



**HIGHLAND COUNTY**  
DISTRICT LIBRARY

# **Annual Report**

## **2023**

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# Letter from the Director

What a fun and exciting (and sometimes challenging) year 2023 turned out to be for the Highland County District Library! We had lots of engaging events, contests, and programs designed to provide information, enrichment, and education to the Highland County community. Library activities ranged from the formation of a chess club, to a career spotlight series, to a Halloween tea party, to a visit from our favorite puppets and even some animal friends. We are grateful to the many community partners who helped make these events possible. In other big news for 2023, the Hillsboro and Lynchburg libraries received some needed attention to their outside building trim and all the library buildings had outdoor security cameras installed, helping the library to remain a safe and inviting place for community enjoyment and interaction for years to come.

We were pleased to welcome several new staff additions this year, in our continued effort to provide superior public service. The following individuals joined the library in 2023: Lisa Williams - Greenfield Library; Chelsey Wyatt - Leesburg Library; Elisabeth Greer - Rocky Fork Library and Katie Thomas was promoted to Rocky Fork Library manager; Mason Barrett - Lynchburg Library; and Rhonda Manuel, Jamie Knedler, Vivian Barrowclough, and Kim Norman - Hillsboro Library. We're excited to welcome them to our library team! Finally, longtime Lynchburg librarian Deb Dillon retired after 21 years of exemplary library work. We will miss her and wish her the very best.

The library Board of Trustees also welcomed a new member, Randal Lennartz. He replaced Mary Ellen McCarty, who stepped down after many years of selfless service on the Board. We bid her a very fond farewell and a heartfelt thank-you.

Patrons and librarians alike had lots of fun with the 2023 Summer Reading program, "Imagine Your Story". We held great activities such as princess visits, catapult and rocket building, game days, medieval and magical celebrations, and more! We also welcomed some scary birds of prey! We teamed up again with the Humane Society for a successful adoption event. Multiple crafts, drawings, and games were also available to library patrons during Summer Reading.

Other popular events such as Paint Nights, Merry Money, Halloween Carnival, Trunk-or-Treat, Frozen-themed holiday party, and Luminaria were also a big hit this year. The Library once again joined with the African American Awareness Research Council and the Highland County Historical Society for a Black History program honoring Mr. George Ford. We had craft and reading activities aimed at all ages ready for Halloween and Christmas celebrations. In 2024, we want to add even more popular craft activities and clubs recommended by patrons.

The total annual circulation for 2023 was **303,525**. This number includes the circulation of e-format items (e-books and digital or downloadable audio and video items) which was **48,841**. The total circulation was approximately 3.4% lower than last year's circulation. On a brighter note, both the number of programs offered and program attendance were up 15%! This information provides an incentive for us to find new ways to improve the library's collections for Highland County residents. With that in mind, we opened a public survey asking what programs and materials the community wants. The results from this survey will guide what materials and programming we offer library patrons in 2024, and will hopefully lead to further engagement and use by the Highland County community in the upcoming year.

2023 proved to be a productive year for the Highland County District Library. Our goal is to take the lessons learned this year to make the library an even better place for the community in 2024!

Suzanne Roberts, Director

# Statistics

County Population (2021 estimate): **43,354**

Circulation: **303,525**

Per capita circulation is **7.00** items

## Library Snapshot in a Typical Week

Library attendance	2,341
Reference transactions	143
Non-reference* transactions	398

*\*directional, policy, mechanical*

## Registered Borrowers

	2023	2022
Adults	<b>16,505</b>	15,807
Juveniles	<b>2,251</b>	2,640
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>18,756</b>	18,447

## Circulation 2023

	Hillsboro	2022	Greenfield	2022	Lynchburg	2022	Leesburg	2022	Rocky Fork	2022	Totals	2022
Books	<b>74,415</b>	65,193	<b>23,352</b>	21,621	<b>18,862</b>	16,048	<b>18,018</b>	19,600	<b>8,707</b>	7,896	<b>143,354</b>	130,358
Periodicals	<b>1,658</b>	2,438	<b>523</b>	715	<b>817</b>	837	<b>354</b>	396	<b>20</b>	55	<b>3,372</b>	4,441
DVD/ VHS	<b>29,266</b>	29,351	<b>7,069</b>	8,310	<b>4,740</b>	6,048	<b>3,557</b>	4,591	<b>2,979</b>	2,928	<b>47,611</b>	51,228
Music and CD-ROMS	<b>1,346</b>	1,321	<b>400</b>	258	<b>768</b>	495	<b>101</b>	103	<b>232</b>	232	<b>2,847</b>	2,409
Audio- books	<b>1,509</b>	1,343	<b>283</b>	547	<b>889</b>	641	<b>479</b>	614	<b>120</b>	58	<b>3,280</b>	3,203
Hot spots	<b>408</b>	190	<b>233</b>	194	<b>473</b>	294	<b>468</b>	291	<b>599</b>	282	<b>2,181</b>	1,251
Microfilm	<b>137</b>	33	<b>2</b>	---	<b>10</b>	---	<b>8</b>	---	<b>0</b>	---	<b>157</b>	33
Misc.*	<b>1,787</b>	*868	<b>209</b>	*125	<b>292</b>	*299	<b>361</b>	*107	<b>285</b>	*53	<b>2,934</b>	*1,452
Loaned to other libraries	<b>22,108</b>	24,717	<b>7,179</b>	8,478	<b>8,317</b>	10,198	<b>6,535</b>	7,653	<b>4,809</b>	6,153	<b>48,948</b>	57,199
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>132,634</b>	134,948	<b>39,250</b>	42,327	<b>35,168</b>	36,043	<b>29,881</b>	34,765	<b>17,751</b>	18,660	<b>254,684</b>	266,743
E-formats (Overdrive)	<b>25,424</b>	24,599	<b>5,587</b>	6,904	<b>4,155</b>	3,595	<b>8,738</b>	7,803	<b>621</b>	614	<b>44,525</b>	43,515
E-formats (hoopla)		---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	<b>4,316</b>	3,968
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>158,058</b>	159,547	<b>44,837</b>	49,231	<b>39,323</b>	39,638	<b>38,619</b>	42,568	<b>18,372</b>	19,274	<b>303,525</b>	314,226

