

Wilkes County Librarian Report for January / February 2022

ADVOCACY / OUTREACH

- Food for Fines Week was January 10 – 15. We collected 865 lbs. Of food items for Samaritan's Kitchen. This includes 1 12 lb. bag of cat food and 688 canned food or other non-perishable food items.
- Social Media numbers are rising... Instagram Reels are very popular. Check out 'Librarians Responding to Bad Book Reviews,' and Take a Tour of the Library
- Suzanne presented a special program to the county commissioners for Love Your Library Month
- Deb Beckel and Suzanne attended the Chamber's Annual Membership Meeting
- Amanda Parks, Aruna Ross, and Suzanne visited Catherin Barber Homeless Shelter to share community resources and discuss how the library can help folks. The library is a collection point for donations to the shelter . . . restaurant gift cards and other items of need.
- Rick Harvin will let use his book reviews on a special instagram "Rick Reads"

PROGRAMS

- Adult Services hosted virtual programming featuring Dianne Bondy: Yoga, Social Justice, Redefining Body Image and Personal Power and Donia Simmons, author of *Courage; Walking Out of Cage and Unleashing the Power Within* (in partnership with NAMI)
- Received a grant for NCHC Book Club - NC NASCAR History - Driving with the Devil, a reading program will begin in June.
- Youth Services celebrated Bring Your Child to the Library Day with a Story Walk program at Fish Dam Creek on February 12 - *The Not So Quiet Library*. Jennifer, Nicole, Brigett, and Suzanne recorded stories for the event to air on Facebook throughout the day.
- Elizabeth created a Winter Scavenger Hunt with January trivia for patrons to explore the library and learn about all the resources available.
- The Reading Trap is off to a good start. There are 23 folks signed up and over a dozen participants
- Jammin' at the Branch was a lot of fun last Saturday with 8 pickers and 3 grinners in attendance 😊

FINANCES & RESOURCES

- Good turnout for Martin Tucker, veteran author, photo journalist
- The library received an LSTA award of \$3500 to create a literacy station at the laundromat in Wilkes
- A total of \$15,450 has been received in memory of Rose Herring
- Nicole got a seed donation from Lowes for the Seed Library
- Dungeons and Dragons has a Roll Twenty - Pro for Life FREE account - games for adults. Ryan shared his D&D collections in showcase displays.
- We have a Bill Absher Memorial Grant that will give us \$3340 dollars. Deciding how to use this . . .
- EcoExplore - new programming to highlight botany - ordering stuff to loan in backpacks (nontrad budget) - partnering with Ranger at Fish Creek Dam
- Six ukuleles were purchased to add to the library's non-traditional lending collection
- Community College is sending over genealogy records and we have a large amount of Microfilm from the Journal Patriot
- Wendy created several videos for the library YouTube Channel about notable African Americans from Wilkes County and she developed a Libguide to share a virtual collection of African American History Books & Resources.
- Sarah created a poster to share locations of materials that will help folks with Tough Topics. This poster is on display in the elevator, in the teen area, and upstairs in nonfiction. A great way to be

discreet and reduce stigma for folks in need of informational reading. Everything you want to know, but don't really want to ask. "We're not here to judge; we're here to help."

FACILITIES

- The county will be installing new entrance (sliding) doors and automatic door opens
- The water-damaged ceiling tiles in genealogy were finally replaced
- Thinking about using some of our seed stashes for the planters in the lower parking area

STAFF/VOLUNTEERS

- Aruna Rossi, ASU Social Worker intern will be working with the library for her spring semester, through April. She is helping with Community Resource Guides, and Veterans History Project
- Nicole is awarded a trip to Oregon in March, for PLA 2022 through, SLNC
- A 'Workplace Wellness' campaign began in January with a challenge to drink more water and in February an emphasis on healthy snacking. March will highlight Mindfulness.

LOOKING AHEAD

- A Virtual Town Hall, hosted by Public Library Association, takes place at 2:00 p.m. on March 4. Board members, Friends of the Library, and the Community are invited to attend and learn about how libraries are responding to challenges and censorship issues.
- The theme for National Library Week 2022 is "Connect with Your Library" - This will be the perfect time to host a Community Reception / Open House to increase awareness of goals in the new plan. This takes place during the week of April 4 – 9 . . . we are inviting our board members and Library Friends to be present and advocate for the library on April 7.
- Celebrating Money Smart Week, April 9-16, with virtual programming on topics of Spend Smart. Eat Smart., Credit: Build & Improve It!, Buying or Refinancing a Home: Options and Tools, Understanding Social Security Benefits
- April Poetry Month - Nicole will highlight Poetry Readings - Poem in Your Pocket
- Community for Immunities programming . . . possible emphasis in late spring