

Ashe County Librarian Report

July/August 2024

September 9, 2024 at noon

Personnel

- Cristy Meacham (Youth Services Specialist) and Barbara Arntsen (Circulation Assistant) joined our staff in August; Sara Marshburn transitioned from youth services to adult services (Temporary Adult Services Assistant); Lee Payne accepted the vacant Adult Services Librarian position and will serve as interim until a new manager is hired
- Carolyn Hines (Circulation Assistant) resigned in mid-July
- Currently hiring for an Adult Services Manager and a Library Assistant
- Designed and implemented a new orientation process for all positions

Programs/Partnerships

- All summer reading programs combined read 602,502 minutes this summer. Kids read 12% more than last year, teens read 27% more, and adults read a whopping 310% more than last year! With that number of minutes read, you could read Shelby Foote's *The Civil War: A Narrative* 124 times, the Harry Potter series 150 times, or Diana Gabaldon's *Outlander* series 49 times!
 - Registration: 661 (484 kids, 59 teens, 118 adults)
 - Participation: 447 (326 kids, 43 teens, 78 adults)
 - Completion: 265 (182 kids, 29 teens, 54 adults)
 - Children's programming five days a week for nine weeks
 - Gave away over 1300 books
 - Best-attended programs included Fur & Feathers with May Wildlife Rehab, Bubble Brigade Foam Party, Tie Dye in the Park, Schiele Gem Mining, Grandfather Mountain's Creepy Critters, and the Backstreet Concert with the Crooked Road Ramblers

Advocacy/Outreach

- Adam Stumb requested a library presentation for Leadership Ashe's Government Day
- Hosted two Hart's Grocery Author events at Old Orchard Creek; 6 more planned
- Visited the Farmers Market twice; two more visits planned
- Completed LSTA grant at Ashe Detention Center (256 books, 300+ workbooks, 6 metal bookcases, a book cart, labels, signage, puzzles, puzzle books, golf pencils, etc.)

Collections

- Added 237 new books to the collection in July and August.

Building/Equipment

- Tables for the board room arrived damaged. Will be replaced by the manufacturer at no additional cost. Chairs for the board room have been ordered.

Budget

- Tammy submitted the final reimbursement requests for the LSTA mini grant

Technology

- Will replace 4 staff PCs and one printer this FY
- Planning to replace a few public PCs each year for the next three to four years
- Ashe & Watauga libraries are no longer lending hotspots; Wilkes still has their hotspots but these do not work in most parts of Ashe County