

Ashe County Librarian Report: May & June 2023

Programs/Partnerships

- Served 2062 people through traditional programs and an additional 1359 through self-directed programs and program kits (May & June)
- Gave away nearly 700 books (May & June)
- Best-attended programs so far have been Almost Amazing AI, Gem Mining with Schiele Museum, and the Elephant & Piggie Party
- Kicked off Hart's Grocery Author Series with poet Annie Woodford; 8 more events to come in summer and fall 2023
- Submitted the final report for the Saving Seeds, Saving Stories Oral History grant from South Arts (digital archive available at <https://arlibrary.libguides.com/saving-seeds-saving-stories>; print volume forthcoming)

Advocacy/Outreach

- Met with Board of Commissioners during budget sessions to advocate for funding the library's full appropriation request (Laura & Tammy)
- Reminiscing with Reta attendees enjoyed a dance party and sing-along at Forest Ridge on May 31
- Farmers Market events have been successful so far; registered 8 people for library cards and renewed 6 more cards; gave away books; talked to lots of people about summer reading and library services

Collections/Circulation

- FY 22-23 saw the highest circulation stats of any year since 2012-13. In that year, circulation of print materials was 33,306. This year, we circulated 33,132 items.
- Relocated YA and DVD collections
- Completed inventory of large print and adult fiction

Building/Equipment

- Requested a scope of work from our landscaping company
- Plan to replace all staff PCs over the next two years (\$10K in year 1; \$7K in year 2); also need to replace at least two printers each year and install screens in two smaller meeting rooms to replace portable projector
- New shelving installed in teen area on Memorial Day; moved bookshelves from the Business Center to the Friends Corner

Budget

- On June 30, we were notified that Wilkes Community College has terminated our contract to provide instruction to Ashe Campus and Ashe Early College students. This is a loss of \$10,000 that covers operational expenses such as Envisionware (\$4200), ILS fees (\$2,257), and utilities (\$2981).

Personnel

- Jay Wild celebrated his 6th anniversary (May) and Carolyn Hines celebrated her 2nd (June)

Looking ahead

- Three more weeks of summer reading for all ages; Hart's Grocery Author Series events with Wayne Pitts (July 22) and Sheri Castle (July 30); Begin work on Libraries Supporting Lactation grant from LSTA