



2019 Annual Report



Inspiring Imagination | Igniting Interests | Enabling Learning



The Library Experience

Enhancing the go-to place for education, culture, and entertainment in Baxter County

A total of **1,818** students from surrounding schools toured the Exploring the Frontier exhibit with guides Vincent Anderson and Mariah Hansen.



Exploring the Frontier

The Exploring the Frontier exhibit co-sponsored by the Baxter County Library Foundation and the Friends of the Library ignited the imagination of our patrons young and old in 2019, with a total of **10,286** in attendance. Visitors were transported back to the 1800s, where they explored the Arkansas frontier by gathering provisions at a trading post, calculating how to ford a river, and navigating their covered wagon by the North Star.

Read | Write | Ignite

With the sponsorship of the Friends of the Library, the annual Literary Series became known as Read | Write | Ignite at the Hearthside. Many of the programs in the series were given new life as a rearrangement of

shelves opened up the fireplace area to accommodate guest speakers and lecturers. In addition, a **\$1000** grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the American Library Association funded a two-part community forum on the Founding Era.

Always-On-Activities

The Library opened up programming to a much broader audience with the addition of Always-On-Activities. These activities were designed to be available at any time during Library hours. Activities included coloring tables, community book picks, and making t-shirt dog toys that were donated to the Humane Society.

A woman with long dark hair, wearing a black and white striped shirt, is leaning over a desk and pointing at a laptop screen. A man with glasses and a beard, wearing a green t-shirt, is sitting at the desk looking at the screen. The background shows a classroom with a white storage bin and framed pictures on the wall.

Delivering Lifelong Learning

**Architecting classes and
workshops for all ages**

The Library made great strides to create an environment for all ages to learn. With grants from Google, new equipment for our makerspace Studio300, and a talented team spearheading adult and youth programming, the Library hosted many successful programs in 2019.

eBook Check-Outs
49,749 eBOOKS
↑ 5%

Outreach Story Times
1,676 CHILDREN
REACHED

Children's Programs



↑ 15%
ATTENDANCE

Children's programs experienced an increase in attendance with the introduction of new programs such as Babies and Books.

Studio300 Workshops



↑ 103%
ATTENDANCE

Studio300 workshops saw a major attendance increase in 2019 with the introduction of new equipment and ideas.

Online Resources Used



↑ 23%
DATABASE USAGE

With an increase in the Library's social media presence, web traffic and online resources usage also increased.

Try Something New Nights



↑ 143%
ATTENDANCE

Try Something New Nights during the summer brought in the crowds to make pie crusts, create bath bombs, and gaze at the stars.

178,601 visits to the Library in 2019.
That's **4x** the entire population of **Baxter County!**

Expanding Our Reach

Sharing resources through
outreach and technology



Through Tech Cards, community events like STREAM and Block Party on the Square, and an enhanced social media presence, the Baxter County Library team engaged with the community more than ever before. New online resources such as ArtistWorks, CreativeBug, and TumbleMath and the volunteer-run Homebound program made it possible to deliver services to individuals who could not easily get to the Library.



Youth Services Librarian Amy Johnson hands out information at Mountain Home Junior High on all of the amazing resources that are available to Baxter County Tech Card holders.

Tech Cards

With the continuation of the Tech Card Program, the Baxter County Library ensured that a total of **3,100** students in 4th-10th grades across the County received access to valuable online resources. Students from Mountain Home, Cotter, and Norfolk School systems, along with the Mountain Home Christian Academy received Tech Cards.

“ Norfolk School students used their Library Tech Cards more than ever this year. They accessed Library resources such as Brainfuse for proofreading papers and homework help and the Libby app for downloading ebooks and audiobooks, which has increased the number of books they read. ”

- Mandy Bennet
Librarian, Norfolk Schools

Community Initiatives

Driving positive change
for Baxter County



Baxter County Early Literacy Project

1,000 Books Before Kindergarten

In 2019, **63** children enrolled in the program and **18** completed the program. Parents and caregivers prepared their children to learn to read by reading to them and tracking their progress through 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten.

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

By year's end, over **500 or 26%** of children ages 0-5 in Baxter County were enrolled in the program, which mails each child one free book per month. Community support behind this program has been phenomenal.

Little Free Libraries

Nearly **1,700** books were distributed through our Little Free Libraries in Baxter County in 2019. Little Free Libraries were installed at Mountain Home Kindergarten, Gassville City Park, Norfolk Headstart, and Big Spring Park in Cotter (made possible by the Cotter Saturday Club), bringing the total locations to **six** in Baxter County.

