | 3,000.00          |
| 240-206-30080-00255                    | Dues (State)                 | \$900.00            | 250.00    | 28%       | 650.00            |
| 240-206-30084-00255                    | Schools, Training (State)    | \$6,000.00          | 466.01    | 8%        | 5,533.99          |
| 240-206-40031-00255                    | Sm Capital Equip (State)     | 8,863.35            | 1,647.07  | 19%       | 7,216.28          |
| 240-206-40032-00255                    | Operational (State)          | \$19,885.00         | 864.79    | 4%        | 19,020.21         |
| 240-206-40045-00255                    | IT Equipment                 | \$5,000.00          | 3,254.43  | 65%       | 1,745.57          |
| 240-206-40111-00255                    | Books (State)                | \$101,500.00        |           | 0%        | 101,500.00        |
| 240-206-40112-00255                    | Periodicals (State)          | \$32,356.00         | 29,150.00 | 90%       | 3,206.00          |
| 240-206-40113-00255                    | AV (State)                   | \$16,600.00         |           | 0%        | 16,600.00         |
| <b>Total State Aid Funds</b>           |                              | <b>\$216,814.35</b> |           | <b>0%</b> | <b>170,489.99</b> |



## **Background for Library Board meeting, September 23, 2025**

Proposed change to Safety Policy and Code of Conduct regarding children's safety in the library-

### **Existing elements:**

#### **IV. Community Relations—C. Child Safety**

Children under twelve (12) years of age must be accompanied at all times by an older responsible person, at least 16 years of age. The child's parent will be contacted if the child is left unattended. The library reserves the right to turn over to the proper authorities minors (under age 18) left unattended for extended periods of time or left after library hours.

#### **V. Code of Conduct-**

2. All persons shall refrain from inappropriate behavior, including, but not limited to, the following:

- Inappropriate use of the Children's Services sections of the Library by an adult who is not involved in appropriate use of children's library materials, including, in the discretion of Library staff, spending an unnecessary and unusual amount of time in the Children's Services sections of the Library
- Leaving young children or vulnerable adults unsupervised or unattended

4. Vulnerable adults and children under twelve (12) years of age must be accompanied at all times by an older, responsible person, at least 16 years of age. The child's parent or guardian will be contacted if the child is left unattended. The library reserves the right to turn over to the proper authorities vulnerable adults and minors (under age 18) left unattended for extended periods of time or left after library hours.

### **Proposed Change:**

The Code of Conduct will not change. However, instead of having the Child Safety policy under "Community Relations," it will have its own section, which will appear in Section II. Services as item "I. Child Safety Policy".

#### **Proposed Child Safety policy:**

The Oconee County Public Library welcomes children of all ages. Library staff are available to assist and encourage children as they develop a love of reading and learning, however the Library is a public building and library staff cannot assume responsibility of a child's care when they use the Library.

- Children under twelve (12) years of age must be accompanied at all times by a parent, guardian, or designated caregiver. Designated caregivers must be responsible individuals aged 16 or older.
- Children aged 12 and older may use the library unaccompanied, as long as their conduct is acceptable in a library setting and code of conduct rules are observed.
- If any unattended child calls attention to him/herself, Library staff will attempt to locate the parent, guardian, or designated caregiver and inform him/her of the situation and the policy.
- If a parent, guardian, or caregiver cannot be located, the appropriate authorities will be asked to intervene.
- During Library-sponsored programs, the parent, guardian, or caregiver must remain in the library building if given the option of leaving the programming area.

- Beginning thirty (30) minutes before closing time, Library staff will ask unattended minors if they are accompanied by a parent, guardian, or caregiver, or (ages 12-15) have arranged to be picked up by closing time. If not, the minor or staff member will immediately call a parent, guardian, or caregiver to arrange for pick up by closing time. If the minor has not been picked up fifteen (15) minutes after closing, staff will contact the appropriate authorities and remain with the minor child until authorities arrive.
- In addition to the Code of Conduct, the following safety and respect guidelines also apply:
  - No throwing of toys, books, instruments, or other objects. This can cause injury or damage.
  - No hitting, shoving, or physically aggressive behavior towards others.
  - No climbing on bookshelves or furniture. This also poses a safety risk.
  - No damaging, drawing on, or vandalizing Library property.
- Children of any age with mental, physical, or emotional disabilities which may affect decision making skills or render supervision necessary must be accompanied by a parent, guardian, or caregiver at all times.