\*Totals for the 2022 Circulation in this report will not match the totals from the 2022 Annual Report due to a change in the filters used for the Misc. category. Prior to 2022, a "Type" filter, which includes items based what they are (book, magazine, etc.) was used. For 2023, a "Home" filter, which includes items based on where they are shelved in the library, was used because it was found to be more accurate. For this report, both the 2022 and 2023 Circulation numbers were calculated using the "Home" filter in the Misc. category.

## E-Formats

Hoopla: Total Circulation

	2023	2022
January	312	342
February	372	383
March	313	378
April	334	297
May	391	361
June	355	269
July	345	317
August	402	363
September	382	309
October	388	293
November	351	351
December	371	305
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,316</b>	<b>3,968</b>

Hoopla: Number of Users

Total Users	2023	2022	New Users	2023	2022
January	1,029	1,038	January	8	7
February	1,048	1,044	February	19	6
March	1,057	1,053	March	9	9
April	1,061	1,054	April	4	1
May	1,073	1,061	May	12	7
June	1,082	1,066	June	9	5
July	1,089	1,075	July	7	9
August	1,107	1,083	August	18	8
September	1,113	1,087	September	6	4
October	1,125	1,095	October	12	8
November	1,135	1,098	November	10	3
December	1,145	1,102	December	10	4
<b>FINAL</b>	<b>1,145</b>	<b>1,102</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>71</b>

Hoopla: Items Borrowed

	2023	2022
Audiobooks	1,829	1,400
Comics	161	240
e-Books	1,348	1,306
Movies	488	518
Music	250	187
TV episodes	200	298
Binge Pass	40	19
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,316</b>	<b>3,968</b>

Ohio Digital Library: Use by Location

	2023	2022
Hillsboro	25,424	24,559
Greenfield	5,587	6,904
Lynchburg	4,155	3,595
Leesburg	8,738	7,803
Rocky Fork	621	614
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>44,525</b>	<b>43,475</b>

The **Ohio Digital Library** is a program from the State Library of Ohio and is supported in whole or in part by the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services funds, awarded to the State Library of Ohio. The Highland County District Library is a member of the Ohio Digital Library.

The **Hoopla** movies can be downloaded onto a device and watched without an Internet connection. The movies available through the **Ohio Digital Library**, need to be streamed, and require an Internet connection.

## Computer Use 2023

	<b>HHI</b>	2022	<b>HGR</b>	2022	<b>HLY</b>	2022	<b>HLE</b>	2022	<b>HRF</b>	2022	<b>Totals</b>	2022
Wireless Use	<b>3,861</b>	4,762	<b>3,555</b>	3,775	<b>2,362</b>	1,348	<b>2,148</b>	4,734	<b>3,358</b>	2,748	<b>15,284</b>	17,367
PC Reservation Use	<b>4,570</b>	4,158	<b>1,886</b>	2,114	<b>780</b>	800	<b>687</b>	824	<b>635</b>	627	<b>8,558</b>	8,523

## In-House Use 2023

	<b>HHI</b>	2022	<b>HGR</b>	2022	<b>HLY</b>	2022	<b>HLE</b>	2022	<b>HRF</b>	2022	<b>Totals</b>	2022
In-house Use*	<b>428</b>	845	<b>1,333</b>	534	<b>995</b>	738	<b>51</b>	48	<b>58</b>	0	<b>2,865</b>	2,165

\*“In-house use” includes use of newspapers, books, audiobooks, periodicals, microfilm reels, and honor paperbacks within the library. Guidelines for In-House Use were redefined in 2020.

## Programming 2023

<b>Hillsboro</b>			<b>Greenfield</b>		
<b>Program Type</b>	<b># of Programs</b>	<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Program Type</b>	<b># of Programs</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
Adult	62	1,591	Adult	51	327
Teen	31	202	Teen	43	335
Children	127	1,961	Children	75	1,430
General	97	2,759	General	8	1,156

<b>Leesburg</b>			<b>Lynchburg</b>		
<b>Program Type</b>	<b># of Programs</b>	<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Program Type</b>	<b># of Programs</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
Adult	24	308	Adult	68	481
Teen	20	113	Teen	3	6
Children	212	4,317	Children	90	1,303
General	34	887	General	9	805

<b>Rocky Fork Lake</b>		
<b>Program Type</b>	<b># of Programs</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
Adult	3	206
Teen	2	133
Children	70	759
General	5	10

<b>System Totals</b>		
<b>Program Type</b>	<b># of Programs</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
Adult	208	2,913
Teen	99	789
Children	574	9,770
General	153	5,617

## **HILLSBORO ADULT AND TEEN DEPARTMENTS**

Written by Sarah Davidson, Hillsboro Library Circulation Manager

As one year comes to a close and another begins, we here at the Hillsboro Library are looking back at 2023’s programming roster as a time filled with fun and connections—but also as a learning opportunity for us librarians.

