

OCPL Director's Report

July 2026

1. Programs and Services: Attendance at programs in May and June was very good. The Little Walhalla Book club, led by a volunteer and held at Alexander's Coffee House on Main Street in Walhalla, has been very successful. We also have the Book Buzz program at Mountain Mocha in Walhalla, and the Zoom Book Club in Salem. Attendance at the Critter Keeper program was around 465. Attendance was also good for both SC250 programs, the Taste the Revolution program and the Historical Writing program. The branches have also conducted numerous programs. See the branch managers' reports for more on those.

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

3. Finance and Budget: OCPL budget figures for FY27 to date are attached. (A note on the breakdown—local spending in the 010 accounts was frozen after mid-May 2026. We did spend down the amounts for professional, utilities, vehicle maintenance, and fuel. We did also spend remaining State Aid (240 accounts) as that is not part of the county budget.)

4. Personnel and Training: Emily Johnson, our Youth Services Librarian, will be leaving us at the end of July 2026. She has done very good work for us and we will be sad to lose her. We have already begun the search for her replacement. Mandolyn Harkness moved from part time at the Walhalla Branch to the full-time assistant's position at Salem. We will be temporarily able to pay for Kerry Leeper Brock, the Library's Resource Associate, from State Aid funds (her grant ended in June 2026).

5. Building and Grounds: Facilities Maintenance was able to secure a bucket truck from Roads and Bridges to explore for leaks in the HVAC at the Walhalla Library. None were found in the conduits, so they have refilled the coolant and are still looking for leaks. We have made inquiries with Stewart Jones and Matthew Durham about the paving project in Seneca.

6. Technology: We have added some new items to the Library of Things, including some new assistive devices.

7. Friends of the Library: Used book sales have continued each Thursday from 10:00 to 3:30 p.m. Their Books on the Alley location in M. Tannery and Sons on Ram Cat Alley also does very well, as did the lobby sales in Walhalla and Seneca. The Friends have received several large donations recently, and have processed them fairly quickly.

Book Sales collected May & June 2026:

Basement \$5,529.15

Booth \$3,268.96

Lobby \$ 678.75

Seneca \$ 171.00

Online Sales \$ 171.90

Total Book Sales Revenue \$9,819.76

8. Oconee County: The county budget for FY27 was passed on third reading on June 29, 2026. There were no significant changes from FY26. We were unable to have the “professional” line item increased, so raises for Staffmark personnel will have to wait until we can free up some other money. They also did not choose to assume the salary for the Library Resource Associate. We will continue that position temporarily from State Aid and donation funds. Sadly, that is not sustainable for more than this fiscal year.

9. State Library: The requested increase in State Aid to Public Libraries had passed both in the state House and Senate. The Conference Committee has not reached a final decision on the budget, which was not passed before the June 30 deadline. For the moment we are operating under a continuing resolution with state funds. We do anticipate receiving the same amount as last year, \$215,814.35, in State Aid.

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. Brittany Castro is participating in the 2026 class of Leadership Oconee. We also continue to work with the Healthy Oconee Coalition, are on the board of Oconee County First Steps, and work with the Oconee County Chamber.

11. Other: Youth Services has had great success with their mentoring program for homeschool youth. We might need to examine lowering the age for volunteers for certain special circumstances. Also, please mark your calendars for Thursday, October 15 from 6 PM to 8 PM. This will be the evening of the Volunteer Appreciation dinner at the Walhalla Depot.