## Proposed changes to the Meeting Room policy-

### **Existing policy:**

#### **E. MEETING ROOMS**

The Oconee County Library System makes its meeting rooms available to local community groups or organizations devoted to educational, cultural or community welfare activities under non-profit and non-sectarian sponsorship whose purpose is not illegal, subject to the following regulations.

1. Meetings, programs and exhibits must be open to the public except for organized clubs, which may restrict their meetings to members only. **Personal social events such as parties, receptions, reunions, wakes, funerals, etc., are not permitted.**
2. **Business and partisan political groups which seek to promote a product, idea, belief, or person to the general public are prohibited from meeting in library facilities. Businesses that are training employees in citizenship, coping skills, or other areas that assist employees in living a more productive life may meet. Internal meetings of political parties may meet.**
3. Behavior of all participants using a meeting room must be in accordance with OCPL Code of Conduct. The Library reserves the right to monitor the meeting and revoke the privileges of any group that violates the Code of Conduct.
4. There will be no fee for the use of the room.
5. Any group using the facility will be responsible for maintaining order and for seeing that the rooms are neat and clean at the conclusion of the meeting.
6. If the Library determines that special clean-up is required, a fee may be charged.
7. Groups are liable for any damage to the building, furniture or equipment.
8. Reservations and cancellations shall be made in advance. Any group may be asked to re-schedule a meeting if the Library Director determines that such re-scheduling is necessary in the Library's interest.
9. **The library reserves the right to designate a meeting space for reserved or walk-in use.**
10. **Reserved or walk-in use may not exceed four (4) hours per day per individual or group. A reservation period may not exceed four consecutive hours per reservation time. All set-up/take down is to take place during the reservation time period.**
11. No admission may be charged and no donations or collections other than organizational dues may be taken. Tuition and fees may be charged for educational courses that are approved by the Library. **The library will not take registrations nor collect money for non-library sponsored events.**
12. *Meeting Rooms will be available for public use only during regular operating hours of the respective branches. Meeting rooms are reserved for the times indicated at the time of reservation. Meetings must begin and end on time. All meetings must end and study rooms must be vacated 15 minutes before the location closes.*

13. Children and youth groups must be adequately supervised by adults and must conform to the OCPL Library System Code of Conduct.

14. The Library will not be responsible for the security of an exhibit or other items. The Library will not provide porter service to load and unload materials or equipment. **No outside groups may store supplies in meeting spaces or on library property.**

15. Light refreshments, but no alcoholic beverages, may be served. No kitchen facilities are available for use. All trash and garbage shall be removed from Library property.

16. No smoking or other tobacco use is allowed in any part of the Library.

17. Facilities and equipment may vary with each location. Any request for available equipment must be made at the time the room is booked.

18. Use of the meeting rooms for book signings by authors with sale of that author's books will be permitted at the discretion of the Library Board and/or the Library Director. Any that are sponsored by the Friends of the Library will be allowed.

**19. Walk-in Use/Study Rooms—available on a first-come, first served basis for up to two hours. Assigned space may continue to be used by the same individual or group if it is not needed to accommodate another walk-in user or library staff use. As noted above, meeting rooms and study rooms must be vacated fifteen (15) minutes before a location closes.**

Use of the meeting room is assigned on a first come/first served basis. The Director will resolve problems developing from this, with priority as follows:

1. Users and groups directly related to the Library and the operation of the Library;
2. Departments or agencies of the municipal or county governments;
3. Community organizations formed for educational, cultural, and civic purposes as may be approved by the Director;

Granting permission to use Library facilities does not constitute an endorsement of the group or organization by the Oconee County Library System, its Board of Trustees, or the County Council of Oconee County, South Carolina.

Groups may not use photos of any library location or the library's logo in their advertisement. Only the library name and address should be used in any publicity for location purposes only. Non-library groups meeting in the library may not claim endorsement by the library or state or imply that the library is sponsoring the program. Publicity announcing the meetings must not imply library sponsorship. Copies of announcements may be requested for approval before distribution.

Proposed changes appear in red above.



# **Bookmobile and Outreach Narrative, July & August 2025**

## **Angie Clark-Bookmobile Manager**

### **Operations**

In July, 17 regularly scheduled stops were completed. Five volunteers worked with me, along with one Walhalla staff members.

In August, 17 regular stops were completed. Five volunteers assisted, along with one Walhalla staff member. One volunteer is new. Bookmobile went to motor pool for regular scheduled maintenance and to have the air line on the passenger seat fixed.

### **Special Outreach**

#### **July outreach:**

**South Cove Park:** End of summer reading party. We had 100 visitors on the bookmobile. 350 total at the party. 20 checkouts. 1 volunteers assisted.

