Parkersburg & Wood Co. PUBLIC LIBRARY

DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES –September 2026

REFERENCE DEPARTMENT – Carey C.

Ongoing Projects

- After much consideration and years of disappointment, I have decided to cancel our subscription to the Chilton Online database. As you can see from the table below, use of this database has never been impressive, and renewing for 2027 was going to cost us over $3,000. This breaks down to almost $20 per lookup. I believe these funds could be better allocated elsewhere. I kept up our subscription because auto repair manuals aren't published like they used to be, but usage never reached a level that I felt justified the price tag.
- On a related note, I have canceled our standing order for print editions of the West Virginia code. These volumes are reprinted regularly but were rarely used and are exceedingly expensive. I think shipping on a single volume was close to $50. West Virginia code is online in a free, searchable database. We received one final shipment, which they discounted by roughly 40%. We'll hold onto what we have and eventually weed them within a few years.

	Ancestry	EBSCO Sessions	EBSCO Searches	Chilton
Aug-25	675	23	97	14
Sep-25	539	30	154	5
Oct-25	448	25	85	10
Nov-25	656	45	198	12
Dec-25	530	38	115	11
Jan-26	452	72	128	9
Feb-26	454	9	63	24
Mar-26	127	15	87	10
Apr-26	316	18	28	21
May-26	513	7	48	10
Jun-26	819	10	87	12
Aug-26	528	11	64	12
Sep-26	557	8	17	7
Total	**6614**	**311**	**1171**	**157**

ADULT PROGRAMMING – Jeanne M, September 2026

- Adult Board Games after hours.
- Puzzles for passive programming. It seems as if we have thousands now. Donations of puzzles, and recently, games have been consistent
- Thursday, September 10th, Battlefield Forensics with Matthew Lively. 14 attended
- Tuesday,September 15th, Paint Club Harvest Moon tutorial. 12 attended
- Thursday, September 17th, Gwen Crumb of WVU extension on preserving your garden produce. No one attended.
- Thursday, September 24th- Adult Craft Spooky Paper Lanterns-14 attended
- Thursday, September 5th ,1:00 p.m.- True Crime Book Club poisonings. 4 attended

- Displays: Gardening, Back to School for better or worse! Fungis and not so fun guys in your garden, staff picks, cozy reads, guess the theme.

YOUNG READER'S ROOM – **Charley J.**

Completed Projects

- The Summer Library Club is a blast, but we always look forward to getting back into our school year routine in September!
- This school year, we are bringing back our Homeschool Music Class program. We are so grateful to retired music teacher, Sandy Laird, for leading this program for us! We had 46 people in our first K-2 class in September and 13 attendees in our 3rd-5th grade class.
- Tiny Tales Story Time for ages 3 and under continues to be a popular program and the highlight of our week! We are hosting two story times for this age group each week to accommodate all the young families that attend the program. In September, our biggest Wednesday attendance was 47 people!
- Each month, we are creating a themed scavenger hunt for kids to enjoy. For September, our theme was Back-to-School. We had 150 kids engage with this program! When they completed the hunt, they received a prize pack of school supplies and a craft.
- Friday Friends Story Time for ages 3-5 years old is another highlight to our week! In this story time, we also include early literacy activities and a craft for kids to enjoy.
- Once a month, we host Lego Club for ages 13 and under. This is one of the longest ongoing programs I have hosted at the library, and children consistently attend and enjoy the challenge of the month. This month, kids were tasked with building their dream school using Lego bricks.
- Camp Half-Blood Book Club meets monthly to discuss our book, *The Last Olympian*, which is the final book in the original Percy Jackson series. We had 15 kids attend in September, and I was so proud of how well the group listened to each other and had a great discussion about the book!
- Pokémon Club is a newer addition to our programming lineup but continues to grow in interest and attendance. I am currently brainstorming ways to add a second Pokémon Club meeting to accommodate the almost 40 kids who have signed up or are on a waiting list to join the club. This month, we taught the group how to play the trading card game, had a card trading station, and had other crafts available.
- We hosted a Halloween-themed craft class where kids got to paint a Halloween wall hanging to decorate their home for the upcoming spooky season.
- The Tail Waggin' Tutors are back for another school year! Kids sign up to read one-on-one to a certified therapy dog. This program caught the interest of WTAP, and they did a nice piece on the program and the impact it has on reluctant readers. One of our library kids, Ashby, was interviewed and did a fantastic job!

Ongoing Projects

- Researching and ordering books for our children's collection.
- Displaying books throughout the room to keep children interested in new series/subjects. Our displays were focused on fall and Halloween.
- Creating graphics for social media to highlight our upcoming events.
- Relabeling and organizing the children's chapter book collection. Kira has completed all the chapter book series and is now labeling individual titles that are not in a series. She is also creating new labels for the Easy picture book collection.

- Becky and I read aloud at Criss and Madison Elementary Schools each week. Becky reads to a second-grade class at Madison, while I visit a kindergarten class and both first-grade classes at Criss.
- Planning for the 2027 Summer Library Club is in full swing. We are currently brainstorming program ideas and are scheduled to meet in October to decide our program lineup. Summer 2026 was a great success, but growing interest and attendance requires us to discuss ways to accommodate more families, while still fitting within the time/resources we have available to us.