	May 2025	May 2026	Change	Jun 2025	Jun 2026	Change
Visits to Library	12,380	11,459	-7.4%	14,183	14,826	4.5%
Material Circulation - LOT	128	134	4.7%	173	172	-0.6%
Material Circulation - Adult	11,327	10,589	-6.5%	11,632	11,549	-0.7%
Material Circulation - Youth	1,308	835	-36.2%	2,050	972	-52.6%
Material Circulation - Juvenile	8,679	7,999	-7.8%	10,489	11,031	5.2%
Total Material Circulation	21,442	19,557	-8.8%	24,344	23,724	-2.5%
Internet Uses	738	581	-21.3%	834	650	-22.1%
Internet Hours of Use	361	292	-19.1%	449	336	-25.2%
New Cards Issued	186	190	2.2%	218	210	-3.7%
Programs - Adult	6	8	33.3%	8	11	37.5%
Programs Attendance - Adult	36	62	72.2%	90	84	-6.7%
Programs - Youth 12-18	0	0		3	3	0.0%
Programs Att - Youth 12-18	0	0		45	16	-64.4%
Programs -Juvenile 6-11	4	3	-25.0%	14	16	14.3%
Programs Att -Juv 6-11	20	31	55.0%	365	337	-7.7%
Programs - Children 0-5	4	2	-50.0%	6	14	133.3%
Programs - Att - Children 0-5	124	14	-88.7%	348	472	35.6%
Programs - All Ages	4	5	25.0%	6	5	-16.7%
Programs Att - All Ages	46	72	56.5%	1,057	72	-93.2%
Programs Att - Passive	540	1,179	118.3%	941	1,012	7.5%
Outreach Activities	1	8	700.0%	5	2	-60.0%
Outreach Act. Attendance	110	3,523	3102.7%	192	470	144.8%
Public Training Sessions	4	4	0.0%	4	4	0.0%
Public Training Participants	5	4	-20.0%	6	4	-33.3%
Public Training Hours	4	4	0.0%	5	4	-20.0%
Staff Training Sessions	1	4	300.0%	3	0	-100.0%
Staff Training Participants	2	15	650.0%	4	0	-100.0%
Staff Training Hours	32	27	-15.6%	72	0	-100.0%
Number of New Volunteers	0	1		1	5	400.0%
Number of Vol Hours	39	58	48.7%	36	184	411.1%
Meeting Room Use	59	76	28.8%	33	95	187.9%
Meeting Room Attendance	529	357	-32.5%	714	1,019	42.7%
Specialized 1:1 Sessions	0	0		2	1	-50.0%
Number of Web Site Hits	13,258	15,591	17.6%	16,586	18,255	10.1%
Wi-Fi Users	202	156	-22.8%	241	203	-15.8%
Wi-Fi Sessions	1,623	1,322	-18.5%	2,056	1,796	-12.6%
Hoopla Checkouts	1,364	1,453	6.5%	1,423	1,470	3.3%
CloudLibrary Downloads	3,376	3,500	3.7%	3,257	2,187	-32.9%
Ancestry.com Hits	231	96	-58.4%	259	522	101.5%
Interlibrary Loans	33	27	-18.2%	18	44	144.4%
New Material Added	779	933	19.8%	809	880	8.8%