We saw major success this year in our craft-themed activities, including our special Altered Book Art Contest. We had a total of 16 patrons take home discarded books to turn into works of art, and 96 voting slips were returned to crown the winner, who received a Hobby Lobby gift card (donated by Dancing on Tabletops Studio). Our bi-weekly Craft-er-noons also saw continued attendance, with patrons of all ages (kids through retired) getting creative with crafts designed by librarians Avery Applegate, Vivian Barrowclough, Sarah Davidson, and Gabrielle Pitzer. Our Paint Nights, headed by librarian Donna O’Dom, also saw continued popularity, particularly on the library’s Facebook page, where photos of the patrons and their paintings always receive many likes.

Other clubs, such as Write-Away Club, BYO-Book Club, Comic Book Club, and Trivia Tuesdays, continued to be enjoyed by a dedicated patron base. Additionally, the children’s and the teen/adult departments teamed up in October to offer the library’s first-ever all-ages club—Travel Club. During monthly meetings, patrons are invited to “travel” to a different country through crafts, activities, and snacks. The first meeting saw 10 patrons, ages pre-school through retired, and subsequent meetings saw a total of 37 all-ages participants.

We also tried a few new programs this year, with a History Day (during which the library partnered with the Historical Society and the Southern Ohio Genealogical Society) and with a Career Spotlight series. While patrons who attended those programs enjoyed them, both the History Day and the career series did not see the turnout for which the library had hoped. We plan to evaluate these programs and determine community interest and need going forward.

Just as the community we serve changes, so too does our programming roster. As such, when looking to 2024, we have been taking surveys, talking with patrons, and assessing past activities to determine what will result in higher attendance in the future. As such, three of our youth and teen programs that did not see regular turnouts were disbanded in the hopes of finding something in 2024 that tweens and teens will more fully enjoy and be able to attend. We are also examining this year’s Summer Reading participation and determining the subjects and schedules that will work best for our patrons.

Despite lower than expected participation during programs, Summer Reading still saw many successes. We saw more teens sign up this year than last year (44 in comparison to 39), and both adults and teens turned in more weekly drawing slips. (323 this year and 218 last year for the adults; 120 this year and 117 last year for the teens.) Our special events during Summer Reading also saw significant turnouts. The library’s yearly Comic Con had 57 patrons attending and included children, teens, and adults. The library’s Magical Celebration (Harry Potter Day) saw 60 patrons, and the annual Local Author Night had 62 patrons, including 18 authors—the most local talent to ever come to the event.

Another highlight from this year’s programming includes the return of our Read More Than a Librarian Challenge. In this yearlong contest, patrons were invited to choose a librarian-buddy and then attempt to check out more books than they

did. They received monthly prizes for checking their progress, and, at the end of the year, patrons who surpassed their librarian-buddies were entered in a drawing for one of three grand prizes (\$100, \$50, and \$25 Amazon gift cards). We saw a total of 33 patrons sign up for this program and 14 entered for the grand prize.

2023 also included a Halloween Extravaganza, during which patrons of all ages competed for spooky prizes with a scavenger hunt, trivia, and coloring contest. Additionally, a fossil art display in August included an all-ages coloring contest with real fossils given as prizes. The library's annual Banned Books Week program saw continued success, with patrons completing various activities and checking out books to earn slips for banned book-themed gift baskets.

In total, the library saw 361 kids, 155 teens, and 1,114 adults come to its various teen, adult, and all ages programs throughout the year.

Looking back over the year, 2023 certainly brought successes, but also many learning opportunities. We tried new programs and re-evaluated others. Going into the new year, our goal will be to continue to reach out to the teen demographic and to adapt to the needs and interests of our community. We are looking forward to 2024 and what will surely be another year of library fun and patron connections!

**ADULT AND TEEN DEPARTMENTS:** Sarah Davidson, Dana Hylton, Donna O'Dom, Betty Yates, Kelli Cole, Avery Applegate, Rhonda Manuel, Vivian Barrowclough, and Kim Norman

## HILLSBORO CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT

Written by Gabrielle Pitzer, Hillsboro Children's Library Manager

The year 2023 proved to yet again be a year of change for the Hillsboro Children's Library. We hit a few bumps in the road, but in the end, we were able to come out on top. We were lucky in a sense because for the first time in what felt like forever, we did not have any weeklong (or more) closures due to illness or remodeling. We continued to refresh the department to go along with our new flooring, moving bookcases and other furniture more than once to give the patrons a better flow when visiting. The 2023 children's library staff consisted of Gabrielle Pitzer (manager), Madeline Crabtree, Jill Wyatt, and Jamie Knedler (started in May).

