



HIGHLAND COUNTY
DISTRICT LIBRARY

Annual Report

2022

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Letter from the Director

In the library world, we love stories. And for Highland County District Library, the story of 2022 had two major themes – change and growth. Many of the library’s physical facilities received necessary changes and updates. A number of new employees also joined the library this year, helping to meet the demand for superior public services provided by the library. In addition to these changes, we also wanted to grow upon the successes of the past by expanding the scope of library programming and adding as many new titles to the library collections as possible. We are grateful to the many community partners who supported the library in these goals and aided our efforts to be a center of information, enrichment, and education.

Part of the change we experienced in 2022 involved the addition of several new staff members. Mia Keeton and Bailey Smith joined the Greenfield Library; Elizabeth Brown and Rachel Grider joined the Leesburg Library; April McGuire and Tyler Jones joined the Rocky Fork Library; Madison Barrett joined the Lynchburg Library; and Katie Thomas and Jill Wyatt joined the Hillsboro Library. We’re excited to welcome them to the library team! Longtime Lynchburg Library employee, Jean Bush, retired after 15 years of dedicated library service. We will miss her and wish her the very best.

Other changes this year included: new carpet throughout the Hillsboro Library, new community room carpet at Greenfield Library, a new roof at Lynchburg Library, and new LED lighting at all Highland County District Library locations. The library buildings are looking great and are ready to serve the community for many years to come!

The 2022 Summer Reading program, “Oceans of Possibilities,” provided a wonderful opportunity to expand our offerings to the community. We held activities such as carnivals, air rocket shows, and golf nights. We also hosted some animal friends, like live sharks! 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 Comic Con, Local Author Night, Banned Books Week, and National Library Week were also a big hit this year. The Library also collaborated with the African American Awareness Research Council and the Highland County Historical Society for a Black History program honoring Joseph and Arlene Cole. We had our usual crafts and activities aimed at all ages for the Halloween and Christmas celebrations. But, our programming roster continued to grow with more craft nights, trivia events, Lego clubs, crochet clubs, and teen clubs! These events have proven to be hugely popular and we plan to keep growing them even more!

The annual circulation for 2022 was **314,186**. This number includes the circulation of e-format items (e-books and digital or downloadable audio and video items) which was **47,443**. These numbers are approximately 9% higher than last year’s circulation, reflecting our efforts to both change in order to meet patron needs and to grow established library collections and programs for the Highland County community.

The library was dedicated to improving in 2022 through growth and change, and I’m very proud of the exemplary service offered to the citizens of Highland County. We are looking forward to continuing this trend in 2023 and making Highland County District Library even better!

Suzanne Roberts, Director

Statistics

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

Circulation: **314,186**

Per capita circulation is **7.25** items

Library Snapshot in a Typical Week

Library attendance	1,915
Reference transactions	103
Non-reference* transactions	309

*directional, policy, mechanical

Registered Borrowers

	2022	2021
Adults	15,807	16,592
Juveniles	2,640	2,221
TOTAL	18,447	18,813

Circulation 2022

	Hillsboro	2021	Greenfield	2021	Lynchburg	2021	Leesburg	2021	Rocky Fork	2021	Totals	2021
Books	65,193	72,407	21,621	19,898	16,048	14,883	19,600	15,797	7,896	6,228	130,358	129,213
Periodicals	2,438	2,600	715	637	837	943	396	333	55	147	4,441	4,660
DVD/ VHS	29,351	27,060	8,310	7,956	6,048	6,155	4,591	3,344	2,928	3,100	51,228	47,615
Music and CD-ROMS	1,321	1,549	258	262	495	592	103	322	232	234	2,409	2,959
Audio- books	1,343	2,144	547	364	641	492	614	556	58	53	3,203	3,609
Hot spots	190	134	194	43	294	145	291	134	282	147	1,251	603
Microfilm	33	60	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	33	60
Misc.	10,362	---	2,204	---	1,482	---	1,517	---	1,056	---	16,621	8,629
Loaned to other libraries	24,717	19,140	8,478	5,123	10,198	7,247	7,653	4,783	6,153	6,138	44,474	42,431
TOTALS	134,948	125,094	42,327	34,283	36,043	30,457	34,765	25,269	18,660	16,047	266,743	239,779
E-formats (Overdrive)	24,559	22,244	6,904	7,244	3,595	3,697	7,803	8,397	614	362	43,475	41,944
E-formats (hoopla)	3,968	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	3,968	4,566
TOTAL	163,475	147,338	49,231	41,527	39,638	34,154	42,568	33,666	19,274	16,409	314,186	286,289

