

It's summer once again at the library! We are, as always, excited to usher in another summer full of fun for patrons of all ages.

The library as a whole has certainly been busy over the past year. In 2022, WCDPL had an overall circulation increase of 6%, and an amazing 49% increase in visitors to the library. Our event attendance was similarly exciting: we had a 66% increase for both adult and youth events as compared to 2021. As we look toward the future and the summer we have planned, we only plan to get busier!

Our Summer Reading Program theme for this year is "All Together Now," which will teach children the importance of community, fellowship, and kindness. What better place to explore these things than at their library? Our Children's Place is excited to bring a wide variety of fun, engaging programming, community events, author visits, and so much more to families this summer. Because our Walbridge families start their summer earlier than our Bowling Green families, our Summer Reading Program has two start dates: Walbridge will begin May 10, and Bowling Green on June 1. To find out how to get involved in our Summer Reading Program, browse our children's content on pages 5 through 9.

Families aren't the only ones who can have fun this summer at the library: we have plenty of programs and events planned for patrons of all ages. From our ever-popular Fake It 'til You Make It Creative Series to our variety of book clubs to suit every readers' taste, you'll find something to explore, create, or learn about at your library. In addition to our regular events for adults, we're also excited to host bestselling author Viola Shipman (pen name for Wade Rouse) in June. To find out more about adult events, browse pages 10, 11, and 12.

Of course, you can also always find us out and about around Wood County. Our Bookmobile & Outreach services have a new schedule where you can visit the Bookmobile to find the same great library services and materials you would at either library location. See more from Outreach Services on page 13.

We look forward to July when we once again host our annual Novel Night benefit. This is an important night in the life of the library as we come together to raise funds to purchase more of the materials you love. It is a humbling night filled with fellowship, generosity, and laughter. I hope you can join us for Novel Night, or give a gift in support of this important event. To learn more about Novel Night, visit our website at wcdpl.org/novel-night.

See you at the library,

Michael Penrod WCDPL Director