In January we will kick off a new program geared towards increasing the early literacy skills of preschool children in Henderson County…
FROM THE DIRECTOR’S SHELF

Redesigned Spaces at the Main Library

If you have visited the Main Library lately you might have noticed that your favorite book or collection is not where it used to be. You might also be asking, “why all of the changes?”

Suggestion cards, surveys, and daily patron interactions collected over the past couple of years revealed the need for a more centralized service point to accommodate users and the need for a more efficient layout for collections. Earlier this year library staff began a project to redesign our spaces with the goal of answering these needs and ultimately improving the user experience.

We believe that all Library users deserve to have a pleasant, satisfying, and fulfilling interaction each and every time they enter one of our buildings. The progress may be a bit noisy, messy, and confusing at times, but the end result will be worth it, we promise!

— Trina Rushing, Library Director

What’s different?

- The adult *nonfiction* collection was shifted to one side of the building. This provides users with the ease of searching within the collection without having to travel back and forth across the building.

- The adult *fiction* collection was shifted to shelving opposite the nonfiction collection. The additional shelving that was gained during this move provided space for paperbacks to be interfiled and for books to be spaced out. Users no longer have to search two different collections to find titles by the same author or within the same series.

- The magazine and newspaper collections were relocated to a quiet reading area. Users wishing to spend time quietly reading these materials may do so while sitting in a quiet, out-of-the-way area instead of in the middle of the flurry of everyday activity.

Coming Soon:

- The service and information desks will be combined into a one-stop, centrally located service area. Patrons with mobility constraints, those in a hurry, or those who have several interactions will be able to conduct all their business from one service point. No more being sent from one end of the building to the other to get your questions answered!

- The audiovisual and large print book collections will be shifted and arranged for ease of use.
1,000 Books before Kindergarten is the result of numerous studies that have demonstrated the connection between reading and early stimulation for brain development. The program helps guide parents to “grow a reader” by making reading a regular part of the day. Parents track books read with their children and return the logs to their local branch. Children will receive a special tote bag when they complete the first 500 books. At 1,000 books their name will be posted on our Wall of Fame and they will be invited to a 1,000 Books celebration to receive more prizes.

Smart Start of Henderson County is partnering with the Library in this new initiative as we seek to improve kindergarten readiness in Henderson County. All babies, toddlers, and preschoolers are encouraged to participate.

Parents, if you read just one book a day, you can reach the 1,000 book goal in less than 3 years!

—Kathy Kirchoefer, Youth Services Coordinator
Whether you are planning a trip and want to order kabob like a local, interested in brushing up your rusty high school Spanish, or just looking to exercise your brain, it’s never too late to learn a new language. No matter the goal or language level, Pronunciator can customize a language course just for you. Here are some of the highlights:

- 80 languages—select both native language and the language to learn
- Independent tutorials and more structured learning guides
- 8 week travel prep course
- Flash cards and narrators demonstrate correct pronunciation
- Live teaching sessions, pronunciation critiques, and downloadable phrasebooks
- Music and movies for language immersion

Pronunciator is available in the library or from home through the library’s website. From the homepage, click the Research and Reference tab on the left side and follow the Pronunciator link.

—Mark Burdette, Reference/Special Collections Librarian

Learn up to 80 languages with self-directed lessons, live teachers, movies, music, and more for **FREE** with your library card!
This program was initiated in January of 2015 and has already helped over 300 people learn how to navigate our digital services, including Hoopla, Overdrive, Zinio, and our online catalog system, NC Cardinal.

If you are struggling to understand or use any of the library’s digital services, please consider calling and making an appointment.

— Michele von Boeck, Instructional Librarian
Do you want to know more about your heritage but don’t know where to begin? Ancestry.com Library Edition is a great resource offered through the library to jumpstart your research. We are offering two upcoming instruction sessions to help take the anxiety out of digging through your past. Staff will show patrons how to navigate the site, follow leads, and save the information that’s discovered.

