

DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES – April 2025

REFERENCE DEPARTMENT – Carey C.

Ongoing Projects

- Re-barcoding of the non-fiction and biographies has been completed for the first pass through the collection. We're now taking a second pass to get anything we missed the first time.
- Weeding of the fiction collection continues.

	Ancestry	EBSCO Sessions	EBSCO Searches	Chilton
May-24	508	24	154	8
Jun-24	459	6	29	20
Jul-24	212	33	151	7
Aug-24	358	17	133	17
Sep-24	804	9	31	7
Oct-24	433	16	275	11
Nov-24	646	30	85	14
Dec-24	424	16	63	23
Jan-25	334	2	10	7
Feb-25	707	27	546	9
Mar-25	595	15	69	7
Apr-25	416	5	22	11
Total	5896	200	1568	141

ADULT PROGRAMMING – Jeanne Michie –April Completed Projects

- Adult Board Games after hours. Consistently attended and attracts interest from patrons.
- Manga Club new group with Jeffrey and Kira
- Puzzles for passive programming continue to be very popular. It seems as if we have thousands now.
- Random Readers Book Club- Topic: Mother with 6 in attendance
- Evening With JJ Barrett- Replacement for his no-show program last fall. Spring Planting- 4 attended, he is willing to return anytime.
- Tuesday Crafternoon–Grid painting – 5 attended
- Adult Craft- Grid painting- 8 attended. Great results!
- Displays- Across Five Aprils: Fiction and Nonfiction displays featuring Lincoln, Lee, and the American Civil War. Random Readers Mother (Guess The Theme) Staff Picks,
- Planning for the Summer Reading Program is almost complete, with the 3 big headliners booked and paid for. We will be featuring Steve Ball and Music of the Civil War in May, Mark Twain Middle years in June, and Harriet Tubman Part 2 in July. Steve Ball will return in July with Music of the Women of the Civil War. Additional events surrounding Bigfoot are planned in May. Morgan has planned the second annual Library Fest to be held on May 31st from 12-3, with local food and craft vendors and African drumming with Lawrence Rashad Green.
- There was a downward trend in the number of ILLs being requested and shipped. This may be due to the increasing postal costs.

YOUNG READER'S ROOM – Charley J.

Completed Projects

- We hosted story times for ages 0-2 and 3-5 each week. Our 0-2 story time has 2 meeting times, and we are excited to see the 9am session growing to about 20 people. The 10:30am session continues to have 35-40 people each week.
- We held our monthly Lego club. This month, the Lego challenge was to build a space adventure! Our new format for Lego Club has been successful and we have seen many new faces because of the change.
- Our friends from the Tail Waggin' Tutors visited us to read with some of our library kids. This program allows reluctant readers to practice reading with a therapy dog.
- This month's scavenger hunt was about mythological creatures. Kids ventured around the room and learned about some of our favorite mythological creatures. When they finished the hunt, they received a prize including small gifts from each of the creatures they learned about. We had 90 children complete the scavenger hunt.
- During Choose Your Own Adventure Book Club, we read *Big Foot's Vacation* aloud as a group. In the story, we ended up going on vacation to Hawaii with Big Foot. It was hilarious!
- For our monthly Saturday event, we invited kids to decorate birdhouses and garden gnomes. We had approximately 50 kids visit us throughout the day.
- We hosted our 4th Annual Stuffed Animal Sleepover! This program is always a blast, and the laughter heard while showing kids pictures of what their stuffed animals did at the library is precious! This year our stuffed friends even ventured to the roof!
- We partnered with MonPower to host a tree planting workshop for children ages 5-12. MonPower also came back the next day to pass out trees to the community. We are grateful for their support and our partnership with this event.
- Brian and I attended the quarterly Wood County Reads meeting. This month we discussed the Golden Ticket program, which is a summer reading challenge provided by Wood County Schools. The library partners with Wood County School to help facilitate this program.
- Through a generous donation from the Henry Logan Foundation, I was able to order over 5,000 books for our upcoming summer program. We are so grateful to Henry Logan, as they made it possible for us to give away over 4,600 books last summer! We look forward to seeing how many books we give away this year!
- I was also able to order supplies for our various events taking place this summer. We prepare for 500 children per week, so as you can imagine, we had to order lots of supplies! Now that the supplies are in, we have been prepping activities that will be delivered to the branches at the beginning of June.