OCPL BUDGET 2025-2026- 6-5-26

Account Number	Description	Budgeted	Spent	Percent	Balance
Local Budget					
010-206-30018-00000	Travel	1500	902.93	60%	597
010-206-30024-00000	Equip. Maintenance	2,600	2,600	100%	0
010-206-30025-00000	Professional -Staffmark	150,000	122,278	82%	27,722
010-206-30041-00000	Telecommunications	0		0%	0
010-206-30056-00000	Data Processing	28,592	28,591	100%	1
010-206-30059-00000	Copier Click Charges - Xerox	8,500	8,493	100%	7
010-206-30080-00000	Dues	750	750	100%	0
010-206-30084-00000	School, Training, Sem.	2,500	2,499	100%	1
010-206-30090-00000	Honorarium	900	900	100%	0
010-206-33022-00207	Bldg Maint - Walhalla	9,487	9,650	102%	-163
010-206-33022-00208	Bldg Maint - Seneca	4,000	3,774	94%	226
010-206-33022-00209	Bldg Maint - Westminster	3,216	3,309	103%	-93
010-206-33022-00210	Bldg. Maint - Salem	2,000	1,748	87%	252
010-206-34043-00207	Electricity - Walhalla	18,000	15,178	84%	2,822
010-206-34043-00208	Electricity - Seneca	12,000	10,760	90%	1,240
010-206-34043-00209	Electricity - Westminster	9,000	8,550	95%	450
010-206-34043-00210	Electricity - Salem	5,000	5,000	100%	0
010-206-34044-00207	Water - Walhalla	1,700	1,791	105%	-91
010-206-34044-00208	Water - Seneca	2,000	1,829	91%	171
010-206-34044-00209	Water - Westminster	2,250	945	42%	1,305
010-206-40031-00000	Sm Capital Equip (Loc)	2,729	2,729	100%	0
010-206-40032-00000	Operational	6,000	5,995	100%	5
010-206-40032-00000-A	Youth Services	2,000	1,963	98%	37
010-206-40033-00000	Postage	250	221	88%	29
010-206-40034-00000	Food	500	479	96%	21
010-206-40101-00000	Books (Local)	87,670	87,414	100%	256
010-206-40102-00000	Periodicals (Local)	23,000	23,000	100%	0
010-206-40103-00000	AV (Local)	11,500	11,480	100%	20
010-206-80206-00000	Automobile Maint - Library	1,500	484	32%	1,016
010-206-81206-00000	Gasoline - Library	3,000	2,287	76%	713
010-206-82206-00000	Diesel - Library	2,500	1,750	70%	750
TOTAL LOCAL FUNDS		404,644		0%	37,294
MISC. FUNDS					
013-206-60010-00000	Gift's	72,599			72,599
013-080-00835-92056	Nettles Trust	60,827		0%	60,827
TOTAL MISC. FUNDS					133,426
State Aid Budget - \$216814.35					
240-206-30056-00255	Data Processing (State)	\$13,236.69	13,235.98	100%	0.71
240-206-30059-00255	Copier Click Charges - Xerox	\$3,000.00	1,604.99	53%	1,395.01
240-206-30080-00255	Dues (State)	\$900.00	900.00	100%	0.00
240-206-30084-00255	Schools, Training (State)	\$6,000.00	5,965.17	99%	34.83
240-206-40031-00255	Sm Capital Equip (State)	9,460.35	9,190.09	97%	270.26
240-206-40032-00255	Operational (State)	\$22,185.00	21,081.45	95%	1,103.55
240-206-40045-00255	IT Equipment	\$11,576.31	11,576.31	100%	0.00
240-206-40111-00255	Books (State)	\$101,500.00	101,159.45	100%	340.55
240-206-40112-00255	Periodicals (State)	\$32,356.00	32,355.99	100%	0.01
240-206-40113-00255	AV (State)	\$16,600.00	16,508.91	99%	91.09
Total State Aid Funds		\$216,814.35		0%	3,236.01

Programs

We held fewer adult programs in May to devote more time to preparing for Summer Reading. All of our recurring programs still met in May and June. Our volunteer-led book club, "The Little Walhalla Book Club," continues to average 15 people per month. The book club meets at Alexander's Coffee Shop on the first Wednesday of each month. Our other volunteer-led program, "The Little Walhalla Book Club," which began in January and has taken off. An average of 16 people attend. Our all-ages Chess Club had 10 in attendance. Book Buzz, which meets at Mountain Mocha on the third Friday of every month, continues to average 8 per month. We held our quarterly Puzzle Swap in May. Only four people attended, but they brought 10-20 puzzles each. The SC Elections Commission was scheduled to lead a program in Walhalla. Unfortunately, they had to cancel as they were needed in the office due to potential redistricting concerns.

We have continued the Spice of the Month Take-and-Make kits at Walhalla. The purpose is to allow patrons to expand their cultural and culinary knowledge. Each month we'll showcase a new spice, herb, or blend from various corners of the globe – some very familiar, some more exotic. Each kit includes a spice sample, a recipe, and a bit about the spice's origins, history, and traditional uses. Patrons get to try a (new) spice without having to purchase a whole container for themselves. We gave away 25 turmeric kits in May and 50 Peruvian pink salt kits in June.

Summer Reading

June was filled with more adult programs than ever. The patriotic painting and red, white, and blue wreath programs were both big hits. Only four people attended South Carolina Bingo. We had successful Jurassic Park-inspired escape rooms at Seneca and Walhalla. The escape room program was challenging to put together, but the patrons really enjoyed it and gave me great feedback. I look forward to doing another one next summer. Sadly, the Memory Café, where adults share stories from their lives focused on a particular theme, and Adult Show-and-Tell didn't have any participants. I still like the idea of both programs, and I will try them again in a less busy season.

Our biggest adult program in June was an author event with Michael Cogdill. Anyone who has lived in the area for a while will recognize him as the former anchor of WYFF 4. He earned 32 Emmys over the course of his career, primarily for long-form storytelling. We had 15 people in attendance for his presentation. The presentation was full of heart. There was laughter and even a few teary eyes. I think everyone who attended enjoyed the presentation.