**Branch visits:** The bookmobile is visiting the branches during July. I have set aside 2 hours per branch visit. This is giving our patrons an opportunity to see the bookmobile and checkout materials.

**Seneca:** July 16<sup>th</sup>: 5 patrons: checkouts: 0

**Walhalla:** July 14<sup>th</sup>: 8 patrons: checkouts: 2: 1 new card

**Westminster:** July 8<sup>th</sup>: 8 patrons: checkouts: 12

July 22<sup>nd</sup>: 12 patrons: checkouts: 3

#### **August outreach:**

**Fair Oak Youth Center:** Back to school bash: The bookmobile was set up for 4 hours. We had 175 total visitors at our table. Each student was able to pick 1 free book. We also had bookmarks and OCPL swag.

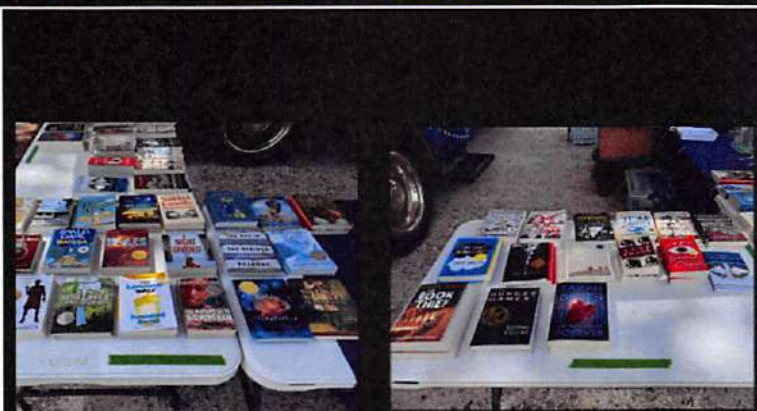
### **Statistics**

| Category                 | July 2025 | August 2025 |
|--------------------------|-----------|-------------|
| <b>Stops</b>             | 17        | 17          |
| <b>Hours Open</b>        | 13        | 13.75       |
| <b>Total Attendance</b>  | 269       | 333         |
| <b>Volunteers/Hours</b>  | 5/21hrs   | 5/25hrs     |
| <b>Outreach Stops</b>    | 5         | 1           |
| <b>Outreach Visitors</b> | 383       | 175         |
| <b>Outreach Hours</b>    | 9.5       | 4           |
| <b>New Cards</b>         | 1         | 3           |

# FAIR OAK YOUTH CENTER

Back to School Bash  
August 9, 2025

OCPL swag,  
bookmarks and one  
free book for  
preschool age thru  
high school

