

## Wilkes County Librarian Report for March / April 2022

### ADVOCACY / OUTREACH

- The Wash & Learn Literacy Center at Wilkes Laundromat was launched with a very successful Chamber of Commerce ribbon-cutting. Elizabeth decked out the station with books, craft kits, and manipulatives for children to enjoy while their parents are washing laundry. She will be visiting the location on a regular basis for story time outreach in the coming months. Wilkes Literacy will also be providing children's books and health literacy information for families.
- National Library Week was celebrated during the first week in April. During the week the Friends provided a spread of treats in appreciation for staff. Suzanne created a presentation which was shared during the day with an Open House Event. Nicole displayed a table of library history and tours were given throughout the day. Bill Davis donated some nice library caps that the Friends are selling for a fundraiser. The open house was attended by library Friends, endowment committee members, library board members, and various elected officials. Refreshments were provided.
- Suzanne and Wendy gave a presentation at a Wilkes County Circle of Hope meeting to showcase library resources and promote programs.
- Mara Lynn and Aruna visited the Veterans Coffee Call and Wilkes Community College Job Fair
- Suzanne attended the Chamber Blast at the Harley Davidson Store in Wilkesboro . . . collected lots of photos there to help promote NC READS 22 – Driving with the Devil.

### PROGRAMS

- The Reading Trap, and other book clubs offered by the library, have gone hybrid with an online platform using <https://bookclubs.com/>
- Youth services is busy planning for summer reading, and currently keeping patrons busy with library scavenger hunts.
- The Talking Service Book Club was attended by over a dozen participants at the last gathering.
- Lonesome Ridge Band entertained in the library to kick-off Merlefest Week and will be back every 4<sup>th</sup> Monday at 5:00 p.m.
- Nicole taped some Poetry Readings and Ask-Me-Anything Trivia reels for Instagram
- Aruna hosted virtual sessions for Money Smart Week in the library

### FINANCES & RESOURCES

- Funding from an LSTA grant and Wilkes Genealogy Society allowed us to purchase a new top-of-the-line microfilm reader. The Wilkes Patriot donated a batch of microfilm . . . this collection spans from early 1900s – through 2015.
- New outdoor activity equipment and a variety of specialty cake pans have been ordered for the non-traditional collection.
- STEAM kits and books were purchased with funding from ASU (\$500 main library, \$500 Traphill).

### FACILITIES

- Estimates were received from several pressure-washing companies, ranging from \$3400 - \$6500. The low quote came from Brain Noblett's Appalachian Paint & Stain. Hopes are that a façade grant from the town of North Wilkesboro will cover the majority of this expense.

## STAFF/VOLUNTEERS

- Aruna Rossi, ASU Social Worker intern made significant progress on the library's VHP and has completed her internship. Kurt Baker, teen volunteer, helped with this important work and attended several veteran events to take photos for this project.
- Amanda and Daphne attended a training on Mental Health First Aid
- Suzanne is taking training on Trauma Resilient Communities with the Health Foundation and webinars on inclusive leadership (good material for future staff training days)
- Workplace Wellness topics highlighted mindfulness (March) and decluttering (April). May will feature an awareness of self-care.

## LOOKING AHEAD

- Suzanne is planning a visit with the towns and county to share progress of the Veterans History Project's digital archive. Invitations will be presented to folks for special veterans programming in the fall.
- Suzanne will be attending the Williams Canter Detachment to read names of veterans in a special Memorial Day event on May 30.
- In recognition of African-American Music History Month, the library will be co-hosting a concert with the Heritage Museum and Arts Council on June 25. Ryan Barber and Boogie Therapy will be performing from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. in the Blue Ridge Music Theater at the museum.
- Towel Day takes place on May 25<sup>th</sup> – "Don't Panic!" In memory of Douglas Adams and his sci-fi classic The Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy, we will be hosting special passive programs and collecting towels of any kind to donate to the Catherine Barr Homeless Shelter.
- Juneteenth celebrations and recognition of Rainbow Month take place in June . . . look for programs and displays.