Professional Development

I have continued with the Leadership Oconee Program. May's class focused on local government and recreation. June's class highlighted the county's manufacturing, agriculture, and economic development. It has been a great insight into the broader workings of Oconee County.

Bookmobile and Outreach Narrative, May & June 2026

Angie Clark-Bookmobile Manager

Operations

During the month of May, 18 regularly scheduled stops were completed. 5 volunteers assisted, one of which is new.

During the month of June, 12 regularly scheduled stops were completed. 3 volunteers assisted.

The bookmobile went out of service on 5/13/26. It was thought that the generator starter went bad. There was miscommunication from motor pool about testing something else before ordering the part. 3 weeks went by before we knew they wanted to test. Once we knew it need to go back to motor pool, they were able to determine it was an electrical issue on the generator. We were able to get the bookmobile back the next day. The bookmobile was put back into service on 6/4/26.

During the time the bookmobile was out of service, I was still able to service most of my patrons by using my personal car. Some routes still had to be cancelled due to certain circumstances.

Special Outreach

May:

Kick off to Summer Reading- High Falls Park

With the bookmobile being out of service, I set up a table with bookmarks, stickers, bracelets along with summer reading logs and information.

June:

Westminster Branch Visit: Summer reading popup.

Statistics

Category	May 2026	June 2026
Stops	18	12
Hours Open	14.75	10.25
Total Attendance	318	239
Volunteers/Hours	5/21 hrs	3/10.25 hrs
Outreach Stops	1	1
Outreach Visitors	356	7
Outreach Hours	2	2
New Cards	7	2
Programs-Passive	0	0

Library Resource Report May-June 2026

Awareness/Promotion

May is Women's Health Month and exhibits on health concerns particular to women were featured in displays at the Walhalla and Westminster branches during the month. Related books were available to check out and informational handouts were available for patrons to take with them, as well.

As part of Safety Awareness Month in June, a display was featured at the Walhalla branch that included books and handouts on everything from gun safety to swimming safety to camping safety. In addition to the books and handouts, a safety coloring book was available for our smallest patrons.

Every attempt is made to promote the monthly Library Resource programs/events, including: 1) flyers typically posted at the Oconee County Administrative offices on Pine Street; 2) flyers posted at each of the four OCPL branches; 3) flyers routinely emailed to local non-profit and social service agencies, as well as other community leaders; 4) Library Resource events submitted to the Seneca Journal Community Calendar each month; 5) events listed in the OCPL (print) calendar and on the OCPL website and social media sites; 6) flyers sometimes featured on the Healthy Oconee Coalition Instagram page; 7) Library Resource events/programs sometimes featured in the "County Connector," the Oconee Chamber of Commerce's newsletter.

<u>Program/event name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u># of participants</u>
• Dementia 201	5/5/26	Seneca OCPL	16
• Mobile Clean of Heart Showers	5/6/26	Our Daily Bread (Seneca)	17
• Yoga	5/14/26	Walhalla OCPL	7
• The Healing Power of Nature	5/19/26	Westminster OCPL	4
• Mobile Clean of Heart Showers	5/20/26	Our Daily Bread (Seneca)	12
• Learn About Cancer Screenings	5/21/26	Walhalla OCPL	3
• Mobile Clean of Heart Showers	6/3/26	Our Daily Bread (Seneca)	23
• Yoga	6/11/26	Walhalla OCPL	9
• Mobile Clean of Heart Showers	6/17/26	Our Daily Bread (Seneca)	18
• First 5 (Oconee County First Steps)	6/24/26	Seneca OCPL	4

Assistance to Individuals/Families

The Library Resource Associate and Community Resource Assistant/Spanish Interpreter had a total caseload of 33 individuals/families in May and a caseload of 34 individuals/families in June.