E-Formats

Hoopla: Total Circulation

	2022	2021
January	342	395
February	383	406
March	378	428
April	297	413
May	361	389
June	269	378
July	317	367
August	363	363
September	309	357
October	293	341
November	351	395
December	305	334
TOTAL	3,968	4,566

Hoopla: Number of Users

	Total Users 2022	2021	New Users 2022	2021
January	1,038	963	7	7
February	1,044	966	6	3
March	1,053	973	9	7
April	1,054	977	1	4
May	1,061	987	7	10
June	1,066	994	5	7
July	1,075	1,000	9	6
August	1,083	1,006	8	6
September	1,087	1,1013	4	7
October	1,095	1,021	8	8
November	1,098	1,027	3	6
December	1,102	1,031	4	4
TOTAL	1,102	1,031	71	152

Hoopla: Items Borrowed

	2022	2021
Audiobooks	1,400	1,544
Comics	240	217
e-Books	1,306	1,496
Movies	518	677
Music	187	277
TV episodes	298	351
Binge Pass	19	4
TOTAL	3,968	4,566

Ohio Digital Library: Use by Location

	2022	2021
Hillsboro	24,559	22,244
Greenfield	6,904	7,244
Lynchburg	3,595	3,697
Leesburg	7,803	8,397
Rocky Fork	614	362
TOTAL	43,475	41,944

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** can only be streamed and require an Internet connection.

Computer Use 2022

	HHI	2021	HGR	2021	HLY	2021	HLE	2021	HRF	2021	Totals	2021
Wireless Use	4,781	4,196	3,794	4,019	1,367	1,806	4,753	3,408	2,768	2,334	17,463	15,763
PC Reservation Use	4,158	3,825	2,114	1,715	800	608	824	561	627	389	8,523	7,098

In-House Use 2022

	HHI	2021	HGR	2021	HLY	2021	HLE	2021	HRF	2021	Totals	2021
In-house Use*	845	3,009	534	1,219	738	1,014	48	4	0	4	2,165	5,250

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

Programming

Hillsboro			Greenfield		
Program Type	# of Programs	Attendance	Program Type	# of Programs	Attendance
Adult	151	1905	Adult	76	883
Teen	22	108	Teen	5	25
Children	89	1931	Children	140	923

Leesburg			Lynchburg		
Program Type	# of Programs	Attendance	Program Type	# of Programs	Attendance
Adult	17	729	Adult	24	536
Teen	17	207	Teen	5	27
Children	137	4534	Children	76	3967

Rocky Fork Lake		
Program Type	# of Programs	Attendance
Adult	3	36
Teen	2	41
Children	129	734

System Totals		
Program Type	# of Programs	Attendance
Adult	271	4,089
Teen	51	408
Children	570	12,089

HILLSBORO ADULT AND TEEN DEPARTMENTS

Written by Sarah Davidson, Hillsboro Library Circulation Manager

This past year was a busy one at the Hillsboro Library! We continued many patron-favorite activities, such as Craft-erboons, Trivia Tuesdays, and Paint Nights; monthly meetings for various interests, including book clubs and Write-Away Club; and seasonal programming staples, such as Library Comic Con and Local Author Night. In addition, this year also saw the following new youth and teen programs: Youth Anime Club, All-the-Books Club, and the League of Extraordinary Teens. Like all new programs, these clubs are still in the process of finding their audience, with the exception of Youth Anime Club, which has a dedicated group of youngsters who eagerly participate in each meeting. The library also added a patron-led Crochet Club, which has likewise found an excited following.