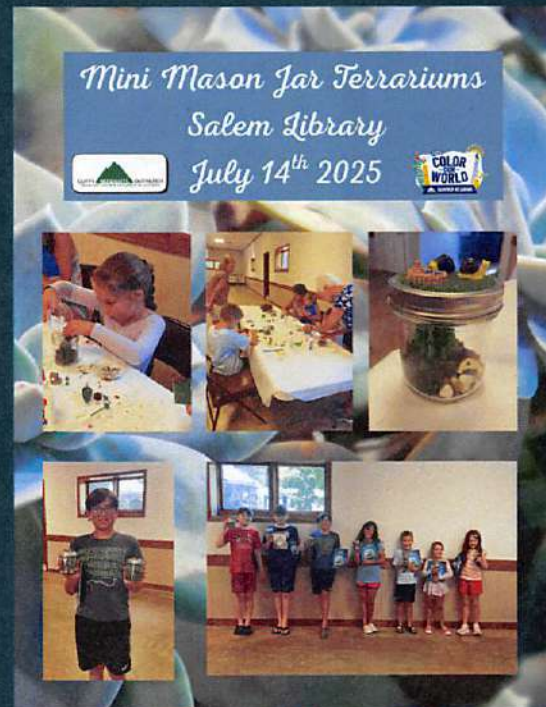


## **Programming, Operations, Staff Development, etc...**

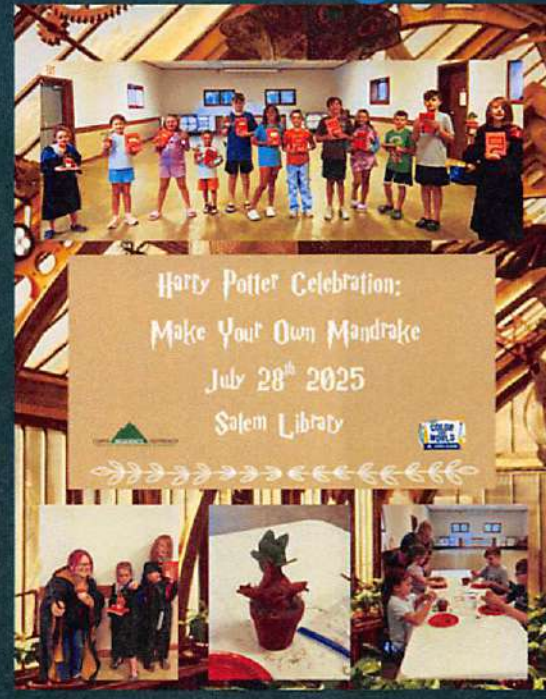
- 📖 July's Summer Reading events were another huge success for the Salem branch. We had 6 well-attended events for the community.
- 📖 Our last 3 Cliffs Residents Outreach-sponsored Summer Reading events (Shark Art, Mini Mason Jar Terrariums, and Harry Potter's Birthday Celebration) brought in 61 attendees. Each child attendee received a free Summer Reading-themed book at each of these programs. We gave out a total of 48 free books to the children of Oconee County in July. We hope to continue our collaboration with the CRO for years to come.
- 📖 In July, we also held summer renditions of our staple programs (Coffee and Crafts: Fruit Stamp Towels, STEM Club, and Zoom Page Turners Book Club). In total, we had 19 attendees for these programs.
- 📖 With the children in Oconee County returning to school on August 4<sup>th</sup>, we expected a decrease in attendance for August. However, we were pleasantly surprised with each program's turnout.
- 📖 Our first program in August, LEGO Club Challenge: Secret Zoo, brought in 8 attendees. Each creative child had the opportunity to design their own zoo exhibit and have other attendees guess what their animal/exhibit was.
- 📖 Salem's next program, End of Summer Rock Painting, brought in 16 attendees of all ages.
- 📖 Family BINGO was our 3<sup>rd</sup> program for August and our most popular of the month. In total, there were 23 attendees that won great prizes including books, puzzles, and DIY activities.
- 📖 In August, our Zoom Page Turners Book Club brought in 4 attendees. We discussed *The Beekeeper of Aleppo* by Christy Lefteri.
- 📖 In July, I received a partial grant from the state library to attend the Association of Rural and Small Libraries conference. I'll be attending this conference in Albuquerque, NM during the week of September 16-21.
- 📖 In August, Abigail joined the volunteer committee and will be assisting with the prep of the volunteer luncheon in October.



| Stats     | July | August |
|-----------|------|--------|
| Visits    | 1801 | 1652   |
| New Cards | 10   | 11     |
| ILLs      | 8    | 4      |



## July 2025 Salem Summer Reading Events







## August 2025 Salem Events





## **Ann Rogers Memorial Room**

July/August 2025

Quientell Walker, Local History Associate

### **Narrative**

#### **Oconee SC 250 Meeting:**

The Oconee SC 250 Committee is continuing to make progress toward celebrating the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the American Revolution. Our Historical Research Subcommittee is actively working on verifying and locating Patriot Burials in Oconee County. Moreover, they are also working on gathering information to create a biography of the Patriots; the biographies will be based on what information they are able to find. The Education Subcommittee is in the final stages of completing the contents for Teaching Trucks. These trucks will follow the South Carolina Department of Education Standards, and they will be available to Oconee County teachers and homeschool groups. The Marketing Subcommittee is working on activities and social media to develop and maintain local interest, and have started creating blog posts with a set list of topics. Lastly, I am engaged with creating a map showing the verified Patriot Burials as well as the known Cherokee Lower Towns. Margaret Mills Seaborn mapped the Cherokee Lower Towns during the Bicentennial, and I am working towards incorporating updated information from the Historical Research Subcommittee, and with suggestions from the Marketing Subcommittee.

#### **Oconee Chamber of Commerce-Minority Business Group:**

Andrea Harbin, of the Oconee Chamber, reached out to me to deliver a talk for the Minority Business Group. In total 14 people attended. My presentation entitled Genealogy Overview covered the reason behind why people are interested in Genealogy/Local History Research, what resources the library provides, and how visiting researchers affect the local economy. The presentation concluded with multiple thought provoking questions.

#### **Jocassee Valley Digitization Project:**

Last year OCPL obtained copyright permission to digitize Jocassee Valley by Claudia Hembree. Work has begun on this project, and the expected end date is the week of September 29th, 2025. The completed scans will be sent to USC to review and upload to the South Carolina Digital Library.