Other Community Resource Activities/Collaborations

The Library Resource Associate (Kerry) and/or Community Resource Assistant (Amy) attended/participated in the following in May and June:

- Participated in OCPL Cultural Outreach "Cinco de Mayo" event, May 2, 2026-Amy & Kerry
- Met with other local providers including Salvation Army, SHARE, Oconee United Ministries, LifePoint Church, Our Daily Rest, Golden Corner Food Pantry, St. Mark UMC, St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church, May 18, 2026-Kerry
- Met with Prisma Health leadership re. possible funding sources, June 8, 2026-Kerry
- Center for Rural and Primary Healthcare, Libraries and Healthcare program closeout meeting, June 11, 2026-Kerry
- Met with Clemson University Institute for Engaged Aging staff, June 18, 2026-Kerry

Continuing Education

- Attended "Understanding Human Trafficking and the Healthcare Response" via Zoom, Making the CASE, Medical University of South Carolina, May 12, 2026 (1 hour CEU)-Kerry

Salem Library
May/Jun 2026
Kayla Rucker
Branch Manager

Programming, Operations, Staff Development, etc....

A steady May transitioned us smoothly into the busier summer season. Summer Reading is in full swing at the Salem Library. Despite staff changes, programs and library operations have continued smoothly. As a new Circulation Assistant at Salem starts in July, we will continue to serve our patrons efficiently and provide fun and educational programming for all ages.

- ☞ In the month of May, Salem hosted 7 programs.
- ☞ We wrapped up our Tiny Art Show with an awards reception on May 15th with 12 in attendance. First place winners in each age category won art kits to continue their love of art at home.
- ☞ The Salem branch hosted a passive program to celebrate Star Wars Day (May the 4th Be with You) by giving out inflatable lightsabers.
- ☞ Our Spring BINGO was our most popular program. There were 27 in attendance for fun rounds of BINGO and summer-themed prizes.
- ☞ Coffee and Crafts for this month was also a big hit. There were 17 in attendance. Each attendee made a tiny beaded succulent using terracotta pots and beads.
- ☞ Storytime was well-attended at the end of May with 14 attendees.
- ☞ Our programs have really excelled for the first month of Summer Reading. Both of our Cliffs Residents Outreach-funded events in June (Dig It! And Dino Painting) brought in a total of 63 attendees. Each registered child attendee also received a Summer Reading-themed book to keep. The CRO also provided program volunteers, which has been an enormous help to me.
- ☞ Our June LEGO Club Challenge: Dino Building event had 16 in attendance.
- ☞ We also had a Summer Family BINGO event on June 21st. There were 21 in attendance.
- ☞ Lastly, our Page Turners continues to thrive. In May, we had 5 in attendance. In June, we had 4 in attendance with a new member present.
- ☞ Our take and make kits continue to be in demand. For May, 12 Mother's Day-themed kits were distributed. In June, 12 Father's Day and 12 dinosaur book craft kits were given out.
- ☞ Towards the end of May, Anna resigned from her position at the Salem branch. Her final day was June 4th.
- ☞ Since June 5th, I have been working solo at the Salem branch. Thankfully, other branches have been helping with coverage and program preparation. Other than story time, we have not had to cancel any other programs. We hope to resume story time in the fall.
- ☞ During the month of June, Blair and I conducted interviews to fill the Circulation Assistant spot in Salem. Mandolyn Harkness, a part-time Circulation Assistant at

Walhalla, was selected for the position. Her first day is July 6th and I look forward to having her at the Salem branch.

- ☞ In June, I started weeding throughout the library in preparation for inventory. We will start inventorying all materials of the library in August/September.

Stats	May	Jun
Visits	1410	1801
New Cards	6	9
ILLs	4	4

Coffee and Craft: Tiny Beaded Plants

May 2026

Salem Library



DIG IT!

ARCHAEOLOGY EXCAVATION KITS

SALEM LIBRARY
MONDAY, JUNE 8TH 2026





DINO PAINTING SALEM LIBRARY JUNE 2026



Ann Rogers Memorial Room

May/June 2025

Quientell Walker, Local History Associate

Narrative

Westminster City Juneteenth Celebration:

I returned as a member of the Westminster City Juneteenth Luncheon Committee. We followed the same format as last year, with the exception of changing location. We were very grateful that Pastor Patricia Grant provided us the use of St. Matthew Baptist Church Fellowship Hall. We had Cassie Owens Moore, Seneca Middle School Media Specialist, as Master of Ceremony and Josh Johnson, Pendleton District Archives and Bart Garrison Agricultural Museum of South Carolina, delivered a presentation entitled "A Comprehensive History of African American Education in Oconee County." His presentation explored African American education in Oconee County from Reconstruction through Desegregation. The luncheon was well attended, with over 50 people in attendance.