In total, the Hillsboro Library hosted over 160 programs aimed at teen, adult, and all-ages audiences. Additionally, the library also hosted several passive activities, including monthly reading bingos, a Banned Book Scavenger Hunt, and a seed exchange. Patrons could also sign up for the Read More than a Librarian Challenge. During this year-long contest, patrons partnered up with a librarian to see if they could check out more books than them. Updates were given regularly throughout the year, with many patrons checking out more books than normal in the spirit of friendly competition.

With these and other programs, the library's goal was to provide patrons with a variety of topics for learning and enrichment. Whether patrons were petting sharks, decorating pumpkins, listening to Bigfoot researchers, or discussing comic books, they were engaging with the community and forming connections. Other highlights of the past year include an Abraham Lincoln impersonator, a spooky video game night, two demonstrations from the Cincinnati Observatory, a ghost-hunter presentation, and an Atlantis-themed escape room (held twice).

Particularly popular this year were our craft activities. During our Summer Reading crafts, it was not uncommon for turnout to be so high that we would have to pull out extra tables or even have families settled on the floor with table cloths, picnic-style, doing their crafts. The same was true of many Craft-erboons, during which we sometimes had more patrons than supplies. As such, popular crafts would be hosted again for patrons to have another opportunity to attend.

Looking ahead to the new year, we hope to see more tweens and teens coming to our programs. Hopefully, with three clubs aimed at this demographic, we'll see an increase in participation. We would also like to incorporate more STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) into our programming roster. The League of Extraordinary Teens has thus far been an excellent avenue for that, as we attempted to make a Rube Goldberg machine last year and we have plans to make straw bridges early in 2023.

The many programs and activities we were able to host at the Hillsboro Library would not have been possible without the community we serve. We received multiple donations from local businesses, including: Star Cinemas, Holtfield, Wilkin/Wilkin, and Merchants Bank. We also received donations from the Dayton Dragons, Carillon Park, Young's

Dairy, Coney Island, Kings Island, and the Cincinnati Zoo. We are beyond grateful for the donations we receive every year, but the the outpouring of support in 2022 helped us to offer as many activities as we possibly could.

We look forward to offering all of that and more next year. We aim for the library to be a safe place of learning and opportunity, and our programs are one of the ways we can do just that--while throwing in a bit of fun, too!

Thank you, again, to the wonderful community we serve. We can't wait for 2023!

ADULT AND TEEN DEPARTMENTS: Sarah Davidson, Dana Hylton, Sandra Jenkins, Donna O'Dom, Hannah Thirey, Betty Yates, Jessica Burrier, Kelli Cole, Avery Applegate, and Katie Thomas

HILLSBORO CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT

Written by Gabrielle Pitzer, Hillsboro Children's Library Manager

Was 2022 the year that we finally got back to "normal" in the Children's Department? To be truthful, no, not really, but it was closer to normal than we had been in recent years. We did not have any prolonged library closures due to Covid-19, but we were closed to the public for some remodeling. In the spring, we had the carpet and other flooring replaced for the first time since the Children's Department was built in the early 1990s. The library now feels bright and open and has had a fresh start for the future. The 2022 children's staff consisted of Gabrielle Pitzer (manager), Madeline Crabtree, Laura Bradley, Christina Rittenberry (January – September), and Jill Wyatt (September - current).

Storytime was held every week, except during our remodeling closure, including during the summer. 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 80 times (40 times per age group) for 580 children and 415 adults. The dates during the summer up until school started had the best attendance for both age groups. Towards the end of the year, Sarah Davidson took over storytime in November and December while Gabrielle was on maternity leave. Evening storytime was held four times between January and March for 11 children and 7 adults. We chose not to bring evening storytime back after we reopened in April due to lack of interest.

Due to the school's limitation of visitors in the classrooms, we were not able to conduct regular visits for storytime. But we were invited to attend the Hillsboro City Schools Tomahawk Food Truck Summer Food Program kick-off event. We handed out information on the upcoming summer reading program and signed up 53 children. When school started back in the fall, we had a table at the Hillsboro Elementary School open house. At the open house we handed out information on how to obtain a library card, storytime, Lego club, and the Imagination Library. Fall brought the annual Kindergarten Field Trip Day from Hillsboro Elementary to the library. During this day, from around 9 am to 1 pm, the entire kindergarten class (10 classrooms) comes to the library for storytime, information about getting a library card, and a tour. The library looks forward to this event every year and loves seeing how many of the kids come back to get their first library card. And while not a school event, we were invited to the Highland County Community Baby Shower in June where we passed out library information, Imagination Library information, and forms for book dedications. Suzanne Roberts, Director, generously agreed to run the table so Gabrielle could attend the event.