When most people think of programming at the library, at the top of the list tends to be Storytime. 2023 proved that it was more popular than ever! As usual, storytime was held on Wednesday mornings at 11 am for 0-2 year olds and 11:30 am for 3-5 year olds. Storytime was held 81 times (40 times per age group plus one impromptu storytime in January before Gabrielle returned from maternity leave) for 899 children and 669 adults. This attendance was up over 200 kids and 200 adults compared to 2022. Storytime during the summer could be described as standing room only some days with over 15 kids per session. The younger group tends to have a higher attendance than the group nearing school age. Getting kids started younger at storytime allows them more years to enjoy the program and we hope this attendance tend continues in the coming years.

It is still proving to be difficult to get into the schools for regular visits but we are trying different ways of outreach to stay in touch with the community. It has been several years since we have done monthly storytime at any of the schools, but Jill was invited to read to the kids that attend the YMCA's Patri-Tot program at Southern State Community College. Jill visited a total of nine times and read to 218 kids and 42 adults. We hope we will be able to continue this partnership in the future. A third grade class from the Hillsboro Christian Academy began visiting the library in October twice a month to supplement their lack of a school library. The class visited on the first and third Fridays of the month, with 18 kids and 2 teachers attending each time. We can't wait to continue this service to the school. Other groups also visited the library throughout the year, such as a church youth group (9 kids, 4 adults) and girl scout groups (they attended a club as part of their meeting). While not being able to visit the schools, we were still able to attend a couple of school sponsored events, such as the HHS Senior Showcase (75 students), the Hillsboro Elementary Open House (135 kids, 123 adults), and the PTO Fall Carnival (1000+ people). And again we ran a table at the Community Baby Shower over the summer at Harmony Lake that was attended by around 30 or more people.

Lego Club attendance was down in the beginning of the year but with Jamie taking over the club, the numbers are starting to grow. Each meeting Jamie comes up with a theme or challenge for the kids (and adults) to create. The display case has been full after nearly every meeting and the patrons enjoy seeing what the kids have built. The club meets every other Tuesday 5:30-6:30; they met a total of 22 times with 101 kids and 87 adults attending. We fully expect this number to grow in 2024 with Jamie in the lead.

Summer Reading was a little bit like going back in time this year. The theme we did was “Imagine Your Story” which was originally supposed to be the theme back in 2020. We did not do the actual 2023 theme because we had all of our 2020 items after not using them due to the pandemic. Once again we changed how we did the age groups for the kids because we really wanted to get our growing 2 and under kids involved. This year the 2 and under kids had a goal of 30 books and the kids age 3 through 6th grade had their normal goal of 50 books. In the end, 279 kids signed up total (28 two and under group and 251 in the older kids group). Summer Reading participants enjoyed 12 programs with 195 kids, 24 teens, and 221 adults in attendance. We really look forward to growing these numbers next year.

The Imagination Library of Ohio has continued to pick up in popularity in Highland County. The Children’s Library has information on the program displayed in the library at all times and encourages parents to sign up their children. While local numbers are unavailable, statewide numbers for the program are going up. From January 2023 to December 2023, statewide enrollment went from 51% to 59% (in 2022, Highland County was at 54%) and Ohio currently has more children enrolled than any other state! The library has continued our 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten reading program, though not with as much popularity has other reading program. A goal for the next year is to grow this reading program.

As always, when it comes to passive programming, scavenger hunts proved to be king. Throughout the year we had 8 different hunts and 374 kids participated. Toward the end of the year, we borrowed an idea from the Lynchburg branch and began putting together and handing out take home craft kits. We made 5 different kits for a total of 234 given out. Our annual coloring contests were once again popular, with 52 kids signing up for the Easter egg and 101 signing up for the Halloween pumpkin. Other fun events held were a Halloween carnival (27 kids, 26 adults), winter reading challenge (58 kids), winter craft day (20 kids, 16 adults), Christmas party (16 kids, 15 adults). Other fun statistic is that over the course of the year we had at least 100 book displays for patrons to check out.

The Children’s Library has so many new ideas for 2024 and we can’t wait to put them into motion and see what our patrons think. We just hope that we have enough time in the calendar year to try everything that we want!

**CHILDREN’S DEPARTMENT:** Gabrielle Pitzer, Madeline Crabtree, Jill Wyatt, Jaime Knedler

## **GREENFIELD BRANCH LIBRARY**

Written by Spencer McNeil, Greenfield Branch Manager

We had another exciting year at the Greenfield Branch Library. Cynthia Allen left the library in October after many years of friendly service and bubbly programs. We welcomed Lisa Williams to the library in November and look forward to her growth here at the Greenfield Branch Library.

Many of our ongoing programs at the library continued to see large attendances. Story Time on Friday mornings began in January and after an initial attendance of three children and their guardians, grew throughout the spring and peaked with twenty-six children and their guardians in July. Our Knitting and Crochet Group had a steady attendance throughout the year with an average of nine participants each Tuesday evening. Craft Time with Mia where children of various ages make crafts of Tuesday evenings had an average attendance of nine, but peaked to over twenty in the summer. Our new Dungeons and Dragons Group meets every other Saturday to complete their campaign. This group is aimed at teenagers and there are four regulars.



We did several outreach programs throughout the year. Mia went to the preschool at Greenfield Elementary School to read stories and promote Story Time in January. She also went to Tiny Town Daycare and Head Start to read stories and promote Story Time and our Summer Reading Program. On Trick-or-Treat night, the library set up a table uptown to pass out candy and Greenfield Branch Library book marks, we passed out 620 book marks. Aside from outreach we also welcomed the Head Start to the library in April for a field trip where they learned about the library and Summer Reading. Students from Mrs. Case's class visited us on MHS Day and helped us decorate for Summer Reading and also helped us with some ground keeping.