January 26th from 2-3pm at the Main Library, Kaplan Auditorium
February 23rd from 2-3 pm at the Fletcher Branch Library

Want to try Ancestry.com on your own? Access is available within any of our library branches. Simply connect your device to the wifi at your local branch or logon to a library computer.

Follow the “Genealogy” link on the left hand side of the library’s webpage, click “Get Started” and select Ancestry.com.

— Mark Burdette, Reference/Special Collections Librarian

Calling all Genealogy Enthusiasts!

The Reference Department is seeking volunteers to help patrons with genealogy research in the North Carolina Room. **Volunteers with a knowledge of genealogy research and resources are preferred.**

We are primarily looking for help on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday afternoons but other days and times could be available.

If you are interested in helping please contact Reference Librarian Mark Burdette for more details, 697-4725, ext. 2307.

— Mark Burdette, Reference/Special Collections Librarian

**Celebrating the One Million Mark!**

Give yourself a hand. During fiscal year 2016 our patrons checked out or accessed **1,011,104** physical and electronic items.
In September, the library participated in the third annual “Aging in Place, It’s in Your Future” conference presented by Aging Project, Inc. The conference hosted several informative workshops and included vendor tables from community businesses and agencies. Library staff had the chance to share information about the homebound program as well as digital resources provided by the library.

The homebound program serves Henderson County residents who are unable to visit the library due to health related limitations. A team of staff and volunteers make monthly visits to private residences as well as retirement communities and nursing facilities. Items are selected according to each individual’s suggestions and areas of interest. If you or someone you know may be interested in this service, please call Candis at 697-4725, ext. 2331.

**Library Services Proved Beneficial to Local Organization**

Kevin and Leslie Nehila were two of the many great community partners we met at the Aging in Place conference. The Nehila’s business, Hands with a Heart, provides support that helps individuals preserve their ability to live independently at home. When the Nehilas decided it was time to turn their passion for helping others into a business, the staff at the library was there to help.

“We both work separate jobs during the day and having a library with flexible, late hours was a major help,” Kevin said. The couple took advantage of the library’s free wifi and computer access to avoid overage charges with their carrier. Kevin also used the public computers to design their website, an endeavor that proved to be their biggest challenge.

Librarians helped him find technology support resources and put him in touch with a group of entrepreneurs using the same webpage development program.

What’s the Nehila’s advice for those considering starting a business? “Do your research,” Kevin says, “Time is money and librarians help save you money by pointing you in the right direction from the start.”
BRANCH UPDATE

Edneyville Branch Update... Mums, cornstalks, scarecrows, apples, pumpkins— it is amazing how my favorite season has passed so quickly. On to Christmas trees, lights, Christmas music, cold days and nights. One of the best places to enjoy the sights and sounds of the season is at your local library. Edneyville Branch has several events coming up and we would like to have a visit from you. Check the event insert for more information.

— Cindy Camp-Fisher, Edneyville Branch Manager

Fletcher Branch Update...

Blue Ridge Literacy Council: Priscilla Yokote is available each Tuesday from 11am -1pm. The Blue Ridge Literacy Council offers volunteer opportunities as well as free tutoring for reading, English/ESL, GED prep, math, and new job prep.

Fletcher Academy: Fletcher Academy sent us 6 students and 2 adults for an afternoon. These students planted flowers, transplanted bushes, weeded, moved mulch, straightened shelves, and did many other miscellaneous tasks.

— Lisa Whitney, Fletcher Branch Manager

Green River Branch Update... On Halloween, the Book Fairy Librarian visited the Green River Library!

She led fun games and the children had a great time!

— Ashley Wise, Green River Branch Manager

Patrons enjoy the tune “Babies on the Bus” during Edneyville’s Old-Time Sing-a-Long.
Mills River Branch Update... I recently had a nice beginning to my day when I arrived at the library to find a patron and two eager little girls waiting at the door. The girls had arrived in town the night before with their mom, a friend of our patron. They immediately asked our patron what time the library opened, as they had visited with us last year and remembered it as their favorite place in the Asheville area. The girls woke everyone in the house at 8:30 and announced it was time to go to the library. They ate breakfast and got dressed—no time to brush their hair and teeth!

