

**Ashe County Librarian Report
January/February 2024
March 11, 2024**

Programs/Partnerships

- Super Tot Thursdays attracted over 350 participants in January & February
- Book-a-date kits, book clubs, Valentine's Day parties, and a race car-themed program kept programming staff busy with a total of 856 attendees at regular programming and an additional 156 people served through non-traditional and self-directed programs such as kits and literacy activities
- Gave away 215 books for the 2023 Reading Challenge, to parents and grandparents, and to the Ashe Detention Center

Advocacy/Outreach

- Continued biweekly visits to Ashe Detention Center
- Attended Ashe County Government's semi-annual roundtable meeting
- Supported the library profession and future grant opportunities by participating in interviews about
 - Library outreach to agricultural communities and through broadband initiatives
 - SouthArts In These Mountains grant efficacy
- Continued to serve on boards of Partnership of Ashe, ACCF, and Ashe Co. Farmers Market

Collections

- Added 35 new Wonderbooks to the library collection
- Increased Ashe budget for digital materials (streaming video, ebooks, digital audio) by \$5000

Building/Equipment

- The dead tree at the front of the library has been removed
- We will have a new landscaping contractor beginning April 1

Budget

- Submitted two grants
 - North Carolina Digital Champions Grant to provide broadband access and personal computers to 200 households with members over 65 and at up to 200% of poverty levels
 - LSTA grant to replace outreach vehicle and support current outreach programs

Personnel

- Shirley Finegan joined our staff as 19-hour Circ Assistant in February
- Half-day staff training on March 28, 1 to 5 pm (the library will close at noon; we will remain closed through the Easter holiday weekend)
- Starting new WDPs

Opportunities

- Please try out the new myLIBRO app