Young Adult- Abagail H.

Completed Projects

- As school has begun once again, school year programming has as well to much of the excitement of our teen patrons, giving them something to look forward to every week.
- **Hyperfixation Club had two meet-ups this month with 34 who attended.** Teens stopped by for snacks, tea, and low-key vibes, bringing their hobbies to work on, and chatting about their latest obsessions with each other. We also had crafts available like Perler beads, button makers, DIY stickers and a bedazzle kit. Popular topics of conversation include The Among Us show, Animal Hospital Roblox game, retro or throwback video games and apple core or Frutiger Aero aesthetics, and favorite music.
- **Board games & Brownies had 19 attend**. Our monthly program features RPGs, board games, and baked goods. This month we played Toon Lineup: Draw the Suspect. (Police Sketch Challenge) Based off a viral meme challenge where one player describes a secret character using descriptive clues while another player tries to sketch while timed. For this game we featured popular animated characters who had committed a series of crimes, and it was the groups mission to identify the culprits based on clues and descriptions from a “witness”. The group proved to be successful detectives, and one Court's Ruling: State of Ohio v. Rogers consisted of Shaggy is subject to random snack testing. If his blood sugar levels indicate a "high volume of triple-decker sandwiches, or excess snacking" he goes straight to the slammer.
- **D.I.Y Funko Pop Craft Day had 20 attend.** Fandom junkies joined us to paint and design their own Funko Pop figures after favorite fandom characters or OCs. With much thanks to our very own Jaydn who 3-D printed 25 Funko pop figures for this event. They also got to design their own boxes for their figures, we had a wide range of characters from Dragonball, Marvel, Disney, Anime, video games and even characters of their own creation.
- **Splice Night- Pop Idol Karaoke had 23 attend**. Teens got the chance to let their pop idol persona out at our karaoke night. Any genre was welcome as they came to sing their hearts out. Favorite songs included Monster Mash, Hey there Delilah, musical ballads, songs from Green Day and Radiohead. We also had the Nintendo Switch out for our non-singers.
- For every program teens come to during the school year, they will earn 1 ticket to spend on our End-of-year Fandom Cafe where we will have treats, coffee, boba tea, prizes, plus take & make fandom crafts and merch. We will also keep track of their tickets. Our regular group helped come up with this idea, and we decided to implement it.

Ongoing Projects

- “Book-Dash” book display continues thanks to Emily and Colleen, Patrons can pick up a “Meal” from restaurants based on book themes with matching books to be checked out, complete with sticker and baggy, and order description. A fun take on Doordash, but with food for thought.

- The themes for the YA displays in September were Hispanic Heritage Month and Banned Books thanks to Emily.
- We are creating monthly calendars to advertise our events for teens ages 12 to 19.
- Graphics for programs are made to be put on Facebook, the Library website, other social media platforms, as well as the screens that display upcoming events.
- Researching, budgeting, and planning all programs for the next school year are underway!
- We are working on brainstorming more sensory-friendly areas, specialized programs, and tailored support to be inclusive of our neurodivergent youth.
- The Discord server continues to be popular. We use it to spread the word on upcoming events and programs. This is a safe space where we foster respect, safety, and friendship for teens of all types of backgrounds. Mods are all members of our Youth Services staff.
- The Library Discord server has seen an increase of usage, and we have been able to gauge interests, customize programs, and take advantage of polls.

TECHNICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT – Teresa W.

New books cataloged	803
New audiobooks cataloged	0
New music cataloged	0
New DVDs cataloged	80
New Blu-rays cataloged	3
New video games cataloged	13
New board games/puzzles	0
Total items cataloged	899

MAINTENANCE & JANITORIAL DEPARTMENT – Roy W.

- Snaked out two sink drains at Emerson.
- Reattached sink in Ladies Restroom at Emerson.
- Cleaned out parking lot drains.
- Added shelving to Friend's book sale area downstairs.
- Cleaned up rock drainage ditch at South.
- Cleaned up stairs in front of Emerson to nowhere….
- Adjusted door at Williamstown that wasn't closing properly.
- Cleaned all Lower Level windows at Emerson.
- Dusted all the shelving upstairs at Emerson.
- Mowed grass at Williamstown.
- Chage out two UPS batteries at South that went bad.

3100 Emerson Ave · Parkersburg, WV 26104
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DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES –September 2026

GENEALOGY – Kate M. & Jim M.

Number of Walk-ins	**96**		
Number of Emails	**9**	**Individual Lookups**	**7**
Number of Microfilm Reader Users	**52**		
Number of Genealogy Computer Users	**3**		
Phone Contacts	**40**		
Total for Aug 2026	**200**		

Completed Projects

- Completed various obituary requests; and
- Assisted various walk-in family researchers

Ongoing Projects

- Ongoing sorting of recent books, magazines, newspaper clippings, and scrapbook donations.
- Shelf-reading in the history and genealogy collection is ongoing
- Worked in circulation and workroom as assigned.
- Once Again, Thank You Kate for learning how to do some things in Genealogy, she's a great addition to the department.
- Continuing work on completing a Genealogist Master Professional Couse from them.