Ongoing Projects

- Researching and ordering books for our children's collection.
- Displaying books throughout the room to keep children interested in new series/subjects.
- Creating a monthly calendar to advertise our events for children aged 12 and under.
- Creating graphics for social media to highlight our upcoming events.
- Relabeling and organizing the children's chapter book collection. We have finished labeling the fantasy chapter book series and are now working on mysteries.
- Becky and Charley read aloud to classes at Criss and Madison schools each week. We love going into these schools and making connections with their students and teachers. It gives us a great opportunity to promote the library and our services, while generally encouraging students to love reading.

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- We are in full summer prep mode in the Young Readers' Room! This summer's theme is art, so we are preparing art activities for each week of our eight-week program. The events for this summer are listed below:
 - Kick off Week- Kids sign up for programs this week and can visit any library branch to do a variety of craft activities
 - Lego Masterpiece Week- Kids get to recreate famous art using Lego blocks
 - Build-A-Monster Week- Kids learn basic hand stitching and make their own silly monsters
 - Masterpiece Scavenger Hunt Week- Kids complete a scavenger hunt in the library to receive a prize
 - Music Makers Week- Kids get to make rain sticks and learn songs using their new instruments
 - Video Game Art Week- Kids can visit any branch throughout the week to do various video game art projects
 - Ceramic Painting Week- Kids get to paint a ceramic cup from the Watering Can Art Studio
 - Dragon Art Week- Kids can visit any branch throughout the week to make dragon eggs and other dragon art
- In addition to preparing for these programs, we are also prepping buttons that will be given as prizes when children check out books. Each time a child checks out, they will receive a book and a button to put on their library backpack. We are making over 5,000 buttons for this summer!

Young Adult- Abigail H.

Completed Projects

- Camp Half-Blood: Mythology 101 Book Club for Middle Grade has been a big hit throughout this school year, consistently having 7 or 8 kids every month! This was our last meeting to wrap up *The Sea of Monsters* by Rick Riordan. We plan to pick up the third book in the Percy Jackson series in the fall since the kids want to continue. To end this year's final meeting, we made sure to include some extra fun activities. Kelsey did a mythology comparison between the book and the myth about Charybdis and Scylla. Followed by some reading questions that the kids really engaged with and debated their thoughts and opinions. Kelsey designed a claiming game in which they rolled a giant d20 to find out which Greek god or goddess claimed them as their demigod child as if they were all campers at Camp Half-Blood. After they were claimed, they got a certificate, a button, and an informational card about the god or goddess that they rolled. Afterwards, we had a Party Pony Dance Party based on the characters in the book. They each got a plush pony keychain so that they never have to dance alone with a little adoption certificate. We listened to music and gave them glow stick bracelets. The kids danced and played keep up the balloon with their ponies. To wrap up, we gave them a Create your own Mythical beast worksheet that Abigail designed, so they could make a one-of-a-kind Creature that could be found in *The Sea of Monsters*.
- We hosted a Spring picnic event in the arboretum that had several attendees! Lemonade, special picnic snacks and treats were served before spring and nature themed activities. We designed a nature scavenger hunt, with the goal to walk around the park to collect items that fit the list provided, we encouraged them to find non-animate objects and give them human characteristics, then share their finds and give them a ridiculous backstory. A feather having an

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identity crisis, a leaf that looks like it's done with life, a piece of trash that feels important. There were many funny and absurd finds and stories! Afterwards, we had spring inspired crafts, including birdhouse and flowerpot painting. It was a nice change of scenery, and we had several requests to do more outdoor programs.

- The theme for our monthly Manga Club was non-human protagonists. Members of the group shared what they were reading/watching as of late and had lively discussions. Every Month, Kira designs collectable buttons that go along with the theme of the month, which you get if you attend that month's meeting.