Memorial Wall Committee:

Work continues on the Memorial Wall Project. At this time, I have worked on backing up material provided as well as assisting with researching some of the various names listed on the memorial. Currently, we do not have an end date for completion. Yet, our end goal is to produce a booklet that would contain, if possible, a photo and a brief biography of each service member listed on the memorial. One resource that has been extremely helpful is the Rogers' Newspaper Index, for I was able to find either obituary or marriage entries. However, due to the number of names it will take time verify each entry.

Oconee History Museum:

The Oconee History Museum hosted a SDOC Summer Workshop. I was asked to attend and provide an overview of the library's Genealogy and Local History Collection. There were 47 teachers in attendance, and it provided me an opportunity to provide information on what is available in the SC Room Collection and how it could possibly be used in the classroom. At the end, several teachers asked for more information. It is my hope that these could lead to possible activities within the various county schools.

New Volunteer:

In June, we welcomed Teddi Hurst as our newest SC Room Volunteer. He is resuming work on indexing Mrs. Ann Rogers' Cemetery Index. Jeffrey Vindel, previous SC Room Volunteer, completed 11,042 entries. It is my hope that Mr. Hurst will be able to bring this monumental indexing project to a successful end.

Rogers Room Statistics:

Statistics Recorded	May 2024	May 2025	June 2024	June 2025
Walk-In	31	4	22	1
Phone Call	2	2	2	1
Mail	0	0	0	0
Email/Online	5	0	5	0
Books	45	1	4	6
Microfilm	26	5	17	0
Map	15	0	1	0
SC Room Presentations	0	0	0	0
SC Room Presentation Attendance	0	0	0	0
Questions Completed	49	18	47	2
Outstanding Questions	0	0	0	0
Volunteer Hours	26	23.5	39	23
Specialized 1:1 Sessions	-	0	-	1

Facilities:

- Previous facilities requests are pending.
- I have asked to have new concrete (Quickrete) "book cart ramp" redone in front of the book return as the previous one was broken up. That will be finished in mid-July.
- There is a broken place in the tile floor of the women's bathroom. I have recently submitted that as a work order.
- We cleaned out the p-trap of the sink in the shipping room and fixed a loose toilet seat.
- I weeded about half of the front garden bed. I will do the rest in July.

Operations: Everything is operating normally. Due to lack of space and amount of workflow, we cannot weed as quickly as we need to. The staff is keeping up with shelf reading well. I am going through the Juvenile series to determine what needs replacing. Susan has been putting out polls for passive fun (e.g. What is your favorite Christmas movie?) among the displays and making slides for our TV monitor with the results.

The library's summer reading programs have had good attendance overall. We've been trying to promote it as much as we can!

Staffing: We are currently fully staffed. I attended the IMLS Convening 250: Telling America's Story in Atlanta in May, sponsored by the federal agency Institute of Museum and Library Services. There were speakers and small groups brainstorming and sharing ideas and past programs for specific America 250 events.

Taylor and Susan attended the OPAL (Oconee Pickens and Anderson Libraries) program in Anderson to collaborate with staff from other local libraries. They enjoyed it and I wish I could have sent more people!

Attendance for programs run by Seneca staff:

Bingo – May:17; June: 22

Come out and craft: 2

Wall Street Journal Uses: 20

Notable Statistics	May 2026	June 2026
Visits to library	4476	5964
New Borrowers	96	107

Walhalla Library

May - June 2026

Abigail White, Circulation Manager

Staff Development:

- Nadalie Williamson was hired as a new part-time circulation assistant at the Walhalla Branch. Her first day was June 22nd.
- Mandolyn Harkness, our part-time circulation assistant through the county, was offered a full-time position at the Salem branch. The job listing was posted on June 22nd and the deadline for receiving applications ended June 30th. Interviews will start in July.

Meeting Room:

May: Constitution class, Food-Share class, cross-stitch group, James M. Brown field trip, circulation assistant interviews, coaching, and Flourishing Homeschool group.

June: circulation assistant interviews, DSS counseling, Baby Read, Guardian Ad Litem training, WHS multi-class reunion meeting, and circulation meeting.