Summer Reading had our usual amount of signups for kids, but saw a slump in adult and teen signups. Our programs, on the other hand, were very well attended. We started off the Summer with Penguins from the Newport Aquarium. This program had a max capacity of 125 people per the Aquarium. I'm sure if that rule wasn't in place, we would've had hundreds. Reptiles from the Greater Cincinnati Herpetological Society also visited us bringing in a crowd of 124. Birds of Prey from Raptors Inc. attracted 93 viewers. Our patrons love animals. Other programs included Sleeping Beauty by Steven's Puppets, Sidewalk Chalk and Popsicles, Perler Bead Day, Tie Dye Day, Adena Health's My Body is Made of Goo, and Squeegie Art Day. We were very lucky to have staff from Adena Health help us with Tie Dye Day and Squeegie Art Day, both programs flow so much better with extra hands. Passive programs were a huge hit throughout the year but especially during Summer Reading. Over 688 coloring pages and 202 crafts were completed in June and July alone. Weekly Puzzles and the Weekly Drawing were very popular too.

Outside of Summer Reading, we had book clubs, two Book Clearances, a Perennial Exchange, several tea parties, and scavenger hunts. One of our biggest events was the Frozen Event in December. This event drew in a huge crowd of 131.

We look forward to trying out more programs this coming year.

**GREENFIELD BRANCH STAFF:** Spencer McNeil, Deb Wise, Kegan Hurley, Mia Keeton, Bailey Smith, and Lisa Williams

## **LEESBURG BRANCH LIBRARY**

Written by Melinda McGee, Leesburg Branch Manager

The Leesburg Branch Library in 2023 continued to be the place for everyone in the community to gather and connect. We remained a source of help in a time where community services are being further reduced or eliminated. We strive to assist our patrons with their informational, educational and recreational needs. We are proud to be an integral part of the Leesburg community. We are still providing curbside service upon request. Our Hot Spots are continuously checked out or waiting to be picked up.

We provided more than 200 programs/events/activities for our patrons throughout 2023. Participation in our children's programming continues strong. Our Wednesday and Thursday Story Time each average 10 participants including caregivers. Additionally we provide a monthly Story Time to the Fairfield preschool classes and Kindergarten through Second Grade at Fairfield Elementary. A big addition to our programming is Monday evening Lego Club and Saturday morning Lego Club. The community came together for us by donating Legos and money to buy Legos for the club. Youth, Teens, Adults, Churches and local business all stepped up to help establish these clubs.

Our relationship with Fairfield Elementary School continues to strengthen and grow. In addition to Story Time, we participated in Lion on Learning in March, had a week long outreach in May promoting our summer reading program and gave candy to the Fairfield's Safe Trick or Treat Give-A-Way in October while continuing our own Beggar's Night tradition.

Our summer reading program, *Image Your Story*, was a hit. 161 Youth (12 & younger), 23 Teens (13-17) and 27 Adults signed up. Youth and Teen participation was up a little over 9%, while adult participation remained the same as last year. We had visits from Stevens Puppets, Raptor, Inc., the Cincinnati Observatory and the Armstrong Museum. Game Day at the Library remained a patron favorite.

Our fall gratitude challenge saw our patrons express thanks for everything from chickens to family to faith to the library and books and more. RR, our adult reading group, continued to read, relate & relax with good books. And this year's Leesburg Luminaria was well attended at the library for the crowning of the King & Queen.

We have always enjoyed working with local organizations to provide services to our community. In 2023 we were able to work with and/or supported the Leesburg Fire Dept. and Life Squad, Leesburg Food Bank, Community Action, the Leesburg Lions Club, the Leesburg Historical Society, Fairfield Elementary School and Fairfield Preschool.

**LEESBURG BRANCH STAFF:** Melinda J. McGee, Angela Chaney, Ashley Roberts, Elizabeth Brown, Rachel Grider, Chelsey Wyatt

## **LYNCHBURG BRANCH LIBRARY**

Written by Elaine Williams, Lynchburg Branch Manager

The Lynchburg Branch had a good year in 2023! We continued our successful Take-and-Make crafts and our in-house scavenger hunts (in which the kids have to search, collect, rescue, and name various elements in order to win a small prize). These events and our weekly school visits to read aloud to classes are the backbone of our outreach to contact the most children possible in our community.

This year, we worked hard to deepen our ties with the greater community of libraries and other local agencies that share at least part of our mission. We presented at the SWON Library Consortium's Summer Reading Conference at the Children's Theatre of Cincinnati, attended Lynchburg Historical Society meetings as a partner, hosted programs by the Highland County Humane Society, and spoke at the Village's Memorial Day ceremony at the request of the Lynchburg Masonic Lodge 178. Early in the year, we participated with the Rural & Small Libraries community in their online discussion group. We continued our partnership with the Lynchburg-Clay School District in the following ways:

- Hosted the preschool students along with their teachers and families for a library tour, an outer-space themed story time, and crafts;
- Randed a National Library Card sign-up drive with pizza parties for the kindergarten classes with 100% participation. We made or replaced 64 library cards during this drive;
- Partnered with a FCCLA class teacher from Lynchburg-Clay High School so that a student who wants to become a librarian could job shadow;
- Coordinated weekly with a teacher to assist her 1<sup>st</sup> grade reading students with early literacy activities

We were excited to start meetings at the library for two new special interest groups: the Chess Club and the Dungeons & Dragons Club. Both had their first meetings late in the year. Chess Club offers lessons and practice for beginners, as well as games for more advanced players.