Ongoing Projects

- Hyperfixation Club for teens continues every Tuesday from 4 to 6pm. The kids enjoy this time to get together, share their interests, and work on hobbies. Every other week we have a sensory friendly Hyperfixation Club. Many enjoy these weeks because it caters to the needs of our teens who are easily overwhelmed or prefer quieter gatherings. The Young Adult team hopes to focus on creating a more inclusive space, and that includes neurodivergent youth. We are working on brainstorming more sensory-friendly areas, specialized programs, and tailored support to ensure every teen feels welcome and supported with their unique learning and social needs.
- We are in the process of planning our teen summer program! We will have two events each week, with each week loosely based on a different creative theme. We will be able to host 40 kids a week for these programs. The 8 week teen summer lineup is going to be about art and creativity, with no reading logs this year, just hands-on fun and participation rewards! Every week will have two main programs:

Tuesdays = big creative events

Fridays = chill craft hangouts

Highlights from our lineup:

Week 1: Color Explosion Kickoff Party + Soda tab buddy keychains

Week 2: Character Creation & Cosplay Workshop + DIY Cosplay Amulets

Week 3: Turf War Kobold Endeavour RPG One-Shot + Fantasy Mapmaking

Week 4: Forged in Clay: Mystic Dragons Clay class

Week 5: Messy Art Madness + EcoCrafts

Week 6: Mood Mobs: Monster Makers + Self-Portrait Album Covers

Week 7: Off the Wall: Graffiti-Inspired Art + Collage Coasters

Week 8: Intergalactic-Crafts + Watercolor Nebulas

Teens will get to: Pick out a free book to keep each Tuesday, roll for a prize at those events, and earn entries for grand prizes that we will draw for at the end of the Summer. We aim to focus on creative engagement for this year's Summer Library Club.

- Each month we put out a calendar to showcase events we have for our teen patrons.
- We also make graphics to showcase our events on Facebook and other social media platforms.
- Kelsey has been planning projects for the teens who come for work placement. The kids are here five days a week, school schedule permitting. They have started helping with Summer Library Club preparations!
- The Discord server has been popular with the teens. They share their art, lift each other up and communicate when they aren't able to make it to programs. We hope to explore ways to use this resource to encourage engagement with the library.

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TECHNICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT – Mindy M.

New Books Cataloged	502
New Audiobooks Cataloged	0
New Video Games Cataloged	1
New Music Cataloged	0
New DVD's Cataloged	94
New Blu-Rays Cataloged	6
New Board Games/Puzzles	10
Total Cataloged	613

MAINTENANCE & JANITORIAL DEPARTMENT – Brian H.

- Replace fence and post in Arboretum.
- Fix door threshold at Williamstown.
- Fixed lock on door at Emerson.
- Put up new flag at South.
- Fixed leak at Williamstown.
- Cleaned parking lot drains.
- Replace 2 toilet water shut off valves and replace 2 flush valves.
- Fixed front door lock.
- Cleaned up trash and leaves in stairs to nowhere at Emerson.
- Trimmed shrubs on side of Emerson.
- Installed new fence rails at Emerson.

GENEALOGY – Jim M.

Number of Walk-ins	131		
Number of Emails	5	Individual Lookups	7
Number of Microfilm Reader Users	24		
Number of Genealogy Computer Users	2		
Phone Contacts	35		
Total	197		

Completed Projects

- Completed various obituary requests; and
- Assisted various walk-in family researchers.
- Finished another GPS (Genealogical Proof Statement) for a patron

Ongoing Projects

- Thanks to Parker who has revived the Genealogy Server. It is up and working now the road is to be getting it out so patrons can use it in the library itself, then to the outside patrons we hope
Thanks Brian
- Ongoing sorting of recent books, magazines, newspaper clippings, and scrapbook donations.
- Thanks goes out to Resa for her weekly scanning of materials.
- Shelf-reading in the history and genealogy collection is ongoing
- Worked in circulation and workroom as assigned.

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New Incoming Projects

- Genealogy continues to participate in continuing education through online seminars offered by various genealogical institutions.
- I am currently working on 3 projects for patrons.
- I continue working on having an intermediate class in genealogy investigation techniques, Graphs, tables and Genealogical Proof Statements (GPS), etc. to solve problems with family relationships
- Was invited to again do a genealogy class at the Creative Camp put on by CEO's at Butcher Bend, 4H campgrounds each year.
- Still Looking at having a speaker come in and do a class on DNA Genealogy again
- I took on a new Volunteer with a background in Genealogy to help me with some projects.

