LOOKING BACK:
A Month of Enriching Moments

SEPTEMBER 2025 | ISSUE #9

To enrich, educate, and inspire our community by providing unique and welcoming physical and virtual environments in which exploration, creativity and the sharing of ideas are encouraged.

NOTES FROM THE INTERIM DIRECTORS

I DID A LOT OF NETWORKING AND LEARNING IN SEPTEMBER, ATTENDING THE DIRECTOR'S ROUNDTABLE IN FOREST, THE UNITED WAY KICK-OFF LUNCH, GATEWAY ARTS COUNCIL BOARD MEETING, SOYAMRG BOOK CLUB IN TROY, PORCH FEST 2026 MEETING, IMAGINATION LIBRARY/FALL FESTIVAL MEETINGS, KINDERGARTEN TUTORING, AND A TWO-DAY LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP IN FINDLAY (ALSO ATTENDED BY BECKI AND NANCY). I'M GRATEFUL FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO REPRESENT THE LIBRARY AND CONNECT WITH SO MANY PEERS.

NANCY AND I INTERVIEWED—AND HIRED—A NEW FACILITIES COORDINATOR! WE'LL WELCOME DUSTIN SIMMONDS TO THE SCL TEAM IN OCTOBER. ADMINISTRATIVE WORK THIS MONTH INCLUDED LEARNING PAYROLL, CREATING A STAFF RECOGNITION GOOGLE FORM, LEADING MANAGER MEETINGS, AND ARRANGING THE REMOVAL OF THE WINDOW WELL FLOWER BOX.

MOST EXCITING: THE GATEWAY ARTS CULTURAL PASS LAUNCHES IN NOVEMBER! PATRONS CAN CHECK OUT A "TICKET" TO ATTEND GATEWAY ARTS PRESENTS PERFORMANCES, FEATURING LOVIN' SPOONFUL, BIG BAD VOODOO DADDY, AND FOREVER SIMON AND GARFUNKEL. A PRESS RELEASE APPEARED IN THE SIDNEY DAILY NEWS LAST TUESDAY WITH MORE DETAILS.

-Rikki -INTERIM EXCUTIVE DIRECTOR

HEALTH HAPPENINGS AT THE LIBRARY WAS THE KEY PHRASE FOR SEPTEMBER. WE VISITED DOROTHY LOVE AND DABBLED IN WATERCOLORS WITH OUR CRAFT GROUP. WE NORMALLY SEE 16 OR SO PARTICIPANTS AND THEY ENJOYED PAINTING A SUNFLOWER. THE SHELBY COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT PRESENTED A PASSIVE DISPLAY CONCERNING , RETHINK YOUR DRINK, IN OUR LOBBY. WATCH THAT SUGAR !

WILSON HEALTH VISITED US WITH FREE FASTING CHOLESTEROL TESTING. OUR COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS ARE PROVING TO BE SUCH A VALUABLE TOOL TO HELP EDUCATE OUR PUBLIC. THANKS TO THEM FOR ADDING TO OUR PRESENCE IN THE COMMUNITY. OUR MONTHLY TRIVIA PROGRAM CONTINUES TO DRAW IN PLAYERS AND TEAMS TO PLAY. IT WAS A HEALTHY....HAPPY SEPTEMBER.

-Nancy -INTERIM ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

SHELBY COUNTY Libraries

YOUTH OUTREACH

1
CLASSROOM AND SCHOOL VISIT WITH LONGFELLOW

163
TOTAL STUDENTS

- WE WERE DOWNTOWN FOR THE KIDS DAY OF PLAY AND PASSED OUT GOODIE BAGS AND PLAYED A FISHING GAME. WE SAW LOTS OF FAMILIES AND 163 KIDS!
- I COORDINATED STORYTIMES FOR 7 PRESCHOOLS STARTING IN OCTOBER
- JESSIE AND I WENT TO LONGFELLOW FOR A MEETING WITH THE TEACHERS ABOUT A COLLABERATION FOR ONE BOOK,ONE SCHOOL.

-Mandy

-YOUTH OUTREACH COORDINATOR

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

- SEPTEMBER WAS BUSTLING WITH STORY TIMES, TUESDAY PROGRAMS, AND PLENTY OF PASSIVE FUN. CHILDREN AND THEIR GROWN-UPS ENJOYED THREE STORY TIMES WITH JESSIE, EACH PAIRED WITH A THEMED CRAFT AND SNACK.