// The most important facet of a child's life is to get a good beginning in reading. The Early Literacy Project is, without question, promoting and expanding opportunities for Baxter County young ones, so that they will be able to succeed in the future. //

- Jeannie Alley

Retired Teacher & Early Literacy Advocate



The Baxter County Library and Early Literacy Project booths were a hit at the Block Party on the Square co-sponsored by the Baxter County Library Foundation and the Friends of the Library.

Grow with Google

Thanks to a \$1,000 grant from the American Library Association, the Public Library Association, and Google, the Library expanded its tech classes to improve job skills. Because of the program's success, the Library was also recognized as a Spotlight Library with an additional \$3,000 to continue workforce development technology training.

Community Support

Donors and volunteers are the lifeblood of the Library



Program Sponsors

Thank you to our 2019 Library Program Sponsors. Program Sponsors were able to direct funds to the programs they valued most.



\$250+ Level

Cell Phone/Tablet Q&A

Mike & Joyce Cameron

Life-Sized Candyland

Kenneth Schultz & Nancy Knopp

Stuffed Animal Sleepover

Kenneth Schultz & Nancy Knopp

International Games Week

Andrew & Christina White

Teen Banned Book Week

Reading Women Book Club

Yoga for Teens

Andrew & Christina White

\$500+ Level

After School Programs

Jim & Karen Barnes

General Collection

Bill & Colleen Stephenson

Little Free Libraries

The Saturday Club of Cotter

Money Smart Week

John & Kay Beecroft

Scholarship Prep

Lynn Miller

Studio300 Makerspace

Shirt Shop

Teen Anime Club

Andrew & Christina White

Teen Library Council

Suzanne Sutherland

The Wall Street Journal

David Matty

\$750+ Level

Children's Theatre

Barbara Graham

Classic Saturdays

Barbara Graham

\$1,000+ Level

Children's Summer Programs

Jess & Elizabeth VanderStek

Family Summer Shows

Mendel & Stephanie Hughes

Little Free Libraries

The loving family of Janella

Keppen

Teen Friday After Hours

Suzanne Sutherland

Teen Summer Reading

Suzanne Sutherland

Wrap It Up Campaign

Baxter County Library

Foundation Trustees & Advisory

Board

\$1,500+ Level

Ancestry.com Subscription

Jim & Jackie Neff

Children's Story Times

Lynn & Carol Landrum and

Kyle & Lynn McAlister in honor of their mothers

Tech Cards

Suzanne Sutherland

Try Something New Series

Tom & Deborah Knox

\$2,000 Level

Early Literacy Project

Bob & Mary Walker

\$2,500+ Level

Early Literacy Project

Jim & Jackie Neff

Brainfuse Subscription

Jim & Jackie Neff

Children's Summer Reading

Friends of the Library

Children's Summer Science

Jim & Jackie Neff

Library2Go Collection

Jeffrey & Susan Hoeper

Wrap It Up Campaign

ACS Warranty

Genuine Care Pharmacy

\$5,000+ Level

Exploring the Arkansas Frontier Exhibit & Program Series

Friends of the Baxter County Library & Baxter County Library Foundation

Literary Series

Friends of the Baxter County Library

* Our apologies if we have inadvertently left your name off of this list. Please inform us of this error by contacting the Foundation office at foundation@baxlib.org.

Circles of Giving

The Baxter County Library Foundation honored Library donors* by updating the engraved Circle of Giving donor wall which was unveiled at the Heart of the Library reception. A number of new names were added as well as others who moved to a higher circle. The Baxter County Library is extremely grateful to those who give.

Nell Powell Wright Founder's Circle

In memory of Alfreda Atkinson
William & Vivian Busse
Armin & Mae Emmertz
Catharine Farnsworth
Friends of the Baxter County Library
Integrity First Bank
The Keeter-Dryer Family
Alena Keeter Dryer, Fran Dryer Coulter, Connie
Dryer Barnett, Rebecca Dryer Murdock
Tom & Deborah Knox
Henry & Wilma Pattee
The Michael G. Skeet & Janie
Edmonds-Lewis Families
Barbara Skeffington
in memory of John Skeffington
Jeanne B. Winters