Lego Club was back in full force and more popular than ever. Gabrielle continued leading the club in the beginning of the year before handing over the responsibility to Laura. Despite taking a break in the spring, Lego Club was held 18 times (on Tuesday evenings from 5:30-6:30) for a total of 133 children and 84 adults. The children really enjoy getting to put their creations in the display case and showing them off between meetings. The Lego Club is looking forward to expanding the Lego collection and coming up with more exciting challenges.

Summer Reading was a big hit this year with the theme "Oceans of Possibilities." This year's program lasted 9 weeks and had 274 children ages 2-14 signed up. We changed how we grouped the children as they signed up, this year creating three age groups: 2-5, 6-9, and 10-14. This allowed us to set different reading goals based on age and allowed for a wider range of prizes. The 2-5 year olds had a goal of 30 books while the other age groups had a goal of 50 book. They all had

the opportunity to complete a bonus reading log and a BINGO challenge. In total, 60 of the 274 children completed the program. The summer reading program consisted of 13 events with 383 children and 306 adults attending.

The Imagination Library of Ohio (formally the Ohio Governor's Imagination Library) has picked 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. Currently, of the 2,907 eligible Highland County children, 1,600 are enrolled. The library has continued our 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten reading program, though not with as much popularity as other reading program. A goal for the next year is to grow this reading program.

As for other activities, such as passive programming and contests, we tried to shake things up and try new ideas. Scavenger hunts are always popular – the children are actually disappointed if we don't have one going on! They also continue to enjoy putting up their name tags and adding stickers each time they visit. We used to change the name tag wall monthly, but we are now changing it with the seasons so that the children get the opportunity to put on more than one sticker. We had a Newbery reading challenge (9 participants) and a winter reading challenge (65 participants). The pumpkin coloring contest was a big hit with 23 of the 54 pumpkins returned for Facebook voting (692 votes total). And our new Big Question Board got 156 votes.

The Children's Department can't wait to start 2023 with fresh ideas. We hope it will be a great year and are looking forward to seeing the children's reactions.

CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT: Gabrielle Pitzer, Madeline Crabtree, Laura Bradley, Christina Rittenberry, Jill Wyatt.

GREENFIELD BRANCH LIBRARY

Written by Spencer McNeil, Greenfield Branch Manager

The Greenfield Branch Library had another exciting year providing our community with services and programs. There were several staff changes throughout the year. Ashley Roberts transferred to the Leesburg Branch early in the year and Kyle Barr left the library in September. They will be missed, but we will still get to see them throughout the community and in the libraries. We were lucky to have Mia Keeton join our staff in September and to have Bailey Smith join us shortly thereafter. While we were happy to have things return to "normal," many services that were offered due to Covid procedures have endured. Many patrons continue to email us print jobs and Take-and-Make Crafts have remained popular.

Story Time, which met on Wednesday and Fridays from January to July, had an average attendance of six children plus their caretakers. This program is offered to pre-kindergarten children. One or more story is read followed by a craft, songs, dancing, etc. From September to November, Story Time was only offered on Friday at 11. The Knitting and Crocheting Group continued to meet on Tuesdays at 6 PM with nine to twelve regular attendees and many who come less regularly. High School Book Club and Middle School Book Club had two and four regular monthly attendees from January to May. We are making plans to restart Teen Book Clubs in February.

The Summer Reading Program brought many children, teens, and adults to the library throughout June and July. "An Ocean of Possibilities" took us under the sea with our programming. The Cincinnati Observatory taught our readers about "Comets and Meteors," Steven's Puppets presented "The Wizard of Oz," Dr. Insecta introduced us to the "Bug Lab Experience," and The Greater Herpetological Society of Cincinnati returned with their ever-popular "Reptiles." These guest programs along with our Tie-Dye, Rock Painting, Drip-Art, and Perler Bead programs brought over 775 people to the library during Summer Reading.