- EARLY IN THE MONTH, PATRONS OF ALL AGES JOINED US FOR THE BRICK BY BRICK: LEGO AND A MOVIE PROGRAM. LATER, THE STORIES ON THE STAGE SERIES KICKED OFF WITH A VERY POPULAR TEDDY BEAR SLEEPOVER. PARTICIPANTS AND THEIR SECOND FAVORITE STUFFIE ENJOYED STORIES, SONGS, AND A CRAFT BEFORE TUCKING THEIR FURRY FRIENDS IN FOR THE NIGHT. AS ALWAYS, SOME STUFFIES GOT INTO A LITTLE MISCHIEF, AND PHOTOS OF THEIR ADVENTURES WERE SHARED ON FACEBOOK.

- WE WRAPPED UP SEPTEMBER STORY TIMES WITH A SPECIAL OUTDOOR SESSION AT RENNER SANCTUARY, LED BY SHELBY COUNTY SOIL AND WATER REPRESENTATIVE AMANDA HURLEY. DESPITE THE RAIN, FAMILIES GATHERED TO CELEBRATE THE CHANGING LEAVES; NATURE TRULY STOLE THE SHOW.

- THE MONTH ENDED ON A HIGH-ENERGY NOTE WITH OUR BACK-TO-SCHOOL NERF WAR! PARTICIPANTS BATTLED THROUGH THREE DIFFERENT GAMES WHILE DODGING DARTS AND CAPTURING THE FLAG. NERF WARS AT THE LIBRARY ARE NO JOKE, AND IF YOU HAPPEN TO SPOT A STRAY DART WHILE BROWSING THE SHELVES, NOW YOU KNOW WHY!

-Jessie
-YOUTH SERVICES

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LOOKING BACK:
A Month of Enriching Moments

YOUTH SERVICES EVENTS

TEEN SERVICES

2-7 TEEN THURSDAYS

1 TAG MEETING

I STARTED PROGRAMMING BACK UP IN SEPTEMBER. ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, I HAD MY FIRST TAG (TEEN ADVISORY GROUP) MEETING OF THE SCHOOL YEAR. I ONLY HAD ONE TEEN ATTEND, BUT HAD OTHERS CONTACT ME INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING WHO WEREN'T ABLE TO MAKE IT TO THE MEETING. I AM DOING TEEN THURSDAYS AGAIN EACH WEEK, WHICH IS A PROGRAM WHERE TEENS CAN COME FOR AN HOUR AFTERSCHOOL TO PLAY VIDEO GAMES OR BOARD GAMES, DO CRAFTS, AND HAVE A SNACK. I HAD BETWEEN 2-7 TEENS FOR THIS PROGRAM EACH WEEK. IT WAS A SLOW START, BUT I'M HOPING IT WILL PICK UP IN OCTOBER ONCE THEY ARE BACK INTO THE SCHOOL ROUTINE FOR AWHILE. GRACE ALSO DID A NERF WARS AFTER HOURS ON SEPTEMBER 19, AND SHE HAD 8 TEEN VOLUNTEERS FROM SIDNEY'S KEY CLUB/BUILDERS CLUB WHO CAME TO HELP WITH THE PROGRAM.

ON SEPTEMBER 23, WE HAD TWO GROUPS OF TEENS FROM CHRISTIAN ACADEMY VISIT THE LIBRARY. I HAD A FAMILY EMERGENCY AND WASN'T ABLE TO BE HERE BUT MANDY DID A GREAT JOB TAKE MY PLACE! THE FIRST GROUP HAD 15 STUDENTS IN THE 9TH GRADE AND THE SECOND GROUP HAD 17 STUDENTS IN GRADES 10-12. MANDY TOLD THEM ABOUT SOME OF THE TEEN PROGRAMS, POINTED OUT THE DIFFERENT AREAS OF THE LIBRARY, AND MENTIONED THE 100 BOOKS BY GRADUATION PROGRAM. THEN, THE STUDENTS DID A SCAVENGER HUNT WHERE THEY HADTO FIND DIFFERENT THINGS THROUGHOUT THE LIBRARY. THE TEAM WITH THE MOST CORRECT ANSWERS WHEN TIME WAS UP WON A SMALL PRIZE.

