

Wilkes County Librarian Report for May / June 2023

ADVOCACY / OUTREACH

- Suzanne and Elizabeth attended a Recovery Revolution luncheon to learn about services they provide. Plans are to collaborate with them when we launch the Narcan Locker Kiosk project.
- Mara Lynn and Suzanne attended to veteran events at the VFW: Vietnam Day and Army Birthday Party. This was a productive time to recruit and secure stories for volume 2 of the Veteran History Project
- Nicole and Bridget presented on Heritage Cooking Classes and Suzanne led a poster session on Celebrating Literary Birthdays, at the annual Metrolina Conference.
- “The Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy Towel Drive” collected 42 towels for local homeless shelter. Suzanne and Amanda visited the shelter’s new location to plan for installing a literacy center.
- Suzanne and Paula (volunteer) attended the Pathfinders Rally, hosted by Wilkes Partnership for Children, to promote resources for the Class of 2036. Casey Jo Johnson was there too!

PROGRAMS

- Amanda and Wendy created a tabletop for “Book Tastings” to highlight local authors. These authors are scheduled for book talks in June and July. Lisa Mathis, author of *The Body Auction*, presented on her new release, to a full house, for the first book talk.
- Wendy worked with Wilkes Heritage Museum and Wilkes Art Council to host Juneteenth programs: DJ Deacon, Spin-doctor and Effley Howell, local Black History Genealogist.
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FINANCES & RESOURCES

- The library received \$11,925 through the county’s Opioid Settlement Grant. Plans are to purchase a Narcan Locker Kiosk to have installed outside the Tenth Street entrance. Programs about substance misuse prevention and education about this overdose reversal medication will be scheduled once the kiosk is in place.
- The library received an LSTA grant for \$35,272 to purchase and install a Library Locker System in downtown Wilkesboro. The launch date is set for late September.
- Local restaurants: Little Caesars, Hardees, Arbys, Chick-Fil-A, Subway, Deans Southern Bistro, Hadleys, Copper Barrel Brew Haus, and Brushy Mountain BBQ are provided lunches for the Imagination Café during months of July and August.
- The Rotary Club awarded a grant with Wilkes Literacy to purchase a Fresh Reads Book Collection for high-interest – low-level readers. Nicole and Bridget set up a new bookshelf to create a coll reading nook for this collection.
- A Health Foundation Grant was submitted to help with another series of cooking classes: Make Every Day Mediterranean
- The endowment committee met and recruited Dodie Maxted as a new at-large member. The committee also voted to request a distribution of \$35,000 for collection development.

FACILITIES

- A cracked drainpipe (inside the ceiling – upstairs emergency exit) caused numerous leaks during the rainy week. A crack in one of the glass skylight panes also needs repair. County maintenance will fix these problems.

STAFF/VOLUNTEERS

- Youth Services librarians, Suzanne, and Imagination Café workers attended training for summer feeding with the School Nutrition Office. Hannah Elliott and Paula Meadows were hired to work the Imagination Café lunch program
- Daphne attended a webinar on the Sustainability Libraries Initiative, sponsored by OCLC, and presented by Rebekka Smith Aldrich, from New York Public Library.
- Managers are reading and zooming to discuss the book, *Making Things Right at Work; Increase Teamwork, Resolve Conflict and Build Trust*, with other library managers across the state.
- Amanda Parks, former reference librarian, has changed departments to work part-time as a new circ assistant. She takes the place of LeeAnn Minton who recently retired.
- Elizabeth Keatley shared some of her knitted animals in the downstairs display case during June.
- Francisco Grimes-Hernandez (new hire) and Bethany Ritch (former Circulation Assistant) will begin working as part-time adult service specialists in July.

LOOKING AHEAD

- Nicole and Bridget are working on plans and curriculum for Mediterranean Cooking Classes to begin August 15. Signups are open and the class is already beginning to fill.
- Melanie Sue Bowles will visit to talk about her book, *Liberty Biscuit*, at 4:00 p.m. on July 18.
- Dr. Jennifer Smith will visit to talk about her book, *My Chicken Thinks I'm a Quack*, at 5:30 p.m. on July 27.
- A Human Library Project will launch in late August in partnership with the Arts Council.