### U.S. Constitution Book Display:

The Daughters of the American Revolution set aside September 17<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> as Constitution Week to “commemorate its history, importance, and bring attention to how it serves still today.” I have made a book display of books available about the U.S. Constitution and biographies of George Washington and James Madison. Also, I made four bookmarks depicting those sent from South Carolina to draft the U.S. Constitution. They are: Pierce Butler, John Rutledge, Charles Pinckney, and Charles Cotesworth Pinckney. Lastly, I purchased pocket editions of the U.S. Constitution. They were purchased from the U.S. Government Printing Office. The display will remain up until Tuesday, September 23, 2025.



### Project Management Course:

I have started a library focused Project Management Course. This course will greatly assist me in creating and maintaining viable plans to complete projects within an adequate timeframe.

### Rogers Room Statistics:

| Statistics Recorded             | July 2024 | July 2025 | August 2024 | August 2025 |
|---------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|-------------|
| Walk-In                         | 11        | 8         | 9           | 3           |
| Phone Call                      | 2         | 0         | 4           | 2           |
| Mail                            | 0         | 0         | 0           | 0           |
| Email/Online                    | 5         | 0         | 1           | 3           |
| Books                           | 10        | 36        | 23          | 25          |
| Microfilm                       | 13        | 13        | 16          | 3           |
| Map                             | 2         | 4         | 4           | 0           |
| SC Room Presentations           | 0         | 0         | 0           | 1           |
| SC Room Presentation Attendance | 0         | 0         | 0           | 14          |
| Questions Completed             | 28        | 0         | 29          | 19          |
| Outstanding Questions           | 0         | 0         | 2           | 0           |
| Volunteer Hours                 | 81.5      | 52.25     | 71.75       | 19.75       |
| Specialized 1:1 Sessions        | -         | 1         | -           | 1           |

**Facilities:**

- We have to coordinate with Roads and Bridges about a tree to come down and removing the sign with the old logo. Hopefully they will have time for this whenever they begin work on the new road. We do not know when that project will begin.
- Maintenance has not come look at the vents/ducts. We will have to re-ask Jason.
- We purchased a new charging station to keep up with demand. We bought two new armchairs for the reading area as the other chairs broke.
- I am purchasing a new couch for the children's area in September as it is damaged. We will also purchase a chair to replace the broken armchair in the Teen area.
- I pulled all the weeds from the garden beds. Maintenance sprayed many overgrown areas which left brown weeds for several weeks, but they seem to be dissipating as of September. I am going to ask Maintenance to pressure wash the walkways, the windows, and the white fascia at the top of the building.

**Operations:** Collection Management finished relabeling Teen and Older Teen. We have restructured the shelving pattern to reflect the two new sections. We are finished with an inventory we began four months ago. All of our summer reading programs went well and summer reading as a whole was a success.

**Staffing:** As of September we are at full staff (4 part time, 4 full time). Our new people have settled in well and we hope to have no turnover for the rest of the year. I can't thank our staff enough for all the extra hours and job duties they took on during the last year.

**Attendance for programs run by Seneca staff:**

Bingo – Jul: 21; Aug: 27

Sea glass craft (adults) – 13      Friendship bracelets (kids/teens) - 7

Family art trivia – 3      Football sign (adults/teens) – 5

| <b>Notable Statistics</b> | <b>July 2025</b> | <b>Aug 2025</b> |
|---------------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Visits to library         | 5,495            | 4,749           |
| New Cards Issued          | 105              | 74              |



## **Walhalla Library**

**July – August 2025**

**Tucker Brown, Circulation Manager**

### **Staff Development:**

Walhalla's longtime circulation assistant, Alexis Teske, has taken on a new role at the library. She has taken the position of library courier, transporting items in-between branches. She is still going to assist at Walhalla in the afternoons, but this does mean there is an open position for circulation. We began interviewing candidates in mid-August for the opening. Hopefully we will be able to hire someone by early September and begin training.

### **Programming:**

The push to finish summer reading began after the Fourth of July holiday. Attendance remained high for our story times with an average of 40 people attending the mornings I hosted before our new youth services librarian started. Starting on July 21, Emily Johnson and DJ Wharton took over hosting story times at Walhalla. Other programming through Summer Reading had varied attendance, with only our Teen Paint Along having no one show up at all. Our other program for teens, a game of life-sized Clue in the library after close, had seven people show up to solve the tragic murder of Mr. Boddy. Our adult program in July, an opportunity to paint whatever you want with the caveat that no one can use a paintbrush, had 12 people attend. Both our edible art and our sidewalk chalk art events had around 10 people show up and the monthly Chess Club meeting had 16 total players ply their skills against each other. The big event was the return of Carolina Power Tumbling for another obstacle course aimed at children up to the age of five. Over thirty attendees ran, leapt, rolled, and fell through the course.