-Cindy
TEEN SERVICES COORDINATOR

100 BOOKS BY GRADUATION

For the 100 Books By Graduation program, we have had 64 teens registered and 880 books recorded since starting the program in 2021. We've had 6 teens who have completed the 25 book check-in, 2 teens who has completed the 50 book check-in, and 3 teens who have finished the program by completing the 100 book check-in!

SEPTEMBER PASSIVE PROGRAMS IN THE TEEN ROOM

- Back to School I SPY - 13
- Pizza Combos Guessing Jar - 35
- Picture Mosaic - 47
- Monthly Take & Make Craft
  - (Make your own comic book for National Comic Book Day on September 25) - 20

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TECHNOLOGY

- COORDINATED LOW VOLTAGE TECHNICIANS TO FIX THE COMMUNITY ROOM AUDIO SYSTEM AND LAPEL MICROPHONE
- FIXED ONLINE SELECTION & ACQUISITIONS TO CORRECTLY DISPLAY ON ORDER TITLES IN PAC
- CORRECTED ALL HOOPLA RECORDS IN PAC TO ACCURATELY REFLECT AVAILABLE TITLES
- COORDINATED RECORDING 15 WEEKS WORTH OF DIAL-A-STORIES CELEBRATING DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY.

-Bob
-STEM LAB COORDINATOR

- CONTACTED LOW VOLTAGE FOR A NEW CAMERA QUOTE FOR AREAS WITH LOW VISIBILITY. THEY WILL ALSO BE REPAIRING THE PROJECTOR LIGHT.
- COMPLETED LIBRARY STATISTICS FOR AUGUST.
- INSTALLED TEAMS AT THE LOCATIONS FOR EASY COMMUNICATION WITH ALL STAFF.
- UPDATED OUR PASSWORD LOG
- STARTED A COMMITTEE TO ASSIST WITH THE 250TH SHELBY COUNTY ANNIVERSARY.
- ATTENDED A LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE IN FINDLAY.

-Becki
-TECH COORDINATOR

10 PEOPLE ATTENDED

REPURPOSED TEACUP CRAFT

ADULT PROGRAMMING

MAKERSPACE

$555.00 Money In

36 Number of Appointments

- SEPTEMBER WAS A JAM-PACKED MONTH IN THE MAKERSPACE, WITH 36 APPOINTMENTS AND A TWO NIGHT PROGRAM. THE MAKERSPACE CONTINUES TO DO A BULK OF ITS APPOINTMENTS WITH THE LARGE FORMAT PRINTER, COMRPISING JUST UNDER HALF OF ALL APPOINTMENTS FOR THE MONTH. THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM WAS CUSTOMIZED HOME SIGNS, WHERE PATRONS WERE ABLE TO ADD A PHOTO OR DESIGN TO A METAL PLATE THAT WAS AFFIXED TO THE LETTER "O" IN HOME. THIS WAS SMALLER PROGRAM, WITH ONLY 10 PARTICIPANTS, BUT ALL WERE EXCITED TO TAKE HOME THEIR NEW DECOR.
- THIS MONTH IN THE MAKERSPACE, WE ASSISTED SEVERAL LOCAL BUSINESS AND ORGANZIATIONS, INCLUDING:
  - THE ELDER THEATER
  - SIDNEY ALIVE
  - THE SIDNEY-SHELBY ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP
  - FAIRLAWN LOCAL SCHOOL
  - SIDNEY SHELBY COUNTY YMCA
  - SIDNEY FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
  - SIDNEY FIRST METHODIST CHURCH
  - MOONFLOWER EFFECT
  - SHELBY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