Margie Dahlke Supporter's Circle

John Ahrens
In memory of Don & Clema Alley
Centennial Bank
James G. & Mary K. Jones
Tony Faiz Khayat's Yoga Class
Lynn & Carol Landrum

In memory of Shirley McAlister
John & Ardith McKinney
Dale & Judy Moen
Jim & Carolyn Neff
The Walton Family Foundation
The Donald & Anna Ward Family
Barbara Wright

Anna J. Ward Legacy Circle

Gordon Byron Bast
Calvin & Sissy Czeschin
Clint & Melissa Czeschin
Jack Lee & Martha Gregory
Diane Reimann
in memory of Al Reimann
Jackson Rhoades & Sunny Rhoades
Mike & Katie King Risk
Ray & Edie Stahl
Alice Westphal
Julie Wright
in honor of Glenn & Nell Powell Wright

Patron's Circle

Arvest Bank
Dan & Bonnie Brown

Elizabeth (Betty) Bryant
Jim & Denise Clarke
Jackie & Deborah Edmonds
First Community Bank
First Security Bank
Barbara Graham
Jeffrey & Susan Hoepfer
Warren Haley
Frank & Joy Huckaba
Faiz & Gwen Khayat
Judy R. Loving
Ben Mattocks
in memory of the McAlister Family
Mountain Home Lions Club
Paul & Dody Neis
Margaret K. Park
Erik & Anu Shultz
Dr. William & Leta Snow
William & Colleen Stephenson
Jess & Elizabeth VanderSteck
Jess & Elizabeth VanderSteck
in memory of A.W. & Lois C. Lemmons
Robert & Mary Walker
Roger Willard
in honor of Roberta J. Willard



Century Circle

George Alexander

Erick & Karla Araneda

James & Karen Babcock

The Bagwell Foundation
in memory of Donalee Smith Baker

Frank & Pat Bailey

Patrick & Virginia Ballard

Bank of America

John & Kay Beecroft

Richard & Donna Burnett

Donald & Anita Buswell

Ira & Deborah Chatman

Roy E. Danuser

Sam & Willie Diprima

In honor of Clark Fletcher

Chuck & Jane Flowers

Sarah & Jace Godfrey

Mike & Kelly Hagaman

Price Harned & Linde
Harned-Freedley
in honor of Marge Harned-McCormac

Linda Harrington
in memory of Dan Harrington

Mendel & Stephanie Hughes

Gary & Eve Isbell

Mary James

Steve & Betsy Johnson

Bob & Lori Kauffman

In memory of Alberta C. Keneipp

Elton & Mary Kirby

Knox Orthopaedics

Chloe & Paul Langston

Barney & Debbie Larry

Steve & Shonda Litty

Joe & Kathryn Miles

Mountain Home
Public School Students

Mountain Home Rotary Club

Evelynne M. Olson

David & Nancy Osmon

Peter & Jan Peitz

Danny & Nell Ponder

Lonnie & Robin Robinson

Richard & Carol Sholz

Kelly & Patricia Shay

South Shore Foundation

Rick, Brenda
& Heather Grace Spencer

Mildred Strauss
in memory of Stephen S. Strauss

Lane & Judy Strother

Suzanne Sutherland

Joe & Dawn Tullis

Richard & Diana Turner

Otis & Shelley Warr

Webb Pathology



Volunteers

The Library depended on wonderful volunteers who helped provide unmatched service and support for the entire community.

Several were recognized with Presidential Volunteer Service Awards (see list below.)

Library Board

DeAtley, Irvin
Chatman, Deborah
Clarke, Robert
Landrum, Carol
Miles, Joe

Library Foundation Trustees

Ahrens, John
Arnold, Nick
Bodenhamer, Kevin
Clarke, Robert
Crow-Sheaner, Kim
Garner, Phil
Garrett, Sonny
McAlister, Lynn
Morrison, Jackie
Neis, Katrina
VanderStek, Elizabeth
White, Christina
Willard, Josh
Wilson, Jo

Friends of the Library Board

Bauwens, Kathy
Clark, Carolyn
Densmore, Carolyn
Duseberg, Mary Lou
Garner, Phil
Jenkins, Eileen
Knopp, Nancy
Kelly, Margie
Quinn, Evalyn
Rozelle, Maureen
Taylor, Laura
Wheeler, Janet
Wheeler, Neal
Zimmerman, JoBelle