Debi Dillon, part of the Lynchburg Library family, retired on April 30, 2023 after two decades (plus one year) of stellar service! We sorely miss her upbeat demeanor, her excellent rapport with patrons, and the fact that she actually enjoyed shoveling sidewalks! We are very happy that she is still an active member of our Page Turners Book Club.

We are extremely grateful that staff member Carol Frost has passed the milestone of 25 years of service to our library community in 2023. Carol remains instrumental to our building and operations at Lynchburg, and she cannot be praised highly enough for her dedication. Thank you, Carol!

In 2023, the Lynchburg Branch Library also welcomed staff member Mason Barrett to our library fold. He has already contributed to programming and publicity, and we hope to involve him in an afterschool tutoring program in math and science as well. Welcome aboard, Mason!

The Lynchburg Library staff would like to thank our Board and administration for supporting us throughout another year. We appreciate knowing that our service is based on such a good foundation. Thank you! We would further like to express our thanks to our donors and most especially to our patrons, without whom this would all be for nothing. We look forward to serving you in 2024!

**LYNCHBURG BRANCH STAFF:** Elaine Williams, Carol Frost, Megan Priore, Madison Barrett, and Mason Barrett

## **ROCKY FORK BRANCH LIBRARY**

Written by Katie Thomas, Rocky Fork Lake Library Manager

The staff at the Rocky Fork Branch started out the year focusing on collection maintenance and continuing to grow our regular programs such as story time and Lego Club. In March we held our annual Easter Egg coloring contest with 12 signups and 5 completed eggs. We also saw the retirement of Jennifer Lowe. Jen was that last remaining member of the original crew that opened the Rocky Fork Branch. We miss having Jen work with us, but are thankful to have her visit on a regular basis.

In May we had two events with the Humane Society, “Keeping Your Kids Safe Around Dogs” and “Dog Body Language”. In June, as part of our Summer Reading program, the Humane Society also helped host an adoption event. Summer reading continued to be a busy time with programs like Raptor Inc, Rock Painting, Steven’s Puppets- Aladdin, Catapult Craze with Crystal Clear Science, Grace’s Enchanted events- Rapunzel, Professor Tony, Chalk and Popsicles, and a visit from the Cincinnati Observatory. We had a total of 42 kids sign up for summer reading with 14 finishing their reading logs to earn a prize.

August was a time of big changes. Emily Foster made the hard decision to leave the library for a career change and I was chosen to take her place. In September we added some passive programs for our children including a scavenger hunt that gets changed monthly and a monthly take home craft. In October, we also added a fun new rug to our children’s story time area, along with some puzzles and a few toys for the kids to play with. We also held our annual pumpkin coloring contest with 25 kids signing up and 13 turning them in for voting on Facebook. In addition, we were able to participate in two different Trunk or Treats where we passed out baggies with candy and information on our kids’ programs. In total we passed out 570 treat bags.

In November, we were able to install speed bumps in our parking lot for the safety of our patrons and workers. It’s been quite satisfying to see people actually slow down to drive through our parking lot and many patrons have commented that they actually like the speed bumps and they feel safer in our parking lot. We also had another fun contest for the kids. They got to disguise a turkey to save him from Thanksgiving dinner. We had 9 signups with 8 turkeys being returned for voting on Facebook. Mid- December we started our Winter Reading program which will continue until January 12, 2024.

We are thankful for a great year and are hopeful for an even better 2024. We plan to continue to grow our existing programs and are looking forward to adding more programming to our schedule. Ms. April McGuire is excited to start reading to the preschool classes at the Hillsboro Head Start. We are working on adding and growing a monthly craft night. We are also working on ideas of how to better engaged the Rocky Fork community and how we can help highlight the many attractions of the area.

**ROCKY FORK BRANCH STAFF:** Katie Thomas, Sandy “Sam” Planck, April McGuire, Tyler Jones, Elisabeth Greer

## PROGRAMMING DETAILS

**HILLSBORO:** Black History Month program, Trivia Tuesdays, Craft-er-noons, Travel Club, Crochet Club, Dungeons and Dragons club, Teen Career Spotlights, History Day, Dr. Sharp Book Talk, Reading Bingo (monthly), Altered Art Book Contest, Dinosaur Coloring Contest, Banned Books Raffle, Read More Than a Librarian, Halloween Extravaganza trivia and coloring contest, What Are You Thankful For, Youth Anime Club, League of Extraordinary Teens, All The Books Club, Youth Group visit, Anime Club, BYO-Book club, Comic Book Club, Paint Nights, Write-Away Club, Resume Tips with Reserve Network, “Memories for Life” movie screening, Seed Exchange, Easter Egg Coloring Contest, Youth Group visit, Cincinnati Observatory’s Stars and Constellations, Raptor Inc., Fairy Tale Bingo, Comic-Con, Greater Cincinnati Herpetological Society, Fairy Gardens, Family Game Night, Medieval Night, Harry Potter Magical Celebration, Local Author Night, Tower Princess, Mini-Golf, Library Card Sign-up Month, Pumpkin Coloring Contest, Halloween Carnival, Christmas Craft Day, Winter Reading Challenge, Christmas Party Games, weekly Story Time, monthly Lego Club, Take Home Crafts (fall gnomes, beaded candy canes, popsicle stick snowmen, Christmas train, elf tool belt), Scavenger hunts (winter, Valentines, Dr. Seuss, St. Patrick, Spring, bus, turkey, Christmas, and adult Halloween extravaganza)