-Bob
-STEM LAB COORDINATOR

SHELBY COUNTY Libraries

MARKETING AND DEVELOPMENT

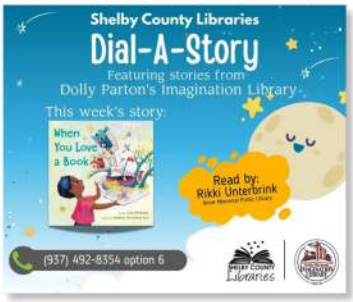
- I CREATED PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS FOR THE DOWNTOWN FALL FESTIVAL - CELEBRATING 10 YEAR'S OF DOLLY PARTON IMAGINATION LIBRARY
- UPDATE SCL JOB APPLICATION FOR CANVA
- I BEGAN POSTING ALL SOCIAL MEDIA CONTENT AS JENNY AND MISSY ARE FOCUSING ON OTHER PROJECTS
- JENNY, BECKI AND I MET WITH THE FT. LORAMIE VILLAGE COUNCIL TO GET APPROVAL FOR A STORYWALK IN REDSKIN PARK - THE VILLAGE APPROVED OF THE PROJECT AND NOW WE ARE WORKING ON FUNDING.
- WORKED WITH MANDY TO HELP PREPARE MATERIALS FOR HER UPCOMING CLASSROOM VISITS
- DESIGNED AND ORDER NEW FOLDERS FOR PATRONS SIGNING UP FOR LIBRARY CARDS. FOLDERS WILL CONTAIN INFORMATION ABOUT RESOURCES AND UPCOMING LIBRARY PROGRAMS

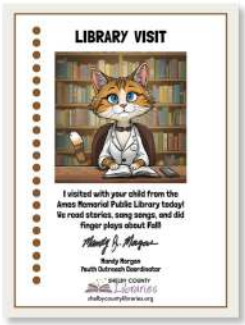
444
DESIGNS VIEWED

IN THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER FOR CANVA I HAD:

- 94 DESIGNS CREATED
- 221 DESIGNS PUBLISHED
- 14 LINKS SHARED
- 444 DESIGNS VIEWED

-Cassandra
DIRECTOR OF MARKETING & DEVELOPMENT





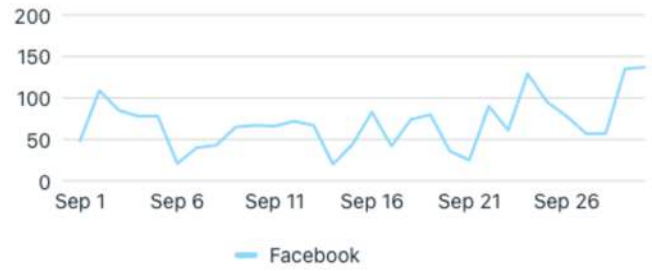
SHELBY COUNTY Libraries

FACEBOOK

September Stats

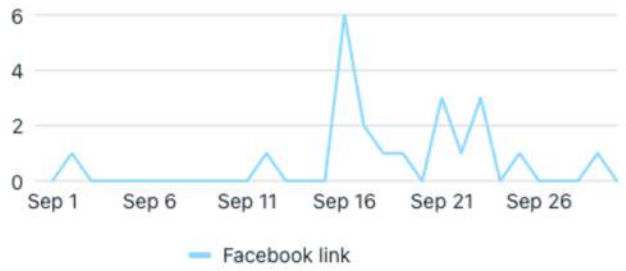
Visits

2.1K ↑ 96%



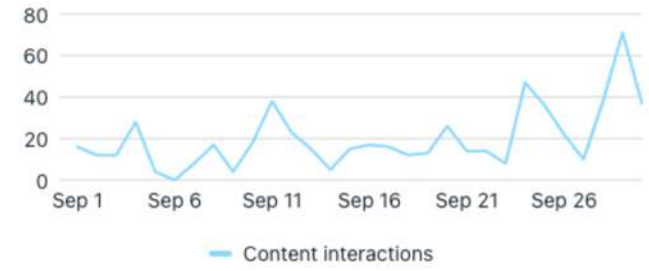
Link clicks

21 ↑ 162.5%



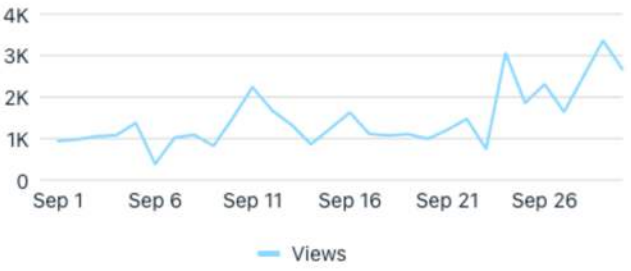
Content interactions

596 ↑ 279.6%



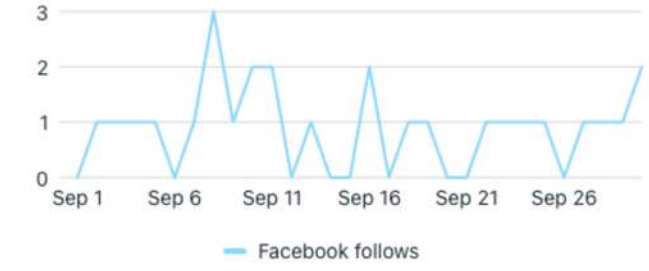
Views

44.4K ↑ 188.5%



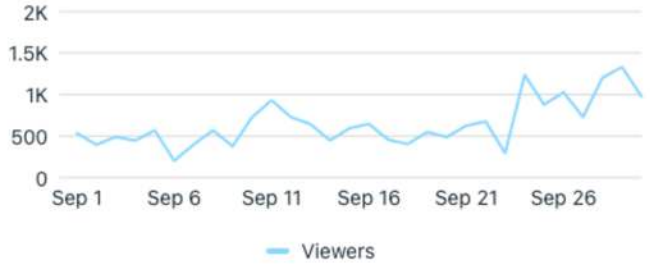
Follows

27 ↑ 145.5%



Viewers

6.3K ↑ 94.5%



WEBSITE

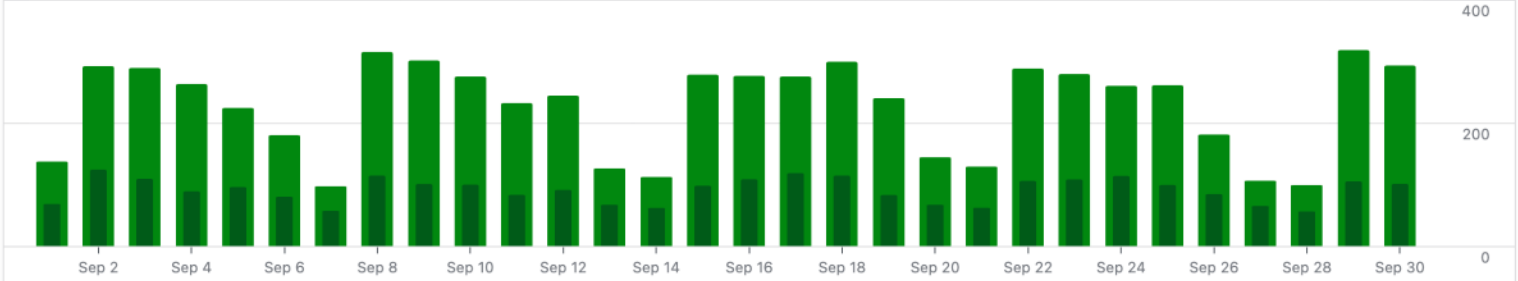
Septmeber Stats

September 2025

← → Sep 1 - Sep 30, 2025

Views

Views Visitors Days



Views	Visitors	Likes	Comments
6.8K ↑ 3%	2.7K ↓ 4%	0	0

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Hoopla	91

View all

COMMUNITY LOCATIONS

FALL IS IN FULL SWING AT OUR COMMUNITY LOCATIONS, AND THE LIBRARIES HAVE BEEN BUZZING WITH ACTIVITY! FROM LEAF STAMPING AND LEGO BUILDING TO BARNYARD CRAFTS, BINGO NIGHTS, AND EVEN SPICE BAGS TO TAKE HOME, THERE'S BEEN SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE TO ENJOY. OUR STAFF AND SPECIAL GUESTS HAVE KEPT KIDS AND FAMILIES LEARNING, CREATING, AND LAUGHING TOGETHER.

7 ADULTS

PUZZLE PANDEMONIUM

ANNA COMMUNITY LIBRARY

STORYTIME GOT LEAF-TASTIC THIS MONTH WITH LEAVES, LEAVES, AND MORE LEAVES! FIFTEEN PRESCHOOLERS GIGGLED THROUGH FALL-THEMED STORIES BEFORE DIVING INTO A COLORFUL CRAFT. SHEILA S. GATHERED LEAVES OF ALL SHAPES AND SIZES, AND THE KIDS PAINTED AND "STAMPED" THEM TO REVEAL THE DELICATE PATTERNS. THE RESULTS WERE AS UNIQUE AS THE LEAVES THEMSELVES—AND THE KIDS LOVED IT! ALL SEPTEMBER LONG, FAMILIES ALSO HUNTED THROUGH THE LIBRARY WITH FOUR DIFFERENT WEEKLY I SPY CHALLENGES. NINETY KIDS JOINED THE FUN!