Advisory Foundation Board

Booth, Scott
Brown, Kirk
Embach, Christy
Harned, Ann
Hiser, Jon
Knox, Deborah
Litty, Shonda
Loftis, Heather
Long, Jake
McAlister, Lynn
Miles, Joe
Myers, Robin
Pugsley, Tobias
Risk, Katie King
Stanuch, Debby
White, Christina
Willard, Josh
Wright, Julie

Presidential Award Recipients Gold

Kelly, Margie

Silver

Clevenger, Jim
Nixon, Susan
Park, Margaret
Reckard, John
Smith, Charlotte
Smith, David
Wheeler, Neal
Zimmerman, JoBelle

Bronze

Ahrens, John
Banaszynski, Donna
Bauwens, Kathy
Brown, Linda
Clark, Carolyn
Duseberg, Mary Lou

Elders, Bonnie
Ferron, Mary
Herring, Julian
Hurley, Alice
Jewell, Karen
Jones, Bob
Jones, Sharon
Kauth, Vicki
Kelsh, Lynn
Kimes, Donna
Knopp, Nancy
McMillen, Gendy
Merkling, Bert
Neff, Jim
Neumann, Sharry
Newman, Janet
Newsom, Charlie
Penrose, Douglas
Percifull, Carol
Rich, Vonnie
Roever, Cathy
Rone, Peny
Rozelle, Maureen
St. Clair, Rosalee
Sutherland, Suzanne
Thomas, Susan
Varn, Ginny
Walters, Shirley
Weeks, Margaret
Wheeler, Janet

Volunteers
Altazan, Kathe
Amman, Barbara
Bale, Jane
Barnes, Brandon
Baumgartner, Barbara
Beckham, Grace
Benedict, David
Bell, Haley
Bergman, Steve

Bergman, Susan
Blanton, Kaidynce
Bodenhamer, Jim
Breton, Mike
Brobst, Donna
Brown, Bobbi
Bruch, Lisa
Buck, David
Buck, Jacob
Burg, Robert
Burns, Audrey
Callantine, Jenna
Caroselli, Corinne
Chapman, Blanton
Clark, Elsie
Coker, Lorena
Criner, Nathan
Curtis, Amy
Donahue, Ione
Doyel, Galen
Druff, Frits
Druff, Jane
Duval, Tamara
Duvall, Howard
Edavettal, Gabrielle
Ellis, Penny
Erme, Sandra
Evers, Lillian
Fiegle, Brent
Fischer, Marlene
Foster, Phillip
Greer, Donna
Grey, Stan
Harris, Bonnie
Harris, Ralph
Hayden, Anita
Hayes, Susan
Hickmott, Breanna
Hicks, Astina
House, Gail

Howell, Dottie
Jackson, Beckie
Jenkins, Robert
Johnson, Laura
Kauth, Peter
Kelley, MacKenzie
Kelly, Michael
Kerbs, Marge
Khayat, Faiz Tony
Kidd, Lucas
Kilton, Sue
Kimbriel, Dylan
Kimbriel, William
King Soden, Barbara
Knowles, Jane Ann
Koze, Bob
Langley, Bruce
LeBlanc, Amanda
Liska, Lora
Liston, Earl
Malte, Lauren
Markley, Jane
Matta, Rose
Mazaheri, Maria
McDonald, Karen
McIntyre, Hero
McNabb, Judy
Moad, Patty
Naomi Tallman
Neff, Jackie
Newsom, Cheryl
Nichele, Doris L.
O'Dell, Rhonda
Oliver, Paula
Pate, Patricia
Petty, Dean
Petty, Dianne
Podsiadlik, Susan
Pratt, Jim
Priebe, Sandy
Pugsley, Danielle

Purvis, Judy
Risk, Mike
Rockafellow, Doug
Rockafellow, Millie
Rohr, Shirley
Rohr, Stan
Sandberg, Barb
Sawyer, Catherine
Seef, Billie
Segura, Ann
Segura, Mark
Sheaner, Jack
Sheaner, Trevi
Sickels, Kenneth
Sickels, Susan
Skeffington, Barb
Soderblom, Sally
Spencer, Carolyn
Stanuch, Don
Stewart, Denise
Stewart, Julie
Stone, Marilyn
Stubbs, Debbie
Stubbs, Virbil
Suddeth, Buzz
Tabor, Victoria
Tallman, Elizabeth
Tarpley, Susan
Taylor, Laura
Thompson, Scott
Tucker, Russell
VanderStek, Jess
Walker, Sandra
Wendfeldt, Sydney
White, Andrew
Wilde, Gerald
Williams, Johsa
Wilson, Polly
Wilson, Steve
Yarborough, Will

