LOOKING BACK:
A Month of Enriching Moments

OCTOBER 2025 | ISSUE #10

> *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 DIRECTOR

A WARM WELCOME AND AN EXCITING BEGINNING

STARTING MY JOURNEY AS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF SHELBY COUNTY LIBRARIES HAS BEEN AN INCREDIBLE EXPERIENCE, FILLED WITH WELCOMING SMILES, INSPIRING CONVERSATIONS, AND MEMORABLE FIRST IMPRESSIONS. FROM THE VERY BEGINNING, I HAVE FELT EMBRACED BY OUR STAFF, BOARD MEMBERS, AND PATRONS. IT QUICKLY BECAME CLEAR THAT OUR LIBRARY SYSTEM IS NOT JUST A PLACE TO BORROW BOOKS; IT IS THE HEART OF OUR COMMUNITIES. EACH LIBRARY IS FILLED WITH PEOPLE WHO CARE DEEPLY ABOUT MAKING A DIFFERENCE, AND SEEING THAT PASSION IN ACTION HAS BEEN TRULY INSPIRING. THE ENTHUSIASM, CREATIVITY, AND DEDICATION I HAVE WITNESSED SO FAR MAKE ME PROUD TO LEAD THIS REMARKABLE TEAM.

SOME OF THE HIGHLIGHTS HAVE BEEN VISITING EACH OF OUR COMMUNITY LOCATIONS AND PARTICIPATING IN EVENTS HERE IN SIDNEY. EVERY VISIT GAVE ME A DEEPER APPRECIATION FOR HOW MUCH OUR LIBRARIES MEAN TO THE PEOPLE WE SERVE. WHETHER IT WAS SEEING CHILDREN LIGHT UP DURING STORYTIME, WATCHING TEENS GATHER IN CREATIVE SPACES, OR HEARING HOW OUR PROGRAMS SUPPORT LIFELONG LEARNERS, I WITNESSED THE POSITIVE IMPACT OUR LIBRARIES HAVE EVERY DAY. EVERY LOCATION HAS ITS OWN PERSONALITY AND STRENGTHS, YET THEY ALL SHARE ONE COMMON PURPOSE: TO CONNECT, EDUCATE, AND EMPOWER.

AS I CONTINUE TO SETTLE INTO THIS ROLE, I AM GRATEFUL FOR THE STRONG FOUNDATION THAT HAS BEEN BUILT HERE AND FOR THE INCREDIBLE TEAM THAT MAKES IT THRIVE. AS WE LOOK TOWARD THE FUTURE, I AM EXCITED TO BUILD UPON THIS GREAT WORK, EXPLORE NEW IDEAS, AND FIND FRESH WAYS TO SERVE OUR COMMUNITIES. YOU WILL CONTINUE TO SEE ME POPPING INTO OUR LOCATIONS AND ATTENDING EVENTS, AND I ENCOURAGE INDIVIDUALS TO REACH OUT —NEVER HESITATE TO STOP ME IN THE HALLWAY, SEND AN EMAIL, OR GIVE ME A CALL IF I CAN BE OF HELP. TOGETHER, WE WILL CONTINUE TO GROW, REACH NEW HEIGHTS, AND MAKE SURE OUR LIBRARIES REMAIN WELCOMING AND INSPIRING SPACES FOR EVERY INDIVIDUAL WHO WALKS THROUGH OUR DOORS.

I LOOK FORWARD TO THIS JOURNEY AND CAN'T WAIT TO SEE ALL THAT WE'LL ACCOMPLISH TOGETHER!

_Dr. Jenna Brinkman
-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

IN THE PAST MONTH, WE VISITED 45 CLASSROOMS ACROSS 10 DIFFERENT PRESCHOOL SETTINGS.

TOTAL STUDENTS
700

WE SAW A TOTAL OF 700 PRESCHOOLERS. WE ALSO HAD A 1ST GRADE GROUP FROM HARDIN-HOUSTON COME VISIT WITH 55 STUDENTS! SO EXCITING.