TALKING BOOKS DEPARTMENT – Michal Ann L.

Thank you for taking the time to read this April 2025 Update!

April has been a flurry of activity! April 1st & 3rd were spent in Charleston at the Special Services Library – which is the main hub for all things National Library Service (NLS) related in the state of WV. Seth – the main reference Librarian for the SSL trained me on how to process digital book requests on the Gutenberg machine: a large set of flash drive houses that transfer files very quickly from the server to the cartridges that get mailed out to patrons. I also was trained in how to process out the mail cards for the USPS! Kyle: the main person to input new patrons, showed me in depth how the WebREADS (the NLS server for all things patrons and books – loosely could be compared to the Sierra system in this Library). I spent time with Teresa who oversees all equipment and was able to learn how to fix a couple of small issues with Talking Books players. I was also able to be in and out of a few of the sessions for the WVLA Spring Fling. I was overjoyed to learn that April 3rd, the Regional Director of Patron Engagement was going to be in Charleston at the State Library & the Special Services Library. I was able to spend several hours with MaryBeth Wise and got to relay some of the many things that I have been able to do for our Subregional Talking Books Library here in Parkersburg. The main takeaway from the 16 action-packed, information filled hours was that the Talking Books office here in Parkersburg is key to the outreach of the NLS. The 2 other Subregional Libraries have much less patron engagement and outreach than we do here in Parkersburg. Seth conveyed to me that my work in Parkersburg is only limited to what limits I put on myself: meaning the possibilities and the influence that our Library has on the 8 counties we cover are immeasurable! Charleston has also begun sending me patrons that do not have a Subregional and pass me tasks that they do not have time to accomplish. My volunteer (Ryan Lamb) was able to go to Charleston with me, and the staff there was able to train him in specific ways that he can support the work that we do, and tasks that volunteers do for their office that helps them significantly. In all, the entire trip was very informative and helped fill in the gaps in the training I was lacking. I have been able to specifically help people in the past 2 weeks I normally would have just “passed on to Charleston” to get help.

Including the 2 days that I spent with the lovely folks in Charleston, I travelled to Calhoun Public Library, and on the way back contacted 5 agencies, and was able to tentatively set up a school tour for Talking Books. I spent a lively morning with the Wood County Seniors – where I signed up 6 new patrons! On April 29th, I travelled to Sisterville Library (Tyler County) where I was again able to make contact with 4 agencies.

- Local Recovery Center/Jail Book Donation Delivery/Local Schools – Number of Boxes: 12
- New Applications Approved: 7
- Patron Emails: 4 sent: 7
- Calls Received: 10 Calls Made: 16

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- Packets mailed out to prospective patrons: 0
- Walk-In Patron Contacts: 5
- Active Patrons: 124
- Patrons Added: 3
- Patrons Suspended: 5
- Talking Books Reference Questions: 5
- Processed Patron Materials: 153 Items returned: 8
- Volunteer: 1 Hours: 6
- Scheduling Events calls: 5
- Current Patron Outreach: 3
- **Other Applications Approved: 0**
- **Total Events for the Month: 7 Total Attendees: 10**
 - Continued Projects: Janet’s handwritten notes for a Procedure Manual for Talking Books: once manual is done it will be submitted to Director & Assistant Director for approval.
 - Current patron outreach
 - Mailed out the Spring Newsletter: 126 total
- Working on a “Community Resource” option for patrons with disabilities of all kinds to be able to get help and find things to purchase for their individual needs.

BRANCHES - South Parkersburg – Olivia J.

Statistics Narrative

April saw the end of tax season, to the relief of all library staff surely. That, paired with the good weather and different sports being in season, has seen a slight drop in library attendance. Otherwise things have been normal at the library and programs still have patrons coming in. April is the last bit of programming for children’s events, allowing the month of May to be dedicated to preparing for the summer reading program as well as generate anticipation for the return of library activities.