Important Statistics



213 Volunteers

13,313.18 hours

valued at **\$272,787**

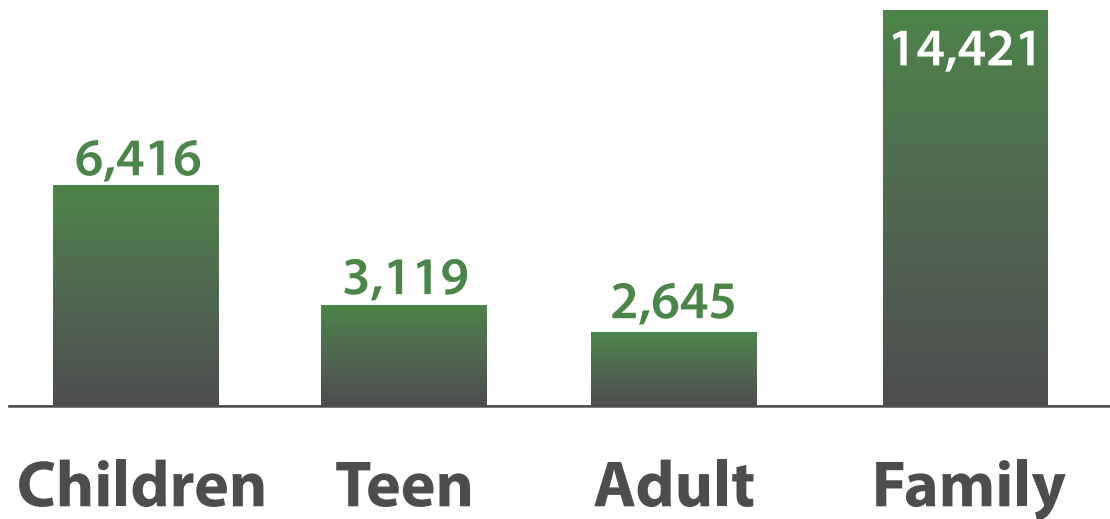


**Followers
Gained**

(2,485 → 2,960)

Facebook, Instagram, & Twitter

Program Attendance



4,783
New Cards
Issued

Meeting Room Usage



5,938
People



Financial Support

The Non-Profits that give us the opportunity to be more for the community

The Baxter County Library Foundation and the Friends of the Library make it possible to provide the community with the level of services and resources that it has come to expect from the Baxter County Library.