Mandy
-YOUTH OUTREACH COORDINATOR

SHELBY COUNTY Libraries

YOUTH SERVICES

412
Adults and Children in attendence

- IT'S THE SEASON OF THE GREAT PUMPKIN! WE WERE DELIGHTED WHEN A LOCAL FARMER DONATED MORE THAN 100 PUMPKINS AND GOURDS TO GIVE AWAY FOR FREE.
- WE ARE ALSO WORKING ON CATALOGUING MORE THAN 70 SPROUT EDUCATIONAL TOY & BOOK BACKPACKS THAT WERE DONATED BY 4C FOR CHILDREN. THEY HAVE LOTS OF FUN THEMES INCLUDING BUGS, COOKIE COMPREHENSION, FISH COUNTING AND MORE.
- VERY SUCCESSFUL FALL FESTIVAL. WE PARTNERED WITH POWER (GRANT FOR BOOKS), SIDNEY ALIVE, AND THE IMAGINATION LIBRARY TEAM. ALMOST 40 LOCAL GROUPS AND VENDORS HAD BOOTHS TO HELP CELEBRATE THE 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF IMAGINATION LIBRARY.
- SIDNEY MIDDLE SCHOOL PEARLS & TIES VISITED DOROTHY LOVE AND THE LANDINGS TO DECORATE COOKIES, MAKE CRAFTS, AND PLAY GAMES WITH RESIDENTS. I'M SO PROUD TO BE A MENTOR FOR THE GIRLS IN THIS GROUP.
- MY TRANSITION BACK TO THE YOUTH SERVICES DEPARTMENT HAS GONE VERY SMOOTHLY. I'M DELIGHTED TO SHARE AN OFFICE WITH THE JOYFUL MANDY WHO IS ALREADY DOING A GREAT JOB AS YOUTH OUTREACH COORDINATOR.
- IN NOVEMBER WE ARE EXCITED TO KICK OF THE BRAND NEW CULTURAL ARTS PASS FOR GATEWAY ARTS COUNCIL PRESENTS SERIES SHOWS. PATRONS WILL BE ABLE TO CHECK OUT A PASS TO ATTEND A LIVE CONCERT FOR FREE.
- ALSO JUST RELEASED IN OUR CATALOG ARE TONIE BOXES AND TONIE FIGURES PURCHASED WITH MATCH DAY FUNDS. FAMILIES CAN CHECK OUT AN INTERACTIVE SOUND BOX AND POPULAR CHARACTERS THAT WILL TELL STORIES AND SING SONGS.

Rikki -YOUTH SERVICES DIRECTOR

SHELBY COUNTY Libraries

LOOKING BACK:
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YOUTH SERVICES EVENTS

TEEN SERVICES

8-16 TEEN THURSDAYS

24 TEEN VOLUNTEERS

OCTOBER WAS A BUSY MONTH IN AND OUT OF THE TEEN ROOM. GRACE DID A TAYLOR SWIFT AFTER HOURS ON OCTOBER 3 AND SHE HAD 1 TEEN VOLUNTEER TO HELP WITH THE PROGRAM. JESSIE DID A BRICK BY BRICK LEGO PROGRAM ON OCTOBER 7 AND SHE HAD 1 TEEN ATTEND. I ALSO HAD 1 TEEN COME IN ON OCTOBER 28 TO PUT UP A NEW BOOK DISPLAY OUTSIDE THE TEEN ROOM. I HAD TO CANCEL MY TAG MEETING DUE TO ILLNESS, BUT WE DID A HALLOWEEN THEMED TEEN THURSDAY AT THE END OF THE MONTH THAT THE TEENS REALLY SEEMED TO ENJOY. THEY MADE DIRT PUDDING WITH OREOS, MARSHMALLOW GHOSTS AND CANDY PUMPKINS AND THEN WE PLAYED HALLOWEEN BINGO.

ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11, WE HAD A COMBINED FALL FESTIVAL AND 10 YEAR CELEBRATION OF DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY HERE IN SHELBY COUNTY. WE HAD STATIONS SET UP IN THE COMMUNITY ROOM, OUTSIDE ON THE LIBRARY LAWN, AND ALSO SOME DOWNTOWN ON THE COURT SQUARE. EACH ORGANIZATION/BUSINESS THAT HAD A STATION PROVIDED AN ACTIVITY (CRAFT, GAME, GIVEAWAY) THAT WENT ALONG WITH ONE OF THE IMAGINATION LIBRARY BOOKS. WE HAD A GREAT TURN OUT, PROBABLY AROUND 200-300 PEOPLE TOTAL INCLUDING KIDS AND ADULTS. WE ALSO HAD 22 TEEN VOLUNTEERS FROM MY LIBRARY TAG GROUP, AS WELL AS SIDNEY SCHOOL'S BUILDER CLUB AND KEY CLUB WHO HELPED WITH SOME OF THE STATIONS.