**GREENFIELD:** Arthur Coloring Contest, Greenfield Head Start visit, Story Time weekly, Knitting Club weekly, McClain High School Day, Take-Home Crafts, Craft Time with Mia weekly, Dungeons and Dragons Club, Perennial Plant Exchange, Penguins from the Newport Aquarium, Steven’s Puppets – Sleeping Beauty, Fantastic Beasts – Birds of Prey by Raptor Inc., Sidewalk Chalk and Popsicles, Reptiles by the Greater Cincinnati Herpetological Society, Perler Beads, Adena Health – My Body is Goo, Squeegee Art, Teen Book Club, Tween Book Club, Downtown Greenfield Trick-or-Treat, Dream Interpretation, Halloween Tea Party, Trick-or-Treat Bag Decorating Contest, Frozen Program, Letters to Santa, Clay Ornaments, German Christmas Star, Take Home crafts (North Pole, Peanut’s Valentine, Val & Mail box, Bee Mine, puppies, panda, bunnies, flowers, Mother’s Day, Pete the Cat, scratch off, unicorns, lions, crowns, frogs, baseball sticker, castles, dragon, billy goats, baseball, turtles, prince, goats, owls, raccoons, turtles, scarecrows, monsters, chains, horses, turkeys, ornaments, scratch off ornament, snowman stocking, Santa), Scavenger hunts (fish, candy hunt, Eric Carle, turkey)

**LEESBURG:** Take & Make Crafts (snowflakes, valentines hearts, shamrocks, April, Mother’s Day card, Father’s Day card, kite, school bus, county fair, ghosts, pilgrims, Christmas tree), Scavenger Hunts (winter wear, hearts, shamrocks, bunnies, castles and knights, dragon hearts, school supplies, Halloween characters, turkeys, candy canes), Trivia (monthly), Birthday Drawing (monthly), Beggars Night, Book Fundraiser, Crafty Crafters, Donuts with Dad, Lego Club, Game Day at the Library, Leesburg Luminaria, Page Turners group, RRR Adult Reading Group, Story Time (at Leesburg Library and Fairfield Preschool), What is it, Contest?, LOL Golden Ticket Contest, Egg Decorating Contest, Book Cover Design Contest, Sleeping Beauty, Fantastic Beasts of Harry Potter, Rocket Building, How Many Books in the Leesburg Library Contest, Medicaid Workshop, Use the Force, Mixed Up Fairy Tales, Adult and Teen Coloring Contest, 3 Little Pigs Contest, Genie Bottle Contest, Mer-Egg Contest, Shadow Box Contest, Match the Dwarf Contest, Banned Books Week Contest, Pumpkin Contest, Gratitude Tree, Veteran’s Day Contest, Turkey Contest, Gingerbread House Contest, First Night Contest, National Cookie Day Contest, 10 for 10 Contest, Candy Cane Contest, Let’s Restore the Depot, Dragon Hunt, Check it Out Contest, Read It Contest,

**LYNCHBURG:** Page Turners Book Club, Merry Money, Story Times, Crafts to Go (DIY Discovery posters, unicorn puppets, mermaid tails, frog prince, July 4<sup>th</sup>, wizards, castles, slippers, worms, superhero, Pete the Cat, Johnny Appleseed, veggie gardens, library card holder, Yoda, Mother’s Day, dragons, mushroom houses, jesters, great griffins, horse puppets, New Year’s noisemakers, deer in snow globe, winter hats, year of the rabbit, love bugs, Green Eggs and Ham, leprechauns, Earth Day, cherry blossoms, bunny bookmarks), Chain Gang Crochet Class, Smarties in a Jar, Library League Scavenger Hunts (Cupid, Easter Hedgehog, Library League, googly eyes, apples candy corn, telescopes, gingerbread men, Christmas lights, Christmas trees, Rudolph reindeers, mummies, acorns, scarecrows), Stingray Studies, Where’s George? Scavenger Hunt,

Forensics: The Science of Crime, Aliens!, Jelly Beans Contest, Ancestry Search Tips, 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas Tea, Bunny Hunt, Candy Corn Contest, Tide Pool Creatures, Penny Frost McGinnis Book signing, Raptor Inc., Nautilus Scavenger Hunt, Sidewalk Chalk and Popsicles, Trick or Treat, Fish Cracker Taste Test, Pirate Party, Pumpkin Patch Scavenger Hunt, Beachcomber Scavenger Hunt, Science of Sharks, Smarties Workshops, Nebulas, Beach Games, Amazing Spiderman, Summer Reading Club, Truth or Dare