It made me realize all over again how important the library is to our children and reinforced one of the major reasons that I love my job.

— Brittany Smith, Mills River Branch Manager

TEEN space

TEEN ADVISORY BOARD

The Teen Advisory Board is a group of students in 9th-12th grade who meet the first Thursday of the month at the Main Library. During our meetings we talk about books, plan teen programs for the library, and help out with other library projects. Over the past year, the group has planned and led the Teens Teach Tech program, Teen Book Club, the Teen Summer Reading Program, Reading Buddies, and more. If you are in 9th-12th grade, are looking for volunteer time and would like to help plan library programs, check out the Teen Page on the library website for the application or stop by any library branch.

TEEN STEAM LABS

Teen STEAM Labs are up and running! Each month we will have fun exploring different STEAM concepts. STEAM Lab is open to grades 6-12 and registration is required for each program. STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) skills are becoming increasingly more important for future success. STEAM Labs will provide hands on opportunities for participants to experiment with new technology and explore concepts like electricity, robotics, coding, and more. Contact the Youth Services Department for more information and registration.

— Lisa Donaldson, Youth Services Librarian
ALICE IN WONDERLAND!

We had a frabjous time celebrating Alice in Wonderland throughout October. Bright Star Theatre started the party with their version of Alice. The following week we viewed Disney’s classic cartoon and our grand finale was the Mad Hatter’s Tea Party hosted by Kym Brown from a Southern Cup Fine Teas.

Ready4K is a research-based text-messaging program for parents that helps children get ready for kindergarten. Each week, parents will receive FUN FACTS and EASY TIPS to boost their preschool child’s learning. All parents want their children to succeed but many run out of ideas...

Ready4K can help!

Follow these simple instructions:

If the child is 3 years old, text R4K NC3 to 70138

If the child is 4 years old, text R4K NC4 to 70138

If the child is in kindergarten, text R4K NC5 to 70138

While there is no cost for signing up, data & message rates may apply.
Josiah, Judah, and Ava Pitroff enjoy the new iPod kiosk provided by the Friends of the Library.

Circulation Manager Emily Gargiulo and Youth Services Coordinator Kathy Kirchoefer recently attended the Day of the Dead Festival organized by El Centro where they handed out early literacy kits and promoted library programs and services.

SEPTEMBER WAS LIBRARY CARD SIGN-UP MONTH!

186 children in Henderson County received new library cards and a free paperback book during the month of September, courtesy of the Friends of the Library. Getting a library card is a very special moment for many children and most recognize how precious that card is.

When Kathy Kirchoefer visits kindergarten classes, she often asks them how much a library card costs. “$500?” one will ask. “$1,000?” asks another. They are always excited to find out that this key to knowledge is FREE!

NEW TO THE COLLECTION!

VOX Books are high quality picture books with complete audio narration. Children can listen and practice their reading skills all at the same time. VOX Books are shelved with our other recorded books in the Juvenile Kit area. VOX Books are ready to read, ready to listen, ready to go!

Stop by the children’s library to peak at our new ABCs quilt. Each letter is represented by an item or action. Our favorite? Read of course!

Thanks to Phyllis Logel and Debbie Beaver at Beginnings Quilt Shop for their adorable donation.

DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS

Circulation Manager Emily Gargiulo and Youth Services Coordinator Kathy Kirchoefer recently attended the Day of the Dead Festival organized by El Centro where they handed out early literacy kits and promoted library programs and services.
Volunteers donated **16,788 hours** during fiscal year 2016. Whether reshelving materials or delivering items to homebound patrons, our volunteers keep things running smoothly.