BOTKINS COMMUNITY LIBRARY

KENDRA AND MICHALIA ARE BACK IN FULL SWING WITH PROGRAMS. LEGO BUILDERS NEVER DISAPPOINTS—25 CREATIVE KIDS FILLED THE LIBRARY OVER TWO DAYS WITH THEIR IMAGINATIVE BUILDS. PRESCHOOLERS ALSO GOT A TREAT WHEN SPECIAL GUEST READER RYLEE KAY PUTHOFF FROM THE OSU EXTENSION OFFICE CAME TO SHARE STORIES. NINE LITTLE LISTENERS GATHERED IN FOR THIS COZY STORYTIME.

FT. LORAMIE COMMUNITY LIBRARY

BECKI AND PAM HOSTED A SATURDAY MORNING CARTOONS & CRAFT PARTY FEATURING THE MOVIE BARNYARD! WHILE THE FARMYARD ANIMALS PLAYED ON SCREEN, 24 KIDS CRAFTED THEIR OWN BARNYARD-THEMED CREATIONS TO TAKE HOME. LATER, AT GAME ZONE, KIDS HAD THEIR PICK OF BOARD GAMES, CARD GAMES, COMPUTER GAMES, AND THE TOUCH TABLE. EIGHT GAMERS SHOWED UP READY FOR SOME FRIENDLY COMPETITION!

COMMUNITY LOCATIONS

JACKSON CENTER COMMUNITY LIBRARY

DEB'S FAMOUS GRAB-AND-GO SPICE BAGS ARE FLYING OFF THE SHELVES—35 BAGS PACKED WITH A SPICE-OF-THE-MONTH SAMPLE AND SIX RECIPE CARDS DISAPPEAR IN LESS THAN 10 DAYS! CHERYL AND DEB ALSO HOSTED A LIVELY BACK TO SCHOOL BINGO FOR K–5 STUDENTS. WITH BOWLS OF POPCORN AND PLENTY OF PRIZES, 15 KIDS PLAYED ROUND AFTER ROUND OF BINGO FUN.

11 KIDS
LOOKING FOR LEAVES
AMANDA HURLEY - SWCD

RUSSIA COMMUNITY LIBRARY

JULIE AND BETH ARE BUSY PREPPING FOR COZY FALL AND WINTER PROGRAMS. BOOK BUDDIES IS BACK FOR GRADES 2–4, AND THIS TIME THE GROUP IS READING THE PUG WHO WANTED TO BE A PUMPKIN. FOURTEEN KIDS FOLLOWED ALONG WITH THEIR OWN COPIES, ASKED GREAT QUESTIONS, AND ARE GETTING READY TO ACE THEIR ACCELERATED READER TESTS. TO ROUND OUT THE MONTH, AMANDA HURLEY FROM SWCD DROPPED IN FOR A CONSERVATION STORYTIME ALL ABOUT "LOOKING AT LEAVES." KIDS LEARNED ABOUT LEAF PARTS, WHY THEY MATTER, AND GOT A NEW APPRECIATION FOR THE NATURE ALL AROUND THEM.

10 RESIDENTS
DOROTHY LOVE
WATERCOLOR PAINTING

ADULT OUTREACH

THIS MONTH WE ROTATED 780 LARGE PRINT BOOKS, AUDIOBOOKS, AND MOVIES TO THREE NURSING HOMES—KEEPING SHELVES FRESH AND FULL OF FAVORITES! THE LARGE PRINT COLLECTION ALSO GOT A NEW HOME UPSTAIRS BY NON-FICTION, GIVING IT ROOM TO GROW. NANCY AND I BROUGHT SOME AUTUMN CREATIVITY TO DOROTHY LOVE APARTMENTS, WHERE 10 RESIDENTS PAINTED BEAUTIFUL FALL WATERCOLORS. THE BEST PART? THEY TOOK HOME BOTH THEIR MASTERPIECES AND THE PAINTS TO KEEP THE CREATIVITY FLOWING!

SHELBY COUNTY Libraries

-Jenny
ADULT OUTREACH COORDINATOR