



The dedicated staff of Green County Public Library has over 105 years of combined library experience. They are (left to right) Laura Johnson, Genealogist; Missy Curry, Manager; Jessica Gott, Circulation; Rebecca Pruitt, Director; Angie Scott, Outreach; Kayla Bradshaw, Programmer; and Debbie Harris, Children's Librarian.

Heritage Fair is Saturday

The Green County Genealogical Society invites the community to a day of history and artistry at its Heritage Fair this Saturday, April 25, in downtown Greensburg. There will be variety of vendors with a wide selection of unique and meaningful offerings.

Held annually as a book fair, the Society has expanded the event to include talented artists, craftspeople, and other specialty vendors. Confirmed participants include: Green County Genealogical Society, Lanny Tucker, Green County Public Library, Adair County Genealogical Society, Mike Watson, DAR-Jane Lampton, MIA Products-Patrick Bailey, Cayce Davenport, Bonnie Stanberry, Glen Peterson, Terry Foody, and Dwayne Stanberry.

Two fascinating presentations have been scheduled. Billy Wilkerson with the Simpson County Historical Society will talk about the use of Ground Penetrating Radar in locating old grave sites at 11 a.m. then at 1 p.m. Dr. Nathaniel Jeanson, will discuss Native American migration and genetic research.

The Heritage Fair



Photo by Clevis Jeffries

Green County Public Library genealogist Laura Johnson was the guest speaker at Greensburg Rotary, Tuesday, April 14. She provided an overview of the history of the local library and the services it currently offers.

will be 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. CT at the Greensburg Community Center, 110 North 1st Street, behind City Hall. Lunch will be available for purchase on-site during the event.

Everyone is welcome. Bring a friend, bring the family, and discover something new about the place you call home.

For more information or to register as a vendor, contact Fayma Callahan, 812-290-6056 or greencokygensociety@gmail.com.

National Library Week

April 19-25

We've come a long way together

"Without libraries what have we? We have no past and no future." This quote from author Ray Bradbury captures the essential role libraries play.

Libraries have always been a place for books, but they are so much more than that. They help in countless ways to build up their patrons and the community as a whole.

The earliest known library in Green County was started in 1832, called a circulating library. Subscribers paid to have access to a rotating collection of books.

We know the one-room schools here did their best to provide reading material, but the expense was hard to manage. Greensburg Graded and High School had a library as early as the 1920s for its teachers and students.

The first public library in Green County opened in 1933 in the upstairs of the old courthouse. No funding was available, so every aspect of the library came from local donations. The first librarian, Mary Mudd, was a volunteer later paid \$10 per month.

The first Bookmobile in Green County came in 1954. Initially, the school system provided one bus driver two days per week for scheduled trips to schools in the county. Teachers and students delighted in selecting reading material from the traveling library. Beginning in 1955, the service was expanded and Mrs. Tillie Clark was hired as the first Bookmobile librarian.

By 1965, the library had joined a new seven county service region, and the name was changed from Jane Todd Crawford Public Library to Green County Public Library.

The library opened in a new building on South Main Street on March 21, 1966 (currently Russ Goff's law office). County residents had approved a tax petition to support

the library budget. At the time, those who signed the petition were commended for taking a forward step for the county by providing better opportunities for Green Countians.

The next big move the public library would make was in 2006, to a newly renovated building on West Court Street. Again, many people felt passionately about the library and what benefits it offers the county, wanting to have the best facility possible. The library reopened on June 1, 2006, with double the operating space.

Presently, library cards are free for residents of Green County and \$5 for nonresidents, ensuring that access to information remains open to everyone. Today's library offers far more than traditional materials. Patrons can check out books, DVDs, magazines, and a variety of other items for two weeks at a time, and they can also take advantage of essential services such as copying, faxing, notary work, and lamination. Free Wi Fi is available both inside the building and around the grounds, and public computers, laptops, and hotspots help bridge the technology gap for those who need reliable internet access. The Library of Things, featuring items like microscopes, telescopes, and metal detectors, invites patrons to explore new hobbies and hands on learning experiences.

Programming for all ages is a cornerstone of the library's mission. For children, weekly Story Hour, Lapsit, and Kids Korner programs are available. Monthly teen and tween activities offer creative outlets and social opportunities for older youth. Through Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, children under five who reside in Green County receive a free book each month; currently, about 56%

of eligible children are enrolled, resulting in roughly 330 books delivered to local homes every month. Adults also enjoy a wide range of opportunities, from chair yoga and walking groups to cardio drumming and line dancing. Monthly book club meetings, Craft Corner sessions, and other special programs ensure that there is always something new to learn or experience. Many events are designed for all ages, including the annual Summer Reading Program.

Outreach remains an important part of the library's identity. Although the library has always provided outreach service, the Bookmobile had been absent for more than 30 years until its return in 2023. Today, it makes scheduled stops at homes, daycares, private schools, and four public locations, bringing library materials directly to community members who may not be able to visit the main building. Seven Little Library stations placed around the county further extend access by offering free materials for anyone to take and enjoy. Patrons also have unlimited access to a wide range of online resources through the library's website, gcp.linfo. The Libby app provides ebooks, audiobooks, and magazines for all ages, available anytime with no late fees or return trips. LearningExpress offers test preparation, skill building tools, resume assistance, and more valuable resources for students, job seekers, and lifelong learners. Local history continues to be a major focus. Digitized Green County newspapers from 1895 through June 2006 allow users to search people, places, and events or browse by date. The library also houses the Historical and Genealogical Society's quarterlies and

a growing collection of photographs documenting the county's past. Additional digital resources available inside the library include yearbooks beginning in 1936, as well as access to Ancestry.com and Newspapers.com.

The Genealogy Department remains one of the library's most treasured assets, offering an extensive collection of family research materials and local history resources. Its weekly history article keeps the community connected to its roots, celebrating the stories and people who shaped Green County.

As we celebrate National Library Week (April 19-25), this article serves as a reminder of how vital the public library has been to our community. From its earliest beginnings to its modern services, the library continues to encourage learning, connection, and opportunity while honoring the past, enriching the present, and investing in a brighter future for all.

Volunteers & Donations Welcome

The Green County Food Pantry is open Thursdays in the new building on First Street

Ending Hunger Takes Teamwork

Volunteers & Donations Welcome

For more information, including how to volunteer, call or text 270-405-3247

Let's work together to bring hunger relief to our neighbors in need.

Open Thursdays (except holidays) 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. CT
Must have driver's license or other proof that you are living in Green County. Income guidelines apply.

Linda Judd, Director

Food Pantry adv. a public service of the Record-Herald

DID YOU KNOW?

Almost 9 out of 10 newspaper readers vote in local elections.

	Ky adults	Newspaper readers	Non-newspaper readers
Vote in state/national elections	69%	71%	60%
Vote in local/school board/city elections	84%	86%	72%

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Greensburg Record-Herald

Source: The Kentucky State Study 2023: Conducted by Coda Ventures, Base: Total adults