We had many displays in our library throughout the year. The Greenfield Historical Society displayed historical items that represented the Band & Cheer Programs at McClain High School over the years. They also displayed an amazing Veteran's Day Display. We were also lucky enough to have artwork from Mrs. Rivas's 5th Graders at Greenfield

Elementary School displayed throughout the library. The library's Banned Books Week display drew a lot of attention from patrons who asked lots of questions about why and when certain beloved books were banned.

The Greenfield Branch Library is preparing new programs such as Dungeons and Dragons and looks to restart book clubs this coming year.

GREENFIELD BRANCH STAFF: Spencer McNeil, Deb Wise, Cynthia Allen, Kyle Barr, Kegan Hurley, Mia Keeton, and Bailey Smith

LEESBURG BRANCH LIBRARY

Written by Melinda McGee, Leesburg Branch Manager

The Leesburg Branch Library in 2022 was once again able to be the place for everyone in the community to gather and connect. We had no staff turnover this year. We remained a source of help in a time where community services are being drastically 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. While we no longer offer home delivery, we do provide curbside service upon request. Our Hot Spots, all 16, are nearly always checked out or waiting to be picked up.

We provided more than 200 programs/events/activities for our patrons throughout 2022. Participation in our children's programming grew substantially. Our Wednesday and Thursday Story Time went from an average 7 kids plus their caretakers to an average 10 kids plus their caretakers (per day). Additionally, we provide a monthly Story Time to the Fairfield preschool classes.

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

Our Summer Reading program, "Oceans of Possibilities," was a huge hit. 154 Youth (12 & younger) signed up (89% active participation), 21 Teens signed up (86% active participation) and 27 Adults signed up (90% active participation). We had visits from Steven's Puppets, the Newport Aquarium, Tom Sparough, and Mr. Pickles, with bonus programs for those who completed their reading logs by the Cincinnati Observatory. Game Day at the Library remains a patron favorite.

Our fall reading challenge saw 240+ books read! RRR, 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 2022, we were able to support and work with the Leesburg Fire Dept. and Life Squad, Leesburg Food Bank, Community Action, the Leesburg Lions Club, the Leesburg Historical Society, and Fairfield Elementary School.

LEESBURG BRANCH STAFF: Melinda J. McGee, Angela Chaney, Ashley Roberts, Brandy Lawson Wiget, Elizabeth Brown, Rachel Grider

LYNCHBURG BRANCH LIBRARY

Written by Elaine Williams, Lynchburg Branch Manager

2022 was a “rebuilding” year for the Lynchburg Branch. We started adult programming again with our weekly Chain Gang Crochet Classes and monthly Page-turners Book Club, followed by a series of four SmARTies Workshops in the fall (presented by Kristen Purdy), and our 24th Annual Christmas Tea. Lynchburg Elementary school invited us back into the classrooms to read to the kindergarteners every Monday for the first time since the shutdown of 2020. We offered our full summer reading club for children instead of the scaled-back version presented in 2021, and the Merry Money Christmas Shop made a comeback in December, after a two-year absence. We’re glad to be hosting programs in the activity room again!

In the spring, Lynchburg native and former children’s librarian Penny Frost McGinnis returned to her library roots to have a book signing for her first novel, *Home Where She Belongs*. This was undoubtedly the best-attended book signing we have hosted at our branch. We strengthened other existing community ties and formed new partnerships in 2022 as well. Lynchburg Elementary School teacher Melissa Wages contacted the library about opportunities to assist the first graders with early literacy skills. Two staff members, Megan Priore and Elaine Williams, underwent the necessary background checks and began working with students on a weekly basis. Lynchburg Masonic Lodge #178 invited Elaine back to speak at the village’s Memorial Day gathering at the Masonic Cemetery. Elaine also had a large part in researching and assembling the Dumenil Collection display at the Lynchburg Historical Society, and she was invited to help with the Society’s presence at the high school’s all-year alumni dinner. The owner of the new Lynchburg Art Center came to the library to exchange ideas and to ask about local artists in and around Lynchburg. We designed the t-shirt for our 2022 Summer Reading Club, “Oceans of Possibilities,” and connected with a Lynchburg silkscreen printer to print the shirts for staff at four of our five Highland County libraries. We also continued our involvement with the library world outside of Highland County by leading discussions for SWON Consortium’s Rural & Small Libraries group, which includes public and academic librarians in Ohio & Northern Kentucky; the group meets quarterly online.