**ROCKY FORK LAKE:** Keeping Kids Safe Around Dogs, Dog Body Language, Medicaid Workshop, Easter Egg Coloring Contest, Pumpkin Coloring Contest, Turkey in Disguise Coloring Contest, Humane Society Adoption Event, Raptor Inc., Rock Painting, Steven's Puppets-Aladdin, Catapult Craze, Grace's Enchanted Events – Rapunzel, Professor Tony, Chalk and Popsicles, Cincinnati Observatory, Trunk-or-Treat at the Dollar General and at the Nazarene Church, Take Home Crafts (paper plate animals, ghost, mask, scarecrow, thankful turkey, cornucopia, build a snowman, build a reindeer, build an elf, build a Santa), Scavenger hunts (apples, Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas)

## OUTREACH DETAILS

**Hillsboro:** African-American History Month program, Hillsboro High School Senior Spotlight, Paint Night at Mason Public Library, Story times at the YMCA, Community Baby Shower, Hillsboro Elementary Open House, Hillsboro PTO School Carnival, Reading at Patri-Tots, Hillsboro Christian Academy library visits

**Greenfield:** The Greenfield Library joined the Downtown Greenfield Trick or Treat event that included over 500 children, visited Greenfield Elementary Preschool, and visited Greenfield Head Start

**Leesburg:** The Leesburg Library participated in story times at Fairfield Preschool and Elementary and visited Fairfield Elementary for Summer Reading sign-up. They also joined the community in the annual Beggar's Night and Safe Trick or Treat Give-a-Way. They also participated in the local Leesburg Community Health Fair. The Leesburg Library collaborated with the Lion's Club to participate in the holiday Luminaria event and worked with Lions on Learning.

**Lynchburg:** The Lynchburg Library provided Summer Reading promotional visits to Lynchburg Elementary pre-k through grade 5, story times at Lynchburg Elementary kindergarten classes, Library Card Sign-Up pizza parties to Lynchburg Elementary kindergarten classes, and Accelerated Reading tutoring classes and First Grade Literacy assistance to Lynchburg Elementary. They also participated in SWON's Summer Reading Conference, partnered with the Lynchburg Historical Society,

**Rocky Fork Lake:** The Rocky Fork Lake Library participated in the annual Fourth of July Parade, the Lake Trunk or Treat where 103 goody bags were handed out, and the Nazarene Church Trunk-or-Treat where 467 goody bags were handed out!

## DISPLAY DETAILS

**Hillsboro:** Dr. Craig McKinney- African American Month, Cabin Fever, Robert Hinds Jewelry, Penny Fisher Photography, Country Quilter Show, PaleoWorld – Dennis Kimberly, Artist Trading Cards – Darlene Ferree, Veteran’s Day, Thanksgiving and Pilgrims, Paint Night 2023, Lighted Winter Village, Lego Club creations

**Greenfield:** Snowman and Trees by Wendy Royse and Deb Wise, Jan Sagle’s Photographs of Iceland, Mike Anderson’s Abraham Lincoln, Summer Reading Prizes, Jan Sagle’s Photographs of National Parks, Mr. Roller’s 5<sup>th</sup> Grade class Grinch artwork, Susan Robert’s Greene Country Towne Fair Queen, Frozen display

**Leesburg:** Manga, Black History Month, Cabin Fever Days, Legos by Lego Club, Star Wars, Summer Reading Prizes, Bee Keeping, Honey Making, Haunted Ohio, Ohio Authors, Chanukah

**Lynchburg:** Chain Gang Crochet class, Dreamcatchers, He-Man, Llamas, Scooby-Doo, Nancy Drew: A History, Watercolor Paintings by Alison Queen, Squishmallows, Skylanders, Portals to Other Worlds

**Rocky Fork Lake:** Lego Club displays

## DONATIONS AND GIFTS

Kings Island Parks, Star Cinemas, Holtfield Station, Dayton Dragons, Wilkin & Wilkin Insurance, Hillsboro Dairy Queen, Young’s Dairy, Dr. Lesia Langston-McKenna, Merchant’s National Bank, Long’s Retreat Family Resort, Cathy Rivas, Hillsboro Family Dentistry, Esoteric Club, Jennifer West, Altrusa, Brenda Armstrong, Allie Ballard, Batter Up Bakery, Fred Beetz, Elizabeth Brown, Marilyn Butler, Candle Lite, Marsha Carlin, Laura Carphey, Mary Chapman, Community Market, Sadie Dehass, Daniel Donnelly, Joe Donnelly, Judith Donnelly, Rachel Grider, Maria Grimm, Greenfield McDonald’s, Melinda McGee, Jacob Morrison, Highland Lanes, Hillsboro Historical Society, Jana Hobson, Sue Ellen Honeycutt, Renee Hughes, Amy Palmer, Roof-X, Jani-Chem, Barb Jenkins, Joe’s Party Shop, Saucy Sisters, Tom Schockette, Sharon Shields, Teddy Shields, Kathy Spurlock, Square 1 Heating & Cooling, Elizabeth Strittenbreger, Candess Kearns, Kyle Kirt, Turner Funeral Home, Leesburg Historical Society, Liz Strittenberger, Hillsboro Walmart, Hillsboro Wendy’s, Ruth Wheaton, Brandy Wiget, Maggie Maddock, Geri McCloskey, Darlene Michael, Bob Newsome, James Glick, Patrick Brucken, Terry’s Grocery, Barbara Mihalik, O.D., FAAO, Lynchburg Masonic Lodge, Highland County Country Quilters Club, Janice Paul