

Wilkes County Librarian Report for September / October 2025

ADVOCACY / OUTREACH

This year's **Wilkes Leadership** class stopped by the library for a tour and presentation on library services in September and all in attendance, not already registered as a cardholder, left with new library cards. During September's Library Card Signup Month there were 95 new cardholders registered.

The Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon-cutting reception for the library's newly renovated top floor. The Stone Family was present at the event and was very pleased with the dedication of the Mrs. Irene Stone Conference Room. Mayor Mark Hauser gave a very positive dedication speech about the library and all the services offered to the community,

Suzanne and Russell presented updates to the Town of Wilkesboro on October 6, and **Suzanne** spoke at a Rotary meeting on October 20.

Suzanne and Jess attended the commissioners' meeting in October to share a presentation on results of the library's survey about patron usage and effects of reduced service hours.

Jess and Suzanne hosted a session on journaling at the Health Foundation's Address the Stress conference. Session materials, **created by Jess**, will be used in the library's Wilkes County Wellness LibGuide for patron access and future programming.

Comparative Door Counts: September 2024: 7088 | September 2025: 7934 | October 2024: 7965 | October 2025: 7778

In September, **Nicole and Suzanne** shared their recommended reads during a Tea@Two taping, and in October, **Rick Harvin** joined Suzanne. Check these out on the library's **YouTube** channel.

Youth Services is supporting **Women Eagles on a Mission** a Wilkes Central High group with a feminine hygiene product drive, promoting youth-led advocacy and community care.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Library staff (**Amber, Laurel, Amanda, Taylor, Suzanne, and student worker Rebecca**) represented the library at Spooktacular with a display of painted pumpkins. The pumpkins, submitted by patrons, received over 700 votes for 'people's choice' awards, and were a very popular station in the downtown event.

Youth services celebrated Harry Potter all month, during October, with weekly



programs and spectacular decorations throughout their department. Gearing up for a focus on Dinosaurs for November a.k.a. Dinovember!

Adult Services has been working on a weeding project and updating the collection upstairs. They are also developing a procedure for using the podcast studio and will open it for public use soon.

Several programs surrounding mental health and recovery are taking off with community partners. A number of laptops have also been distributed through our regional digital literary grant program to Wilkes residents who are still relocating and recovering from last year's flood.

FINANCES & RESOURCES

The endowment council is working with Suzanne and Nicole to prepare an end-of-year mailing for donors featuring activities, highlights, and completion of the renovation project to be shared alongside a small token of appreciation—a “novel” tea bag—to maintain goodwill and support future giving.

We received a **\$2,500 Healthy Wilkes grant** to support community reentry efforts and provide confidential, wellness-oriented resources for patrons. We are planning a **Reentry Simulation** in partnership with **Homestead Recovery** for early next year to raise awareness of the barriers individuals face as they reenter society.

Nicole created a **Nontraditional Collection Look Book**. It is located on the cabinet doors of the nontraditional cabinet for patron use.

The cooling tower is going bad and will cost \$58,000 to replace!! Nicole asked Philip from county maintenance what to do and was advised that we send the bill to the county and potentially will be attending a commissioners' meeting to make the request formal.

STAFF/VOLUNTEERS/TRAINING

Taylor participated in Wilkes County's first **Situation Table** training, representing the library as part of a collaborative, cross-agency effort to identify and assist individuals and families at acutely elevated risk. The library's inclusion in this initiative is a major step in demonstrating its value as a frontline community support partner.

Library staff (**Bethany, Amanda, Jess, Wendy, and Taylor**) attended the **North Carolina Library Association (NCLA) Conference** to strengthen professional networks and will share their session notes with all staff in coming weeks as we prepare for an all-staff training day.

Nicole is beginning to wind down and leave us with a retirement date of January 23.

Emily Poteat was hired for the part-time adult services position, but didn't stay with us. An internal candidate is being considered for the vacancy.

Suz Hirt, shelver also resigned, and replacements are currently being interviewed.

Suzanne's foot surgery is scheduled for Dec 5 – this was our original date for staff training. The staff training day will now take place on January 9

SAVE-THE-DATE

Get your tickets now for **The Understudies Production Company's** holiday performances of **A Christmas Carol** December 10-13 at 7:00 p.m. and December 14 at 2:00 p.m.



Suzanne's foot surgery is scheduled for Dec 5 – this was our original date for staff training. The staff training day will now take place on January 9