2022 saw a record-high attendance for a single program at the Lynchburg Branch! One hundred fifty-three men, women, and children came to meet The Amazing Spider-Man when he swung by for a visit on November 17th! Dr. Barbara Mihalik, a graduate of Lynchburg-Clay High School, funded three programs presented by the Newport Aquarium during the summer, and these programs (featuring live animals) were also extremely popular and well-attended!

Lynchburg patrons are VERY thankful for the ten additional mobile hot-spots we were able to add to our collection through grants and T-Mobile. Almost every single hot-spot is continually checked out in our internet-poor area.

The Lynchburg Branch staff experienced some changes and reached some special milestones this year. Long-time staffer Jean Bush retired after 15 years of service in May. Debi Dillon completed her 20th year of service and Elaine Williams her 25th year of service, both in September. We welcomed new staff member Madison Barrett as part of our team in May. Madison’s fine art highlighted her talents for a few weeks in our display case during the second half of the year.

The staff of the Lynchburg Branch would like to thank our kind and generous board members, our stellar administration, our community connections, and our lovely, loyal patrons for another great year! We look forward to growing individually and as community partners in 2023!

LYNCHBURG BRANCH STAFF: Elaine Williams, Jean Bush, Debi Dillon, Carol Frost, and Megan Priore, Madison Barrett

ROCKY FORK BRANCH LIBRARY

Written by Emily Foster, Rocky Fork Lake Library Manager

The Rocky Fork Branch Library started the year off by offering a new biweekly program – Lego Club! Our first session was held on January 6th. We also returned from Storytime’s Christmas Break on the 4th. We resumed our regular schedule until the first week of February – Mother Nature threw us a curve ball by sending us a lot of snow. We were closed almost the entire first week of February due to the inclement weather. Luckily, the remainder of the month we were able to operate as normal. We tried a new display technique in honor of Valentine’s Day, the Blind Date with a Book. We wrapped books in gift bags, attaching a tag with their descriptions on the outside. Every book in the display found a date!

Sliding into March, we held a Blarney Stone Hunt for the kids. If a child located one of our Blarney Stones, they received a small prize. They could earn one prize per visit. In addition to our St. Patrick’s Day decorations, we made a collage on our entry window of our pets in honor of National Puppy Day. Patrons were encouraged to send in their pet photos to add to our project. We also hosted the March Board of Trustees meeting for the month.

April and May were busy months preparing for the library’s annual Summer Reading program. Summer 2022 was the second summer the Rocky Fork Branch participated in, with the theme of “Oceans of Possibilities.” We embraced the ocean theme and planned 9 weeks of cool events and prizes. Most of this time was spent putting together sign-up goody bags, prizes, and décor for the summer months.

Our Summer Reading Program launched on May 31st. Kids could fill out logs to earn five smaller prizes, a large prize, and an entry to win a pair of Kings Island tickets. Teens and adults could fill out a drawing slip per book read to try to win another set of Kings Island tickets. The ocean theme was a hit! We held our first official program on June 4th with a visit from the Highland County Humane Society. In total we held 9 special events, 12 Storytimes, and 3 Lego Clubs. In addition to our regular reading program, we introduced monthly drawings for prizes such as Squishmallows, art kits, and kites.

August was a quiet month as we returned to regular programming. We used this time to perform collection maintenance such as relabeling, weeding, and shifting shelves. September was dedicated to building maintenance – even closing for a few days so our parking lot could be resealed and painted. The Daughters of the American Revolution lent us items for a Constitution Week display and we created a Constitution quiz. In October, we decorated the library for Halloween and participated in the Rocky Fork Lake Trunk-or-Treat, where we gave out 160 goody bags full of candy, bouncy balls, stickers, and more. We also added a wall of shelving to our children’s area and reorganized that entire section.