-Cindy
TEEN SERVICES COORDINATOR

100 BOOKS BY GRADUATION

For the 100 Books By Graduation program, we have had 64 teens registered and 883 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!

OCTOBER PASSIVE PROGRAMS IN THE TEEN ROOM

- Harry Potter Book Day Basket Giveaway - 38
- Halloween Word Scramble - 3
- Picture Mosaic - 18

SHELBY COUNTY Libraries

TECHNOLOGY

- OCTOBER WAS FOCUSED ON UPCOMING CHANGES FOR THE LIBRARY WITH THE NEW CYBERSECURITY PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS BECAUSE OF ORC 9.64, PART OF THE BIENNIAL BUDGET. THESE CHANGES WILL FOCUS ON ENSURING THE SECURITY OF OUR DATA, WHO HAS ACCESS AND WHEN, AND INCIDENT RESPONSE PLAN. I ALSO COORDINATED WITH LOW VOLTAGE SOLUTIONS FOR TWO PROJECTS - COMMUNITY ROOM PROJECTOR BULB REPLACEMENT AND NEW CAMERA INSTALL. I ALSO UPDATED ALL ENTRY KEY FOBS TO ACCURATELY REFLECT CURRENT STAFFING.

-Bob

-STEM LAB COORDINATOR

- OCTOBER WAS A BUSY MONTH. I MADE VISITS TO JACKSON CENTER AND ANNA LOCATIONS FOR UNRULY PUBLIC PRINTERS AND PC ISSUES.
  CONTACED LOW VOLTAGE TO CORRECT AN OVERCHARGE THEY MADE ON OUR LAST BILL FOR THE PROJECTOR BULB. I ALSO CONTACTED RELIABLE ON AN OVERCHARGE FOR CHANGING THE WIFI TIMER, WHICH THEY WAIVED.
  COMPLETED THE STATISTICS FOR SEPTEMBER.
  MET WITH BOB & SHEILA LUNDY FOR THE 250TH COMMITTEE.

-Becki

-TECH COORDINATOR

12 PEOPLE ATTENDED

LAYERED ART ADULT CRAFT

ADULT PROGRAMMING

$893.18
Money In

51
Number of Appointments

MAKERSPACE

- OCTOBER WAS A BOOMING MONTH IN THE MAKERSPACE. WE ALMOST BROKE THE RECORD NUMBER OF APPOINTMENTS WITH 51 SCHEDULED VISITS TO THE MAKERSPACE. IN ADDITION TO PATRON USAGE, THE LAYERED ART CRAFT PROJECT, USING A CRAFT CUT OUT ON OUR SILHOUETTE CAMEO, WAS A HIT WITH 12 PARTICIPANTS. THESE PARTICIPANTS HAVE ASKED FOR MORE OF THESE EVENTS, AND I AM PLANNING TO CREATE ONE OF THESE CRAFTS FOR EACH MAJOR HOLIDAY IN 2026. DURING THE LAST WEEKS OF OCTOBER, CASSANDRA AND I INTERVIEWED 5 CANDIDATES FOR THE MAKERSPACE/MARKETING ASSISTANT POSITION, AND HOPE TO HAVE THE ASSISTANT ROLE FILLED IN THE COMING WEEKS. SEVERAL LOCAL PARENTS VISITED THE MAKERSPACE IN OCTOBER TO PRINT BANNERS FOR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS' LAST GAMES, TEAMS ADVANCING TO STATE, AND MORE EVENTS. LOCAL ORGRANIZATIONS, SUCH AS HOPE COLLECTIVE CHURCH, THE SIDNEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, SIDNEY HISTORIC THEATER, THE SIDNEY-SHELBY ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP, THE LINK OF SHELBY COUNTY, AND THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF SHELBY COUNTY ALL UTILIZED THE MAKERSPACE TO FURTHER THEIR MISSIONS. NOVEMBER LOOKS TO BE JUST AS BUSY WITH A VISIT TO SIDNEY HIGH SCHOOL, AN ENGRAVED CUTTING BOARD PROGRAM, AND THE OHIO LIBRARY COUNCIL CONFERENCE AND CONVENTION!