Ongoing Projects

- Kristy’s Author of the Month was poet Mary Oliver.
- Ashley made a book display of dragon themed books.
- Ashley made book displays of gardening books and poetry books in non-fiction and a display of Teen Graphic Novels in the teen section. Apryl had an “April Fool’s” end cap display featuring humorous books.
- Apryl did a two part desk decoration. On one side there were several raindrops and the phrase “April Showers” and on the other side there were flowers and the phrase “Read for Hours.” The books she references in these are typically available on Hoopla and she notes the fact on the display.
- Dawn had displays of books for Easter, Earth Day, and other seasonal happenings.
- Dawn and Olivia were not able to go to do Read Aloud at Franklin every week due to staff needs at the library, but most weeks they were able to go.
- Dawn continued with Wee be Jammin’ and Small Fry Storytime
- Kristy had eight people attend her book club.

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- Olivia hosted an adult craft program with eight attendants. They painted terracotta flower pots. She took no pictures because she herself is very private and simply does not think to do things like that, but there were several cute and interesting designs.
- Tail-Waggin' Tutors happened again. Each session is an opportunity for more library users to learn about it and the possibility for more children to participate.
- Ashley brought back Black Out Poetry for teens. It's an activity where participants take a book page and black out everything but their chosen words for the flow of their poem.
- Ashley hosted a role-playing game for teens called Imposters in Chrome.
- Olivia began brainstorming for the next Escape Room, deciding to use the Queen of Mystery herself as inspiration, the room will be inspired by Agatha Christie's novels and possibly also her own life.

Completed Projects

- Storytimes are finished until they resume for Summer Reading Program.

Maintenance

- The HVAC system was repaired by Trane.

BRANCHES – Williamstown – Lisa H.

April at Williamstown Public Library started with spring break at school. That first week was quiet and a lot of extra work was accomplished since it seemed like I had extra hours in the day without the afterschool crowd. After spring break, with the nicer weather, we saw a steady stream of adult patrons and students.

Completed projects:

- Hosted our first ever, "Get Hooked on Crochet" class. We had 15 attendees and learned quickly that we need to have less participants or more teachers for this beginning class.
- Hosted "Easter Egg-cellent Celebration." We were loaded with children and parents for a few hours and had a great time celebrating the holiday with crafts!
- Hosted our Mystery Book Club meeting.
- Two Story Times Held for ages 3-5. One of them featured an Easter craft.
- We continued our monthly estimation contest. In April, we estimated how many jellybeans were in a jar. The winner was announced on the last day of the month and received the Easter jar and all of the candy inside.
- We hosted our monthly meeting of "Coffee, Cards, and Conversation" group.
- St. Patrick's Day decorations were taken down and Easter decorations were put up.
- Planned and made three passive Easter-themed crafts for our April craft table that children could complete any time they were in the library.
- Finished weeding AF.

Ongoing Projects:

- Continued to plan for spring programming and started working on SRP.
- Continued to monitor the Williamstown Library Facebook page and post upcoming Story Times and programs. Pictures of programs are posted as soon as possible after each event.

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- Continued to assist patrons of all ages with projects, copies, faxes, scanning, notaries, reference questions and research, checking out and shelving books and DVDs, and doing anything else that is needed.

Maintenance

- Set up and took down tables for the different programming events.
- Took St. Patrick's Day decorations back to storage.

BOOKMOBILE – Lisa H.

Statistics Narrative

The Bookmobile served 1,132 patrons in April. We attended the YMCA's Health Kids event on April 26 and saw 85 people.

Ongoing Projects

- Lisa – setting up stops for events and additional locations.
- Lisa – create book displays.
- Lisa – seasonal books and decorations.
- Lisa -- weed/withdrawal books.
- Lisa – collection development.
- Diane – book deliveries to Senior Living facilities.
- Diane – repair books as needed.
- Diane – assists with decorating.
- Diane – assists with preparing crafts and giveaways for events.
- Bert – manages stop evaluation form and spreadsheet.
- Everyone – places holds.
- Everyone – replenish shelves as needed.
- Everyone – regular stops to preschools, private and public K-12 schools, afterschool centers, and senior citizens facilities.

Maintenance

- Sanitized, vacuumed, and disposed of trash daily.
- Fueled and washed the bus as needed.