

2019 in Review

Library Accomplishments:

- Celebrated our 240th finisher in the 1000 Books Before Kindergarten Program. To date we have 573 registrants and 166,400 books read!
- Participated in several community events, including Touch-a-truck, Old 303 Music Festival, Summer Block Party, Plaza Grand Opening, Ossian Days, Street Fair, Boo-in-Bluffton, Festival of Wreaths, Wonderland of Lights, Ossian Hometown Christmas, and Parlor City Christmas.
- We partnered with: The Parks Department and Bluffton Regional for Theatre Thursday and Senior Exploration, Christian Care for a monthly game night, The YMCA for summer teen programming, Purdue Extension for Adult programming with Cook, Talk, Taste, The Historical Society for a historical homes tour and cemetery walk, The Embassy with the Violins of Hope program and a local artist for a Canvas and Mocktails program.
- Started circulating hotspots.
- Started offering more educational and hands-on events with Cook, Talk, Taste and now see consistently between 13 and 20 people in attendance every month!
- Offered free tax assistance to anyone every Monday during tax session.
- Started the process for the 2020 building renovation.

Staff Accomplishments:

- Jason Habeggar graduated with his MLS degree.
- 5 staff members received or are working toward increasing their library certification/degree.
- The library has its 11th staff member graduate from the Wells County Leadership Academy and our 12th staff member going through Level 1.
- Numerous staff members are serving on community and professional boards including: Parlor City Christmas, Leadership Academy and Leadership Academy Mentors, Historical Society, Genealogy Society, Bluffton NOW!, Bluffton NOW! Event Committee, United Way, Creative Arts Council, Wells County Chamber, Economic Development Council, YMCA, Chamber Education Committee, YMCA Early Learning Committee, Rotary and Optimists.
- Several Staff attended various conferences throughout the year.
- The library along with The Parks Department, Bluffton NOW!, The Wells County Foundation and the Creative Arts Council have formed a group that meets to discuss what programs/events are being offered and how we can collaborate with each other.

Stats:

- We are seeing a slow decrease in our circulation of physical items with a 5% decrease. Teen material however did increase by 1% and our eMaterials increased by 18%.

- Our patron visits were down by 7% but our reference interactions increased by 14%.
- Our book-a-librarian program is steady increasing. We had 10 last year when we first introduced the program and we had 27 this year.
- Adult program attendance has increased by 7%.
- Our Teen programs are still holding steady with a 2% increase in attendance.
- We are seeing a slight decrease in Supervised Visits mainly because we are not as strict with sign-ins. We do have multiple comments from organizations using our facility that we are the most understanding and helpful library with supervised visits.
- Our meeting room and study room reservations increased by 13%.
- Our computer usage was down but we were without computers for the month of November and part of December after ransomware attacked our server. However, the circulating laptops increased by 170% because of the loss of the public internet computers.