-Bob

-STEM LAB COORDINATOR

SHELBY COUNTY Libraries

MARKETING AND DEVELOPMENT

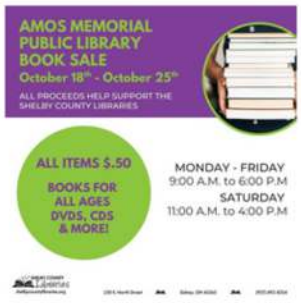
IN THE MONTH OF OCTOTBER FOR CANVA I HAD:

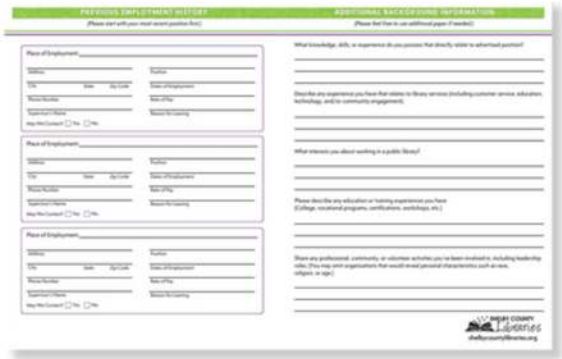
- 64 DESIGNS CREATED
- 147 DESIGNS PUBLISHED
- 19 LINKS SHARED
- 382 DESIGNS VIEWED

- RIKKI AND I HANDED OUT BUCKEYES MADE BY CHELSEA TO OVER A HUNDRED COMMUNITY MEMBERS DURING THE CHOCOLATE WALK
- BOB AND I INTERVIEWED 5 CANDIDATES FOR THE MAKERSPACE/MARKETING ASSISTANT POSITION, AND HOPE TO HAVE THE ASSISTANT ROLE FILLED IN THE COMING WEEKS
- SEVERAL STAFF MEMBERS AND I ATTENDED THE WILSON HEALTH FAIR FOR THEIR EMPLOYEES. WE HANDED OUT PROMOTIONAL ITEMS AND PROMOTED SEVERAL OF OUR RESOURCES
- IN NOVEMBER WE ARE EXCITED TO KICK OF THE BRAND NEW CULTURAL ARTS PASS FOR GATEWAY ARTS COUNCIL PRESENTS SERIES SHOWS. PATRONS WILL BE ABLE TO CHECK OUT A PASS TO ATTEND A LIVE CONCERT FOR FREE.
- I UPDATED OUR JOB APPLICATIONS TO FIT WITH OUR BRAND AND WILL START USING THEM IN NOVEMBER