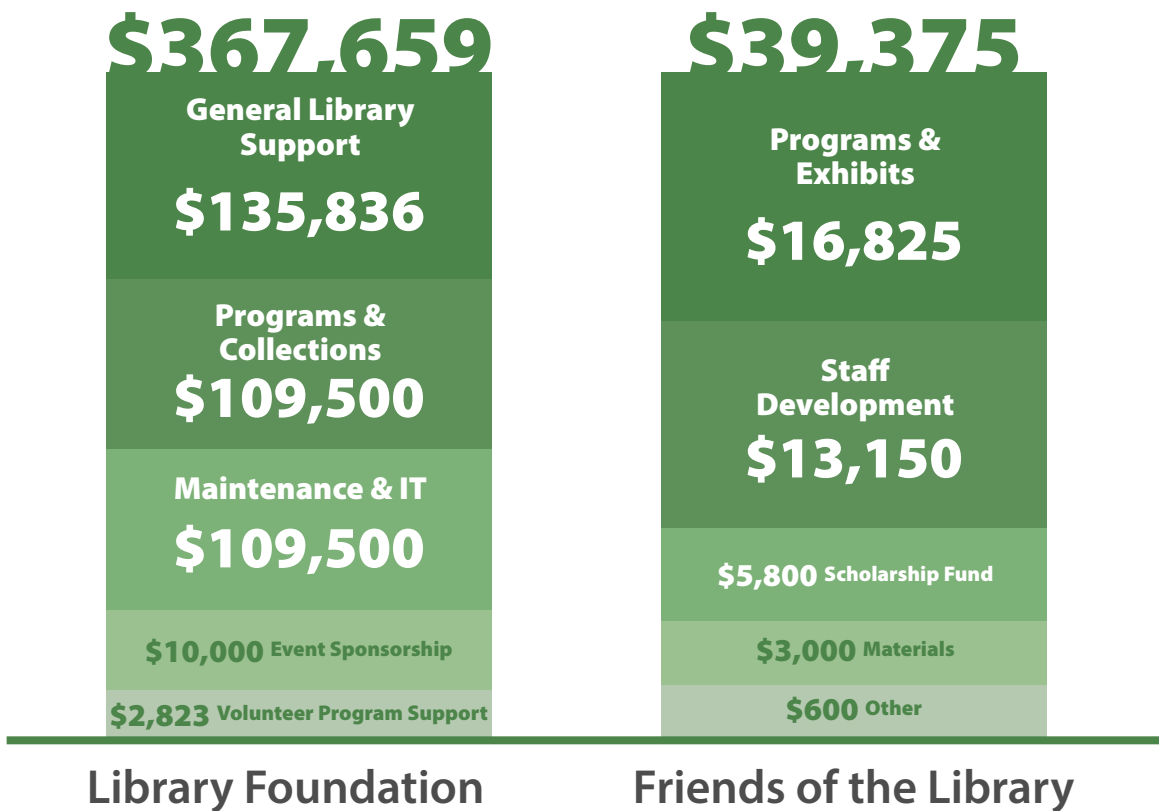


2019 Revenue

- 56% **Baxter County Property Tax**
- 29% **Library Foundation, Donations, & Sponsorships**
- 6% **State Aid**
- 5% **Miscellaneous**
- 3% **Friends of the Library**
- 1% **Coffee Shop Rental**

Library Foundation

The Baxter County Library Foundation was proud to present the Heart of the Library award to Barb Skeffington during a special donor recognition event held in October at the Baxter County Library. Barb Skeffington has exemplified what it truly means to have a heart for the Baxter County Library. The Foundation unveiled an updated donor wall at the reception, as people had moved up to the next Giving Circle and new donors were added.



Friends of the Library

In 2019 the Friends of the Baxter County Library continued to support the Library by sponsoring programs and exhibits, providing college scholarships to the community totaling \$5,800, and providing other necessary funding equaling 3% of the Library’s operating budget. The Friends also introduced a new scholarship specifically for Library staff. The recipient of the first Staff Scholarship was Laura Clark.



Letter from the Director

I am so proud of what our Library team has accomplished in 2019. The Library was responsive to the needs of our community, delivering services and programs that reached out beyond Library walls, brought people together, and strengthened our community.

Because workforce development is vital to our area's economic growth, Library staff conducted Grow with Google classes for seniors returning to the workforce in need of digital skills. We were recognized for our outstanding work with the Google Spotlight Award.

Because many children in our community are entering Kindergarten lacking the fundamental literacy skills they need to learn to read, the Library continued to lead the Baxter County Early Literacy Project. The project has united area school districts and early childhood professionals with a shared goal of improving early literacy in Baxter County.

Because shared interests and goals connect people, the Library presented an array of special programs. From the Exploring the Frontier exhibit to the Founding Era discussion series, from the annual Volunteer Fair to the Artmobile Cookout Night, from sewing classes to stargazing, people came together at the Library.

It is with heart-felt appreciation that I commend our amazing Library staff for their outstanding work and commitment to making all of these great programs a reality. Library Board members, Foundation Trustees, Friends of the Library members, Library volunteers, and donors, we could not do it without you. Thank you for recognizing the vital role the Library plays in making this community a highly desirable, fulfilling place to live and grow.

It is with great purpose and enthusiasm that we enter 2020, our 10th Anniversary year in the beautiful Donald W. Reynolds Library building serving Baxter County.



Kim Crow Sheaner
Library Director



Looking Forward

The year 2020 will be a big one for the Baxter County Library. October 10th will mark 10 years since the Donald W. Reynolds Library building was dedicated. In celebration of our anniversary, the year will be full of amazing events, programs, and exhibits. Events like a Renaissance Day to kick off the Summer Reading Program, exhibits such as the Apron Chronicles, and new programs including Crafternoons for children, Forgotten Tales a dementia friendly story time, and a brand new Book Club will captivate, educate, and enlighten.

Library Goals

1. Expand our reach
2. Rethink our delivery of lifelong learning
3. Make an impact on literacy
4. Enhance the Library experience
5. Align ourselves with community initiatives
6. Cultivate and improve our stewardship of resources
7. Grow staff and volunteers

BaxterCountyLibrary.org

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