November and December were quieter months as we headed into the holiday season. November saw a Turkey Coloring Contest. December 19, we launched our first Winter Reading Bingo, which is ongoing until January 31, 2023. If a child earns a bingo, they earn a small prize. If the child fills out the whole bingo card, they can earn a large prize.

As we start off 2023, I want to thank our patrons for continuing to support the library and participate in our programs. We are so glad to be here and to serve the Rocky Fork Lake community. We are looking forward to another successful year (and many more)!

ROCKY FORK BRANCH STAFF: Emily Foster, Jennifer Lowe, Sandy “Sam” Planck, Jacob Webb, April McGuire

PROGRAMMING DETAILS

HILLSBORO: Black History Month program honoring Joe and Arlene Cole, weekly Story Times, Scavenger Hunts, Name Tag boards, Bingo Reading Challenges, Child Coloring Contests, Child Question Boards, Lego Club, Rockets with Cincinnati Observatory, Sand Art, Pirate Party, Mermaid Night, Deep Ocean Designs, Comic-Con, Ask Lincoln event, Totally Turtle Thursday, Shark Art, Seashell Art, Mini Golf Night, Treasure Hunt, Shark Cart, Escape Room: Atlantis, Local Author Night, Book Destash events, Trivia Tuesdays, Craft-ernoons, Cincinnati Observatory Comets and Meteors, Crochet Club, Spooky Video Game Night, Tri-C Ghost Hunters, Pumpkin Decorating, NaNoWriMo Write-Ins, monthly Reading Bingo, National Library Week Drawing, Banned Books Scavenger Hunt, Youth Anime Club, Youth Make and Create, League of Extraordinary Teens, All-the-Books Club, Bigfoot Researchers Presentation, How to Finally Get it Written, Anime Club, BYO-Book Club, Comic Book Club, Paint Nights, Write-Away Club, Movie Review Corner, Seed Exchange

GREENFIELD: Story Time, Knitting Club, American Sign Language Class, High School Book Club, Middle School Book Club, Take-Home Crafts, Craft Time, Plant Exchange, Summer Reading Programs: Cincinnati Observatory, Steven's Puppets, Dr. Insecta, Cincinnati Herpetological Society Reptiles, Tie-Dye Shirts, Rock Painting, Perler Beads, and Drip/Pour Art

LEESBURG: Beggars Night, Book Fundraiser, Crafty Crafters, Daffy vs. Bugs for President, Donuts with Dad, Fall Reading Challenge, Game Day at the Library, Leesburg Luminaria, Life Outside the Earth by Cincinnati Observatory, March Book Madness, Craft Projects (monthly), Trivia (monthly), Mother's Day Tea, National Library Week, Ocean of Picklebilities, Page Turners group, Adult Reading Group, Sharks by Newport Aquarium, Splash Circus, Story Time (at Leesburg Library and Fairfield Preschool), Summer Reading Challenge, Super Sea Creatures, Tide Pools by Newport Aquarium, Water Bottle Rockets by Cincinnati Observatory, Summer Reading trivia, Summer Reading Crafts, Wizard of Oz by Stephens Puppets

LYNCHBURG: Page Turners Book Club, Merry Money, Story Times, Crafts to Go, Chain Gang Crochet Class, Smarties in a Jar, Library League Scavenger Hunt, Stingray Studies, Where's George? Scavenger Hunt, Forensics: The Science of Crime, Aliens!, Jelly Beans Contest, Ancestry Search Tips, 24th Annual Christmas Tea, Bunny Hunt, Candy Corn Contest, Tide Pool Creatures, Penny Frost McGinnis Booksigning, 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: Blarney Stone Hunt, Dolphin Scavenger Hunt, Flower Pot Whale Craft Day, Get Covered Ohio Visit, Highland County Humane Society Adoption Event, Mermaid Princess Visit, Meteors with the Cincinnati Observatory, Ocean Bingo, Ohio Department of Natural Resources Visit, Popsicles & Sidewalk Chalk Art Day, Rockets with the Cincinnati Observatory, Winter Reading Bingo (Dec 19, 2022 – January 31, 2023), Monthly Children's Prize Drawings (starting in June), Summer Reading Prize Drawings (June 1 – July 31), Main Log, Bonus Log, Summer Reading Weekly Prize Drawings (June 1 – July 31), Turkey Coloring Contest (Nov 1 – 22)

OUTREACH DETAILS

Hillsboro: The Hillsboro Library participated in the HCS Food Truck Kick-Off and the Community Baby Show. They also worked with local community groups African-American Awareness Research Council and Altrusa. In addition, visits were made to Bright Local and Hillsboro City Schools and the Bell Gardens Retirement Community.