**Thanks!**

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**LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vance Yoder, Chairman</th>
<th>Allison Reynolds, Vice-Chairman</th>
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<td>Katie Winkler, Secretary</td>
<td>Grady Hawkins, Commissioner</td>
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<td>Candler Willis</td>
<td>Tom Orr</td>
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<td>Susan Williams</td>
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**HOLIDAY HOURS FOR THE LIBRARY**

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<th>Event</th>
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<td>Christmas</td>
<td>Closed Friday, Dec. 23rd, Saturday, Dec. 24th, &amp; Monday, Dec. 26th</td>
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<td></td>
<td>*All locations will close at 5pm on Thursday, Dec 22nd</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Year</td>
<td>Closed Monday, January 2nd</td>
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<td>MLK, Jr.’s Birthday</td>
<td>Closed Monday, January 16th</td>
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WINTER PROGRAMMING — Adults

MAIN LIBRARY
1st Thursday @ 2 PM - Stitch In
2nd Tuesday @ 2 PM - Adult Coloring Club
Mon., December 5th @ 2 PM - Blue Ridge Ringers Concert *Ticket Required
Wed., December 7th @ 2 PM - Midweek Matinee, Café Society
Fri., December 9th @ 12 PM - Christmas Concert with Musieca Antiqua
Wed., December 14th @ 6:30 PM - Holiday Concert with Tom Fisch
Wed. January 4th @ 2 PM - Midweek Matinee, The Legend of Tarzan
Thu., January 26th @ 2 PM - Ancestry.com Demo
Wed., February 1st @ 2 PM - Midweek Matinee, Title to be Announced

Computer Classes @ Main:
We offer a variety of basic computer skills classes which are stand alone classes. This means you take the ones you want and skip the rest. Classes usually last approximately one and a half hours.

*Registration is required. You may register in person at the Information Desk inside the Main Library, or call 828-697-4725, opt. #3.

Thur., Dec. 1st @ 10 AM Computer Basics* (Board Room)
Thur., Dec. 15th @ 10 AM Web Mail Basics* (Board Room)
Thu., Jan. 5th @ 10 AM Computer Basics* (Board Room)
Tue., Jan. 17th @ 2 PM Apple Users Group (Kaplan Aud.)
Thu., Jan. 19th @ 10 AM Web Mail Basics* (Board Room)
Thu., Jan. 26th @ 10 AM Power Point 2010 Basics* (Board Room)
Thu., Feb. 2nd @ 10 AM Computer Basics* (Board Room)
Thu., Feb. 16th @ 10 AM Web Mail Basics* (Board Room)
Thu., Feb. 23rd @ 10 AM Computer Basics* (Board Room)

EDNEYVILLE BRANCH
1st Thursday @ 2 PM - Women’s Book Review Group
3rd Tuesday @ 2 PM - Christian Fiction Book Club
December Meeting—Tue., December 13th @ 2 PM
Mon., December 5th @ 4 PM - Camerata Antiqua
Mon., December 19th @ 3:30 PM - Old Time Sing-A-Long

ETOWAH BRANCH
Mondays @ 10:30 AM - Knitting Group
Thursdays @ 11 AM - Blue Ridge Literacy Council Office Hours
3rd Wednesday @ 2:30 PM - Etowah Book Club
Thu., December 2nd @ 2 PM - Camerata Antiqua
Wed., December 21st @ 2:30 PM - Book Club Planning & Holiday Refreshments

FLETCHER BRANCH
Tuesdays @ 11 AM - Blue Ridge Literacy Council Office Hours
Tuesdays @ 3 PM - Intermediate Spanish
1st Monday @ 1 PM - Avid Reader Book Club
2nd Thursday @ 10:30 AM - Fletcher Book Club
2nd Thursday @ 1:30 PM - Writers Guild
3rd Saturday @ 10:15 PM - Highland Lace Makers
4th Wednesday @ 4:30 PM - Asheville Open Mic
Mon., December 5th @ 5 PM - Golden Ringers Concert
Thu., February 23rd @ 2 PM - Ancestry.com Demo

GREEN RIVER BRANCH
Thu., December 15th @ 4 PM - Camerata Antiqua

MILLS RIVER BRANCH
2nd Thursday @ 10:30 AM - Mills River Library Book Club
Tuesdays @ 9 AM - Yoga with Lynn Edgar (Registration Required)
Thursdays @ 9 AM - Yoga with Lynn Edgar (Registration Required)
Tuesdays @ 1:00 PM - Knit and Crochet Group
Mon., December 5th @ 2 PM - Golden Ringers Concert