New Incoming Projects

- Genealogy continues to participate in continuing education through online seminars offered by various genealogical institution
- I am currently working on 1 project for patrons. Kate is working on how to run the Genealogy Department.

TALKING BOOKS DEPARTMENT – Michal Ann L.

- Local Recovery Center/Jail Book Donation Delivery/Local Schools – 0
- Patron Emails: 5 sent: 3
- Calls Received: 23 Calls Made: 11
- Packets mailed out to prospective patrons: 0
- Walk-In Patron Contacts: 8
- Active Patrons: 180
- **1,729 items total/180 patrons= 9.6 items per patron checked out in September!**
- Talking Books Reference Questions: 5
- Processed Patron Materials: 23 Items returned: 16
- Volunteer: 1 Hours: 8
- Scheduling Events calls: 0
- Current Patron Outreach: 0 Birthday cards: 6 Sympathy Cards: 0
- Other Applications Approved: 0
- Total Events for the Month: Book Club 3
- Met with a patron that was a patron under Mike Hickman (1980's to 2000's). We went over ideas, programs, and outreach ideas. Found more refining to be done to the program.

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- Attended the National Library Services Fall Conference September 9 & 10th. Came away recharged. Gathered amazing ideas. Had a bit of a reality check. I am one person. I don't have to reinvent the wheel for each thing. I don't have to stress over my to-do list - I just need to do my best each day.

Continued Projects:

- Working on a church mass mailing about Talking Books/NLS.
- Working on mass mailing to each State Representative.

BRANCHES - South Parkersburg – Olivia J.

Statistics Narrative

September is the month that Dawn officially announced she would be retiring at the end of the calendar year, shortly after Brian Raitz had announced something similar and a whole movement started apparently. So, Dawn is conducting her final story times this fall and a lot of thought is being given to how the South branch will be structured after she leaves.

Ongoing Projects

- Dawn resumed doing Read Aloud at Franklin.
- The September Author of the Month was Sarah Addison Allen. A simplified synopsis of her work would be to classify it as "Southern Magical Realism." It was a very popular choice for September.
- Kristy and her Novel Book Club met to discuss *The God of the Woods* by Liz Moore.
- The main book display featured books with sprayed edges as that has been a very popular trend in publishing in the past few years.
- In Fiction, the end cap displays included books featuring Classical Music for Classical Music Month, and a display of books with white covers with the phrase "I wore white after Labor Day so you don't have to."
- For the non-fiction end cap displays, there was one with a selection of Sewing project books for Sewing Month and Memoirs for Hispanic Heritage Month.
- The YA book display featured books that had fewer than 250 pages.
- In Children's were books for Fall and Hispanic Heritage Month.
- The Juvenile Fiction had a display of books from the My Weird School series.
- Tail-Wagging Tutors returned with several students participating. Dawn made a point to deliver flyers to local schools to disperse to the students.
- Toward the beginning of the month, Ashley had a Teen Craft program where the participants made collage bookmarks.
- On the very last day of the month, Ashley had a craft program for teens to make Aquariums out of old glass jars. The jars were sourced from other staff members.
- Dawn and Brian looked a lot at weeding different sections of the children's collection. The Board books and the Levelled Readers were both too full to fit into the space that they could conceivably be in. But according to LibraryIQ those sections needed to be expanded. Steps

are still being taken to allow for an expansion in these areas, but the space needs simply may not make it an option.

Completed Projects

Maintenance

<u>BRANCHES – Williamstown</u> – Lisa H.

September at Williamstown Public Library brought the start of fall routines, a much-needed vacation for Lisa after a busy summer, and a smooth transition back into our school-time schedule.

Completed projects:

- Hosted Teen Game Day at the Library for grades 4-8.
- Took down our back-to-school display and put up fall decorations.
- Put up a cookbook display for our "Let's Dish" program in October.
- We continued our monthly estimation contest. In September, we estimated how many pieces of assorted candy were in a jar. The winner was announced on the last day of the month and received the jar and all of the candy inside.
- Made three fall crafts for our craft table.
- Laid out a wooden autumn children's puzzle and a 5 x7 foot poster that the after-school kids really enjoyed.
- Hosted our monthly book club meeting.
- Hosted our monthly meeting of "Coffee, Cards, and Conversation."
- Weeded our new children's shelf, both E and NF.
- Continued and finally ended our butterfly habitat where numerous butterflies emerged from their chrysalis. The after-school kids loved letting them free!
- Ms. Edie hosted Story Time, and Lisa did a craft with the children.
- Attended two meetings at Emerson to choose the interior color palette for our new library.

Ongoing Projects:

- 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.
- 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.
- Watered flowers in both outside flower beds, pulled weeds, and removed many of the flowers that were finished blooming for the season.

Maintenance

- Helped move tables for programs and crafts.

BOOKMOBILE – Lisa H.

Statistics Narrative

The Bookmobile served 1,050 patrons in September. The month was mostly getting back to school, after-school, and home school stops.

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.