Study Room:

- May – 35 uses
- June – 46 uses

Statistics:

Category	May 2026	June 2026
Visitors	3713	4474
New Cards Issued	59	63
ILL	10	15
Hours Open	189.5	214

Programs

- We had 42 entries in our Butterfly Coloring Contest in May. We had a week of voting to help us decided (53 votes) the top four who received a small prize.
- We had 88 participants in our Butterfly Scavenger Hunt in May.
- Continuing with the Butterfly theme for May, 28 came to paint their own butterfly house.
- Nine adults used ovenbake clay to create butterfly puddlers to use at home in their gardens.
- We gave away a kid's gardening kit with some of our leftover program supplies and few extra things we had around. We had 41 entries with Sophia winning the prize. She was very happy and picked up some seeds to go with her kit.
- We held bi-weekly scavenger hunts during June. We had 132 participants search the library to find all the hidden gemstones. The next two weeks 72 kids searched the library to solve the cryptogram by matching gems and letters to reveal the statement "Books are hidden gems unearthed on the shelves of the library."
- Dinosaur Mirror Mosaic Sticker Craft had 18 participants.
- There were opportunities for all ages to make their own dinosaur terrarium. Our adult, kids', and teens' programs had 12, 41, and 9 attendees respectively.
- We did not have anyone attend our June Playground Playdates which was to be expected considering the torrential storms and rain the night before.
- We partnered with Severn Daugherty Farm to bring a new experience to the library. They brought their mini farm animals which included a Highland cow (Tank), a Jersey cow (Fern), a Nigerian goat (Reign), and a sheep (Simon). Kids and adults were treated to a short presentation about farming with miniature animals and then got to spend time petting and cuddling the animals. The *Journal* sent out a reporter and a photographer and did a great article in the paper. We had 70 adults and kids attend.
- We had 17 attendees for our kids' patriotic Uncle Sam ceramic planters paint program.
- Our adult and youth services librarians also hosted programs at our branch that gave our users a lot of different programs to choose from and attend.



Westminster Staff-led Summer Reading	Number of Programs	Attendance
Adult	1	12
Teen	1	9
Kid	5	146
Passive	2	204

Facilities

A leak from a thermostat led to a multiday problem-solving trek for Facilities Maintenance. A leak was noticed tripping from the thermostat on the left of the library. Facilities investigated and found a frozen

unit. It thawed and was good to go after a few more tweaks. The drip continued and the thermostat/unit shut down. After several days of work, we had one unit that was frozen but the actual unit that was attached to the thermostat was a different unit. After many days of working and problem solving the unit is working as of this writing. Having the units in the attic has always caused additional issues in itself. We appreciate Facilities' work.

Unfortunately, at the end of June the unit went out again. Jason with facilities came and made the unit its own drain pipe to prevent clogging and therefore the overflow being tripped that keeps turning the unit off.

Community & BBW Seed Library

Period Project

We have completed one year of partnering with the Period Project to give free period supplies to our community. The four locations of the OCPL have given out over 128 kits and 2,070 individual items providing items many may not have access to (\$1,500+ value).

Youth Services Department
May – June 2026
Emily Johnson, Youth Services Librarian