Greenfield: The Greenfield Library joined the Downtown Greenfield Trick or Treat event that included over 500 children.

Leesburg: The Leesburg Library participated in story times at Fairfield Preschool 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. The Leesburg Library partnered with the Lion's Club to participate in the holiday Luminaria event and worked with Lions on Learning.

Lynchburg: The Lynchburg Library provided online contests in Lynchburg Community Voice, Lynchburg Message Board, and Lynchburg Ohio Chat; Guessing Contests for Smarties, Candy Corn, and Jelly Beans; Summer Reading visits to Lynchburg Elementary, story times at Lynchburg Elementary kindergarten classes; and Accelerated Reading tutoring classes to Lynchburg Elementary first grade classes

Rocky Fork Lake: The Rocky Fork Lake Library participated in the annual Fourth of July Parade and the Lake Trunk or Treat, where 160 goody bags were handed out.

DISPLAY DETAILS

Hillsboro: Christmas Cooking and Kitchen Utensils, Black History Month Display – Joe and Arlene Cole, Cabin Fever: Appalachian Arts and Crafts, Russian Nesting Dolls, Country Quilters Shows, Lego Display, Local Authors, Paint Night Exhibit,

Greenfield: Vintage Valentines, Greenfield Elementary Art Class Students, Summer Reading Prizes, McClain High School Band and Cheerleading, Veteran's Day, Favorite Christmas Books, and Toys

Leesburg: Black History Month, Cabin Fever Art, Easter Bonnet, Monet Inspired Fairfield Elementary art, Lilies, Halloween, Ireland, Manga Madness, Martin Luther King Jr., Mother's Day Cards, Oceans of Possibilities, Summer Reading Prizes, Tea Sets, Vikings, Women's History Month, WWII Memorabilia

Lynchburg: Author Book Signing – Penny Frost McGinnis, Pottery and Pitchers, Lighthouses, Apollo Moon Landing, Madison Barrett paintings, Halloween Knickknacks, Christmas Knickknacks,

Rocky Fork Lake: Blind Date with a Book, Craft Display by Rose & Quinn, Daughters of the American Revolution – Constitution Week Display, Domestic Violence Resource Display, Healthcare Marketplace Display, Highland County Historical Society – Pioneer Day, Lego Club Displays (changed out every meeting) National Puppy Day Pet Collage, Voting Assistance Display, Story Times, Lego Club

DONATIONS AND GIFTS

Debra Fryman, Highland County Quilters' Club, Jackie Pierson, FNP, Kings Island, Lesley Lightner, Darlene Michael, Dr. Barbara Mihalik O.D., Janice Paul, Highland County Quilter's Club, Bob Newsome, Jennifer West, Altrusa, 50 Freeze Dairy Bar LLC, Lynchburg Masonic Lodge #178, Star Cinemas, Hotfield Station, Wilkin/Wilkin, Dayton Dragons, Carillon Park, Young's Dairy, Coney Island, Kings Island, Merchant's National Bank, Alice Ballard, Batter-Up Bakery, Marilyn Butler, Leesburg Historical Society, Long's Retreat Family Resort, Marsha Carlin, Geri McCloskey, Greenfield McDonalds, Melinda McGee, Laura Carphey, Mary M. Chapman, Community Market, Amy Palmer, Saucy Sisters, Dairy Queen, Sadie Dehass, Tom Schockette, Sharon Shields, Maria Grimm, Teddy Shields, Ellen Honeycutt, Highland Lanes, Hillsboro Historical Society, Brenda Armstrong, Kathy Spurlock, Jana Hobson, Jani-Chem, Elizabeth Strittenbreger, Walmart, Barb Jenkins, Joe's Party Shop, Ruth Wheaton, and Taco Bell