Check our website or mobile app for a comprehensive program list.
WINTER PROGRAMMING — Children & Teens

MAIN LIBRARY

Children: Regular Storytimes will resume in January

Tuesdays @ 10:30 AM - Preschool Storytime
Wednesdays @ 10:30 AM - Toddler Storytime (18 months - 2 years)
Wednesdays @ 4 PM - 4 O’Clock Club for Kids (Grades K - 5)
1st Wednesday @ 4 PM - LEGO Club (4 O’Clock Club)
Thursdays @ 10:30 AM - Music and Movement Storytime (preschool)
Thursdays @ 11:15 AM - Bouncing Babies Storytime (birth - 17 months & a caregiver)

*Please note there are no regularly scheduled programs during the month of December. Regular programming resumes on January 3rd.

Thu., December 1st @ 10:30 AM - Holiday Music & Movement
Thu., December 1st @ 11:15 AM - Holiday Bouncing Babies
Sat., December 10th @ 2 PM - Holiday Show for families (presented by Flat Rock Studio 52) (Kaplan Aud.)

Mon., December 19th @ 4 PM - Christmas with Santa! (presented by Bright Star Theatre) (Kaplan Aud.)
Wed., January 11th @ 4 PM - Children’s Science Investigation (presented by Hands On!) (4 O’Clock Club)
Wed., January 18th @ 4 PM - Winter Wonders: Candy Sled Racing (4 O’Clock Club)
Wed., January 25th @ 4 PM - Chinese New Year Celebration (4 O’Clock Club)
Wed., February 8th @ 4 PM - Magical Magnets– Are You Attracted to Me? (presented by Hands On!) (4 O’Clock Club)
Wed., February 15th @ 4 PM - Soups On! Stories & Soup (4 O’Clock Club)
Wed., February 22nd @ 4 PM - Coloring Club (4 O’Clock Club)

Teens: Registration is Required for Teen STEAM Labs
Teen Anime & Manga Club— Sat., Jan. 28th & Feb. 26th @ 11 AM
Teen Advisory Board (TAB)— 1st Thursday @ 4 PM
Thu., December 8th @ 4 PM - Teen STEAM Lab (Hour of Code)
Thu., January 12th @ 4 PM - Teen STEAM Lab (Robots)
Tue., January 17th @ 4 PM - Teen Book Club
Thu., February 9th @ 4 PM - Teen STEAM Lab (Circuits)

EDNEYVILLE BRANCH

Mondays @ 10:00 AM - Family Storytimes (resumes in January)

ETOWAH BRANCH

Tuesdays @ 10 AM - Family Storytimes (resumes in January)

FLETCHER BRANCH

Wednesdays @ 10:30 AM - Family Storytimes (resumes in January)

Library Dog Program - All ages can enjoy reading and/or visiting with one of the library dogs.
Call (828) 687-1218 for more information.

Sat., December 10th @ 11 AM - Holiday Show for families (presented by Flat Rock Studio 52)

GREEN RIVER BRANCH

Thursdays @ 10 AM - Family Storytimes (resumes in January)
2nd Tuesday @ 4 PM - LEGO Club

MILLS RIVER BRANCH

Mondays @ 10 AM - Family Storytimes (resumes in January)
1st Tuesday @ 4 PM - LEGO Club

Wed., December 7th @ 4 PM - Hands On Museum (One Inch at a Time) *Registration Required

Mon., December 19th @ 11 AM - Christmas with Santa (presented by Bright Star Theatre)

Wed., January 4th @ 4 PM - Hands On Museum (CSI) *Registration Required

Wed., January 18th @ 4 PM - Build a Better World (LEGOS)
Wed., February 1st @ 4 PM - Hands On Museum (Magical Magnets) *Registration Required

Illuminations ● Winter ’16 - ’17