Programs

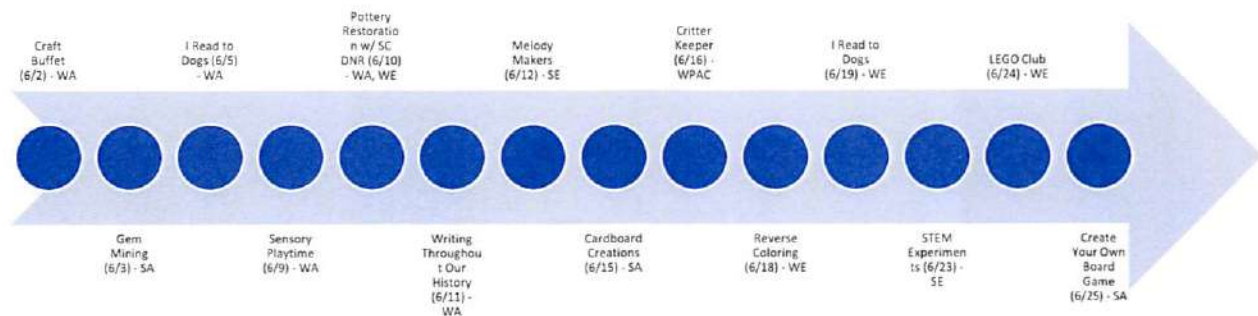
Storytime

I run storytimes at Walhalla, Westminster, and Seneca. Walhalla meets on Mondays, Westminster on Wednesdays, and Seneca on Thursdays, and each storytime meets at 10:30 AM at each branch's respective meeting room. We did not have storytimes in May, because we were prepping for summer reading, conducting school visits, training our volunteers, and training the branches in Beanstack.

Walhalla's average attendance for March was 35.75. Of course, the huge jump in attendance is because of summer! We love to have more children attend. Westminster's average attendance for March was 32.25. Seneca's average attendance is 36.5. As you can see, Westminster is really holding its own!

We did not have any programs in May because we were prepping for summer reading, conducting school visits, training our volunteers, and training the branches in Beanstack.

Timeline - June



Craft Buffet

We had great turnout for this program, where children could grab whatever craft supplies they wanted and create whatever they could think of. We had fabric scraps, glue pots, googly eyes, construction paper, and more!

Pottery Restoration

This program was designed to be a way for children to meet, pet, and play with licensed therapy dogs while learning about dog safety and pet safety in general. Children would learn how to adequately take care of dogs as well as take care of themselves around dogs they are not familiar with. Unfortunately, when we only had two children sign up, the therapy dog group running the program asked if we could cancel.

Special Projects

During March and April, I revamped and created new subject index binders for the Easys, Juveniles, and Teens/Older Teens for both the Wahalla and Seneca branches. This project, which involved determining what subjects were most popular and should be used as categories then searching to see what books we had like that at each branch, took a good bit of time. I started with revamping the Easy subject index at Walhalla, then discovered the need for one for the Juveniles and Teens/Older Teens. I mentioned to Jonathan Hunter that I had done this, and he requested some for Seneca. Those are all finished now, and I'm now asking Leah Price if she'd like some for Westminster.

Community Outreach/Collaboration

DJ and I visited six schools in May to speak to them about the Summer Reading Program 2026. We also hosted the Summer Reading Kick-Off at High Falls County Park on May 29th.

Planning Ahead

DJ and I also continued our planning for the Summer Reading Program 2026. We received all our materials, dispensed those materials to the various branches, trained branches on Beanstack, and more.

**Oconee County Library Board
Building and Grounds Committee Report: 7/28/26
Kay Knapp and Paul Holcombe**

At our May 20, 2026 Library Board meeting, we discussed concerns over maintenance issues which had been requested and not addressed. Most of the items were from the Seneca branch, requested by Emily Sluder, which dated back to January. She repeated her requests for things including: HVAC, power washing, and tree removal in subsequent reports. We also discussed the Seneca handicapped parking project, which dates back 1 ½ years ago, and has not been started.

In June, I met with Emily to see the maintenance items in person. The following week, Paul and I met at the Seneca Library branch and we noted additional issues that need attention: trimming, mulching, weeding, painting, etc. In Paul's words, the grounds are "embarrassing". I found similar issues at the Walhalla and Westminster branches. The Salem branch is not our responsibility.

I spoke to County Councilman Glenn Hart, who gave me cell phone numbers to contact Kyle Reid, Roads and Bridges, who would be in charge of the parking lot project, and County Administrator Stewart Jones. Kyle returned my call and agreed to get an update on the project. When I didn't hear from Mr. Jones, I called County Council Chairman Matthew Durham and sent photos to him. He agreed to meet in the coming weeks. On July 21st, I went to the County Council meeting to reintroduce myself to Mr. Jones and to set a meeting date with Mr. Durham.

The next morning, on July 22nd, the three of us met at the Seneca Library. Emily was not at the library on that day. Both men agreed that the interior and exterior maintenance of the library needed to be addressed and that the parking lot issue had been unresolved for too long. Mr. Jones said that he would get updates to me as I was concerned about communication. I also reminded them of similar concerns at Walhalla and Westminster.

I will be attending the next County Council meeting on August 4th in order to secure updates.

Kay Knapp
Chairman, Building and Grounds Committee