-Cassandra
DIRECTOR OF MARKETING & DEVELOPMENT

CUSTOM LABELS FOR CHOCOLATE WALK





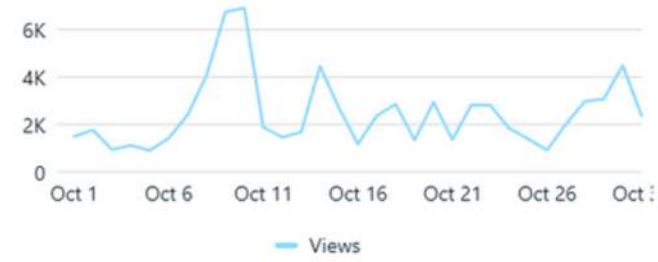
SHELBY COUNTY Libraries

FACEBOOK

October Stats

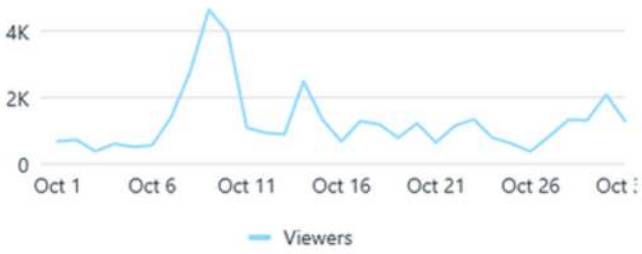
Views

76.5K ↑ 67.3%



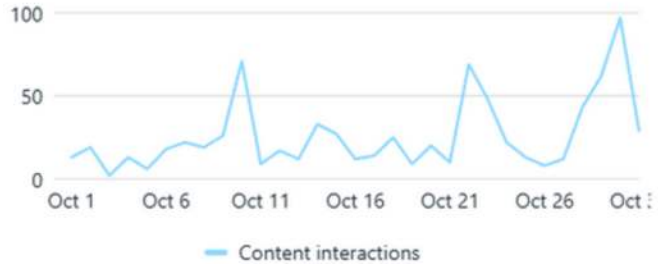
Viewers

17K ↑ 161.8%



Content interactions

800 ↑ 29.7%



Link clicks

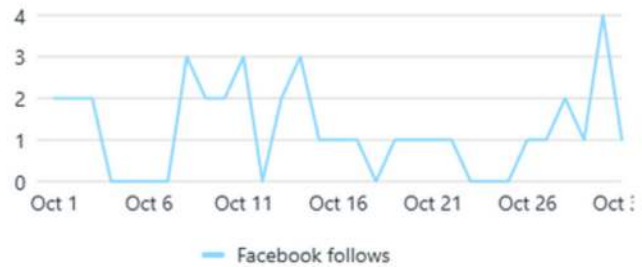
61 ↑ 190.5%

Visits

2.4K ↑ 12.2%

Follows

38 ↑ 31%



WEBSITE

October Stats

October 2025

Oct 1 - Oct 31, 2025

Views	Visitors	Likes	Comments
7.9K ↑ 14%	3.2K ↑ 14%	0	0

Clicks

Clicks	Views
shelbyco.tlcdelivers.com	1,466
shelbycountylibraries.org	91
www.hoopladigital.com	53
shelbycolib.setmore.com/makerspace	47
www.abcmouse.com	42
ohdbks.overdrive.com	36
newspaperslibrary.proquest.com/barcode?accountid=3769	24
ohioweblibrary.org	19
libbyapp.com	18
shelbycounty.freegalmusic.com	7

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Home	3,657
Amos Memorial Public Library - Sidney	321
Getting a Library Card	214
Amos Memorial Public Library	168
Staff Directory	160
Careers	158
Makerspace	128
Fort Loramie AJ Wise Community Library	126
Digital Library	125
Jackson Center Memorial Community Library	113

View all

COMMUNITY LOCATIONS

AS THE WEATHER TURNS COLDER AND THE HOLIDAYS APPROACH, OUR COMMUNITY LIBRARIES ARE BUSY PREPARING SEASONAL PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES FOR ALL AGES. STAFF AT EACH LOCATION ARE PLANNING FUN AND ENGAGING EVENTS TO BRING THE COMMUNITY TOGETHER. WE ALSO SAID GOODBYE TO JULIE AND ARE CURRENTLY HIRING A NEW COMMUNITY LOCATION COORDINATOR AT RUSSIA.

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ATTENDED HALLOWEEN BINGO AT BOTKINS

ANNA COMMUNITY LIBRARY

SHEILA S. AND SHEILA L. HAVE BEEN KEEPING THINGS LIVELY AT THE ANNA COMMUNITY LIBRARY THIS MONTH. ADULTS GATHERED FOR CHAPTER CHAT TO DISCUSS THE GUEST COTTAGE BY LORI FOSTER, SHARING THEIR THOUGHTS OVER REFRESHMENTS AND GOOD CONVERSATION. SIX READERS ATTENDED AND ENJOYED DIVING INTO THE STORY TOGETHER. LATER IN THE MONTH, THINGS GOT A LITTLE SPOOKY AT THE HALLOWEEN DRESS-UP PARTY, WHERE 33 KIDS FROM PREK THROUGH 4TH GRADE JOINED IN FOR STORIES, GAMES, AND POPCORN. EVERYONE HAD A FRIGHTFULLY FUN TIME!

BOTKINS COMMUNITY LIBRARY

KENDRA AND MICHALIA HAVE BEEN BUSY CREATING FUN AND MEMORABLE MOMENTS AT THE BOTKINS COMMUNITY LIBRARY. EACH WEEK, SCHOOL CLASSES WALK OVER TO CHECK OUT BOOKS, AND IN OCTOBER ALONE THEY WELCOMED 22 CLASSES WITH 365 STUDENTS AND TEACHERS! DURING THE TOWN'S TRICK-OR-TREAT NIGHT, THEY HANDED OUT CANDY TO MORE THAN 100 EXCITED KIDS. THE LIBRARY ALSO HOSTED A HALLOWEEN BINGO EVENT FOR 3RD–6TH GRADERS, WHERE KIDS CAME DRESSED IN THEIR COSTUMES, ENJOYED POPCORN, AND PLAYED FOR SOME SPOOKTACULAR PRIZES!