### **Outreach & Partnerships:**

July and August had two notable partnerships at the Walhalla Library. In the middle of our summer reading programming, we teamed up with the SC Department of Employment and Workforce and the SC Department of Education to offer Code & Create Summer Camp. Designed for rising fourth and fifth grade students, the class was an introduction to coding basics and looking at real world applications and careers that learning computer coding can lead to. 14 students signed up for the four-day course, and by the responses from the children and their parents was a great success. Talking with the presenters after the course was finished, they both expressed high interest in continuing this partnership and possibly expanding these types of summer camp classes in the future.

### **Meeting Room:**

**July – Babyread, Guardian as Litum**

**August – SC Office of Resilience, Flourishing Homeschool, Tamasee Starlight, Guardian ad Litum, Babyread**

### **Study Room:**

**July – 73 uses**

**August – 55 uses**

**Facilities:**

Facilities continued to have to work on our HVAC systems as the summer progressed. From over following drip pans to Freon leaks, the team in Facilities and Maintenance has been quick to repair and troubleshoot problems at the library. With the exception of one unit that still requires a more extensive repair, everything is currently running well and keeping the library comfortable for the public. Facilities plans on returning to take a look at the remaining problematic unit after the summer.

**Statistics:**

| Category         | July 2025 | August 2025 |
|------------------|-----------|-------------|
| Visitors         | 4758      | 3970        |
| New Cards Issued | 61        | 48          |
| ILL              | 22        | 30          |
| Hours Open       | 192       | 184         |

## Westminster July & August Report by Leah Price

### July Programs

- We had 26 kids come to color their own Fuzzy Door Hangers.
- Bubble Bonanza took place down at the new addition to the Anderson Park. We had 45.
- I Read to Animals is always popular so it was no surprise we had 35 attendees (and 7 dogs).
- Shark Art consisted of wooden sharks kids could color. We had 30.
- DJ Pre-K was a hip hoppin' success for his second appearance with the OCPL this summer. We even had some repeat visitors because they enjoyed him so much the first time. There were a total of 56 kids and parents dancing around.
- Our July movie showing of *Minecraft* had 9 viewers.
- Our July adult craft had 14 people making their own whimsical terrariums.
- Our biweekly summer scavenger hunts continued to be very popular. We had 60 search the library for sharks to answer the riddle: What does a shark and a computer have in common? Mega Bites! Our Cats and Dogs scavenger hunt became one of the most popular with 117 participants. They had to search the entire library to find the cats and dogs reading books.
- Everyone loves winning free books and prizes. We had 40 attend our BINGO program.
- Teens are a hard audience to get into the library for programs so we were super happy to have 7 attend our Astrological Key Chain/Jewelry Craft.

### August Programs

- In August we had a Mushroom Craft for kids with 11 in attendance.
- Since Bubble Bonanza was so popular in July, we repeated the program. Due to the weather, the event had to take place inside. We had 14.
- LEGO make and take programs continue to be popular. Salem had a popular LEGO glasses program in the summer so we replicated that craft and had 20 attend.
- We gave out 8 Take and Makes.
- Our Bee Scavenger Hunt had 71 kids coloring by number by matching the colored numbered bees to their bee coloring sheet. They received a back-to-school bee set with a pencil, eraser, bookmark, and bracelet reminding them to "Bee kind."
- Our Doodle Day program let participants doodle with 3D pens. We did have some issues with the pens, but since we had a small group of four it turned out okay.
- Our adult clay program had to be modified to a free play with clay hour. We had 13 attend with most trying their hand at making TikTok popular ghosts.
- Our after-hours movie showing of *How to Train Your Dragon (2025)* had 15 in attendance.

### Projects & Staff

- Tiffany celebrated her 16<sup>th</sup> work anniversary in August. She started her library career as a part-time employee at Walhalla, transferred to Seneca, and has been the full-time circulation assistant at Westminster since 2013.



- Tiffany's big displays included bees and sharks. Endcap displays were new juvenile, teen, and older teen books, and multiple series.
- On Tuesday, August 12, the Westminster city council gave the Westminster Library a proclamation recognizing the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Victoria Oak that was planted in 1985 as a recognition of the connection between Westminster, South Carolina, and Westminster, England. Pictured-Branch Manager Leah Price accepts the proclamation from Mayor Brian Ramey with city council members. A copy of the proclamation is included at the end of this report.



