

Wilkes County Librarian Report for November / December 2022

ADVOCACY / OUTREACH

- The VFW and Marathon Jam's inaugural gathering was a success, raising \$1040 for Fisher Houses in NC.
- Elizabeth hosted a tent at the North Wilkesboro Light Up Downtown event in partnership with Wilkes Partnership for Children on November 18
- Laurel, Suzanne, and teen volunteers participated in the Chamber's Holiday Parade on Dec 3 with a library float. Staff decorated the float with the theme of "Believing in the Power of Books to Connect and Change Lives."
- The library and Wilkes Partnership for Children obtained MOUs with merchants on 10th Street to join literacy efforts and display Story Walk pages for the Downtown Read-a-Around. The Youth Services Department expanded the Story Walk program, and began sharing monthly news on social media.
- Deb Beckel, held an open house for students in Traphill to learn about library services/programs at the branch.
- A Holiday Open House held on December 13 and was a great success. Thank you to our Friends who helped provide a delicious spread of goodies and Nicole and Brigett who made the room festive with their decorating skills.

PROGRAMS

- Wendy co-hosted a concert with Wilkes History Museum, featuring old-time/traditional music of the Blue Ridge by the Crooked Road Ramblers (Kilby Spencer's band)
- A week of programming to honor military and veterans was offered, including a taste of SOS, prepared by members of the Talking Service Book Club, and presentations from Eric Groce - author of The Canteen & Laura Bailey – WWII Historian
- Tim Wilkie presented a series of programs on Native American History and Resources for Educational Scholarships.
- Suzanne taught a crochet-ribbon necklace craft at the branch and the main library. The program was open for all ages and gave participants a chance to make a quick Christmas gift.
- The Wilkes Acoustic Folk Society entertained and led visitors in a Christmas Carol Concert on December 13
- Mara Lynn appeared as Mrs. Claus for a special Saturday storytime.

FINANCES & RESOURCES

- The library received an LSTA grant (\$17000) for Heritage Cooking Classes. The funding will allow for a purchase of a portable cooking demonstration cart and a community fridge. The purpose for the fridge is to make available, surplus produce, eggs, and other perishables through partnerships with local growers and farmers for the hungry in our community. New programming in 2023 will include cooking classes, starting with A Taste of African Heritage in February.
- A Subaru Ambassador gifted a collection of new science and nature books to the children's collection.
- The Endowment Committee mailed an end-of-the-year fundraising letter with holiday wishes.

FACILITIES

- The new automatic doors and sliding doors on the lower level have been installed and working great!
- A repeatedly clogged toilet in the men's room has resulted in numerous plumbing expenses. Installing a hand dryer in replacement of paper towels hopefully will eliminate this problem.

STAFF/VOLUNTEERS

- Bethany Ritch was hired as a new part-time circulation assistant
- Suzanne met in DC with librarians chosen from ARSL and ULC to work on a research grant addressing how libraries can meet their communities need for food. This committee will continue to meet virtually and consolidate findings to build a toolkit for library services and resources.
- Staff attended regional training in Ashe County. A librarian from the State Library presented on censorship topics and how to respond to book challenges. Each library gave updates on their five-year plan accomplishments.

LOOKING AHEAD

- Wilkes County Wellness is a new program series that includes community partners. Each quarter, programming will emphasize several dimensions of wellness. In the first quarter, the focus is on physical wellness and financial wellness. The series begins in January with a NC Cooperative Extension as the host of Fitness and Nutrition Classes.
- Keeping it Reel is a new program in partnership with Two Rivers Cinema. Drop in every first Saturday for a FREE film at 1:00 p.m., chosen to compliment The Reading Trap Book Club's selection.
- Stem Saturdays begin in January; every second Saturday at 1:30 for ages 6-12.