FT. LORAMIE COMMUNITY LIBRARY

REBECCA AND PAM BROUGHT SOME SATURDAY FUN TO THE FORT LORAMIE COMMUNITY LIBRARY WITH CARTOONS AND A CRAFT, FEATURING THE MOVIE HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA. FIFTEEN ATTENDEES OF ALL AGES ENJOYED THE FILM AND CREATIVE ACTIVITIES TOGETHER. EXCITING PLANS ARE ALSO UNDERWAY FOR A STORYWALK® AT REDSKIN MEMORIAL PARK. THE LIBRARY HAS RECEIVED A QUOTE AND IS CURRENTLY WORKING ON SECURING FUNDING. WE'RE AWAITING APPROVAL FROM THE VILLAGE ON THE MOUNTING BRACKETS FOR THE FRAMES, WITH HOPES TO HAVE THE STORYWALK® INSTALLED AND READY FOR THE COMMUNITY TO ENJOY BY SPRING.

COMMUNITY LOCATIONS

JACKSON CENTER COMMUNITY LIBRARY

CHERYL AND DEB HAVE BEEN BUSY WITH A VARIETY OF PROGRAMMING THIS OCTOBER. THEY KICKED OFF THE MONTH WITH A FALL FESTIVAL, DRAWING 93 ATTENDEES WHO ENJOYED A NACHO BAR, GAMES, CRAFTS, PRIZES, AND A TRACTOR-PULLED HAY RIDE. THEY ALSO HOSTED TWO FRIDAY FAMILY STORYTIMES, WITH 23 PARTICIPANTS. ONE STORYTIME FOCUSED ON "UP IN ARMS" ABOUT OCTOPUSES, WHILE THE OTHER CELEBRATED FIRE PREVENTION WEEK WITH A FIREFIGHTER THEME. ADDITIONALLY, JENNY AND CHERYL ATTENDED A VILLAGE MEETING TO DISCUSS INSTALLING A STORYWALK AT WALLY BYAM PARK IN JACKSON CENTER. WHILE THE COUNCIL SEEMED SUPPORTIVE, WE ARE STILL AWAITING FINAL APPROVAL FOR THE PROJECT.

93 KIDS & ADULTS
FOR THE FALL FESTIVAL AT JACKSON CENTER

RUSSIA COMMUNITY LIBRARY

THE RUSSIA COMMUNITY LIBRARY WRAPPED UP ITS BOOK BUDDIES PROGRAM, WHICH BEGAN IN SEPTEMBER. FOURTEEN ENTHUSIASTIC KIDS ATTENDED EVERY SESSION TO FINISH READING THE PUG WHO WANTS TO BE A PUMPKIN. AFTER COMPLETING THE BOOK, THEY WERE ABLE TO TAKE AN ACCELERATED READER TEST TO EARN POINTS FOR SCHOOL. THE ADULT BOOK CLUB ALSO MET, WITH 11 PARTICIPANTS DISCUSSING A PIECE OF THE WORLD BY CHRISTINA BAKER KLINE. OCTOBER MARKED JULIE'S LAST MONTH WITH THE LIBRARY, AND WE WISH HER EVERY SUCCESS IN HER NEW ROLE.

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CHILDREN & ADULTS VISITED HALLOWEEN PARTY AT FORT LORAMIE

ADULT OUTREACH

MANDY AND I VISITED THE MERCY MISSION HOUSE EMERGENCY SHELTER TO EXPLORE PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES. I WILL BE VISITING THERE MONTHLY TO LEAD AN ADULT CRAFT AND ROTATE DONATED BOOKS FOR ALL AGES. AS PART OF MY CHAMBER LEADERSHIP PARTICIPATION, I ATTENDED A BOARD MEETING AT THE SHELBY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY. I ALSO JOINED RIKKI AND CASSANDRA AT THE WILSON HEALTH EMPLOYEE WELLNESS FAIR, WHERE WE CONNECTED WITH EMPLOYEES AND VENDORS ABOUT THEIR WORK AND LIBRARY INTERESTS. ADDITIONALLY, I WILL BE TAKING BOOKS TO A NEW HOMEBOUND PATRON.

-Jenny
ADULT OUTREACH COORDINATOR

SHELBY COUNTY Libraries

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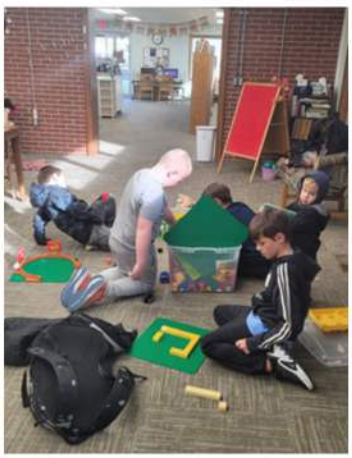
COMMUNITY LIBRARY LOCATIONS