### **Betty B. Watkins Seed Library**

The BBW Seed Library continues to be popular as we get into the fall growing season. We had 220 seed packs taken in June and 173 in August.

At the very end of August, we were contacted by a high school junior named Maddie Yang who is from Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. She leads a youth-led nonprofit called Food to Flourish, which aims to increase access to food with a focus on sustainability. One of their initiatives is to collaborate with libraries to help expand existing seed libraries. They receive grants to fund projects and wanted to know if the BBW Seed Library would be interested in receiving seed packets. We gave an excited yes (after making sure they knew we were in SC)! We were sent 100 seed packets via mail. It's great to see youth taking initiatives to help communities, specifically issues with food. It's exciting to know the BBW Seed Library has connections to Pennsylvania now.

### **Period Project**

In July we received 216 items from Period Project. We had 134 items donated from library patrons. The Westminster Library gave away 142 items, including 9 kits with multiple items in them. The project is going well and we have received a lot of kudos from the community for offering these items. The library as a system gave out 281 items in July and 215 items in August.

|                              |        |      |
|------------------------------|--------|------|
| Door Count                   | 2297   | 1663 |
| New Cards                    | 25     | 20   |
| Meeting Room Library Use     | 13/217 | 9/77 |
| Meeting Room Non-library Use | 3/18   | 6/23 |

## Proclamation

### CELEBRATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VICTORIA OAK

**WHEREAS**, in 1985, the City of Westminster, South Carolina, was honored to receive an invitation from Westminster, England, to participate in the celebration of the 400th anniversary of its founding; AND

**WHEREAS**, as a gesture of friendship and shared heritage, Westminster, S.C. prepared and presented a framed collection of photographs depicting landmarks of our community, along with historic mementos, to our sister city across the sea; AND

**WHEREAS**, in that same spirit, the Westminster Garden Club planted a willow oak tree at the Westminster Library on June 19, 1985, dedicating it as "The Victoria Oak" in honor of Queen Victoria, the beloved monarch of Great Britain who reigned from 1838 to 1900; AND

**WHEREAS**, this memorial stands not only as a tribute, but as a lasting symbol of goodwill, unity, and friendship between Westminster, South Carolina, and Westminster, England; AND

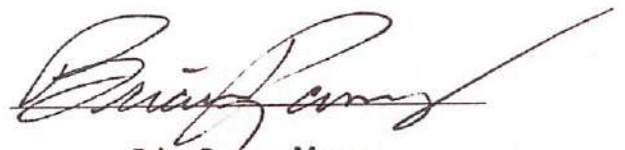
**WHEREAS**, in 2025, the City of Westminster proudly celebrates the 40th anniversary of the Victoria Oak, recognizing the vision and dedication of Westminster Library, Late Mayor Garland Johnson, the Westminster Garden Club, the Westminster Rotary Club, the Lazy Daisy Garden Club, and countless citizens whose efforts made this lasting gesture possible;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED**, that the Westminster City Council does hereby honor and commemorate

### THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VICTORIA OAK,

Expressing gratitude for the shared history and enduring friendship between our two Westminsters and encouraging all citizens to reflect on the importance of preserving our heritage for generations to come.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Westminster to be affixed.

  
Brian Ramey, Mayor

**Youth Services Department**  
**July – August 2025**  
**Emily Johnson, Youth Services Librarian**

**Summer Reading 2025 - July**

Summer Reading 2025 ended on Friday, July 25th with our End-of-Summer Bash. We ended the program having had 1,166 registrations, 534 completions, and 797,706 reading minutes. These numbers include children, teens, and adults. Our completion percentage, or percentage of people who read for at least 600 minutes, was 46%. 32 prizes were awarded, including an art easel, LEGO suitcases, sensory bears, gift cards, and more.

For more details about the Summer Reading Program 2025, please see the report DJ made.

**Programs**

**Color in Our Wild World**

On July 15th, we had Riverbanks Zoo visit for a Color in Our Wild World program. This program was a big hit, with about 80 attendees. The local YMCA brought the children in their summer program, and everyone seemed to have a blast. Upstate Today published an article about this event, written by Lauren Pierce (attached at the end of this report).

**End-of-Summer Bash**

On July 25th, we hosted our annual End-of-Summer Bash at South Cove County Park, which continued to be a big hit with our patrons, with about 350 attendees. We gave out free snacks, water bottles, and books. Instead of making snow cones ourselves, we paid Kona Ice to give away snow cones, which the participants loved. We also hired a company to put up a blow-up water slide. DJ had invited several community organizations to participate in this event, including Oconee County Sheriff's Department, Friends of the Library, and Healthy Oconee. Like Color in Our Wild World, the local YMCA brought the children in their summer program.

**Storytime**

Due to being short staffed, storytime this summer was only held at the Walhalla branch. Because I just started that day, Tucker ran the July 14th storytime, and DJ ran the next week's, the 21st. DJ introduced me on the 21st so that the children attending would know who I was the next week. Beginning July 28th, I took over running storytime. That week's storytime numbers were smaller, with a total of 16, as we had not had it on the website calendar until the Friday before.

Because I was still getting my feet wet, we continued to only hold storytime at Walhalla in August, with the intention of beginning storytimes at all four branches in September. In August, our numbers were a little higher than July's, with 111 total participants for the month, averaging about 28 participants per storytime.



### **Collection Development and Maintenance**

During July, I spent time familiarizing myself with the collection and learning the process of collection development and maintenance. DJ helped significantly with this, as did Darcy's old notes.

In August, Leah taught me how to use Ingram, and I began actually weeding. At Walhalla, I weeded the BB, JGN, and JNF sections. BB were pulled and reordered based on looks. JGN and JNF were pulled and substitutes were ordered based on checkouts. I believe the list I used determined that any books added to the collection before January 1, 2019 and checked out less than 7 times would be pulled. Of course, I also went through each book individually and determined whether it needed to stay regardless. This took me a number of weeks, but was very rewarding. During this time, I also made a list on Ingram of new JNF books to order and then placed new BB and JGN books on our future order lists for Leah to review.

At some point during August, I also made a short trip to Salem to take a look at their BB and JGN section, which I also weeded. I discovered that Kayla has kept the sections well weeded, as I had very little work to do there.

One thing I discovered during collection evaluation was that the Spanish and bilingual board books in Walhalla are very rarely checked out. It is my belief that this is because they are kept separately from the other board books. In the future, if possible, I would love to find a way to add another board book organizer/shelf to the children's section and put the Spanish and bilingual board books with the English board books.

### **Community Outreach/Collaboration**

In July and August, based on Darcy's old notes, I made a list of preschool outreach locations for the school year. I have arranged monthly storytime visits with three preschools this year: Golden Corner Preschool, The Learning Center at Open Door Baptist Church, and Trinity Baptist Preschool. I have reached out to the Pennsylvania Children's Center at Tamassee DAR School, but have not heard back.

In August, DJ compiled a spreadsheet of contact information for the local schools. Included in that list were all the elementary, middle, and high schools in SDOC, but also Oconee Christian Academy, Seneca Classical Academy, and Hamilton Career and Technical Center. I used this spreadsheet to email the literacy/reading coaches and media specialists for each school and introduce myself. In the emails, I offered my services for reading/literacy nights or in any other way the coaches and specialists could think of. I have heard back from many of those schools.

On August 28th, I traveled to the HCTC and met with Bethany Henry's Early Childhood 2 Honors class. I spent about an hour and a half there answering questions about being a Youth Services Librarian, providing an example of dialogic reading, and leading the students in a short lesson on reading aloud. Ms. Henry and her students will be assisting with a storytime at Walhalla on September 29th as part of their intern hours.

I have planned in October for a program to take place at the Park Place Drive-In in Westminster (next to the Westminster branch) and in November for a program to take place at the W.P. Anderson Park in Westminster (next to the Westminster branch).

### **Website**

In July I created a very large list of homeschool resources, broken down into sections such as blogs, curriculum resources, and learning disabilities resources. When Bethany gets time, she will add this information to the homeschool resources section of our website. This is a large list, so I expect it will take some time.

I have also asked Bethany if we can separate the children's and teens' pages of the website.

### **Planning Ahead**

In July and August, I planned the storytime themes and outlines, complete with books and songs, for September and October. I also planned the themes (but not the outlines) for November and December. Along with this, I chose an early literacy tip for each storytime theme in order to give adults attending something to work on (or continue working on) with their child.

Also during this time, I planned the programs for September, October, November, and December on paper; added the programs to Skedda; and created everything needed on Canva. At this point, I have added everything to the website calendar for September, October, and November, but December has yet to be added. The events documents Bethany requests are ready for each month.

I am also working on a future recurring video program I would like to begin in January – First Chapter Friday, where I read the first chapter of a juvenile/teen book out loud. These videos would be available on the website.

### **Displays**

In August, I set up a Percy Jackson-themed display, and DJ and I (mostly DJ) planned future displays and ways to decorate the children's area.