

Burke County Public Library

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March 2020



Census @ your library

By mid-March U.S. residents will begin receiving in the mail their official invitations to participate in the 2020 census. By April 1, which is Census Day, every home in the United States will have received the census invitation. The invitation will list three ways to respond to the census: online, phone, or mail.

With the response to the 2020 Census designed to take place primarily online, libraries can bridge the digital divide and support a more complete count. More than 24 million Americans do not have high-speed internet at home, according to the Federal Communications Commission. Older adults, rural residents, racial minorities, and those with lower levels of education and income are less likely to have home broadband.

Libraries serve people of all ages and backgrounds and are well-positioned to reach some demographic groups that are at heightened risk of being undercounted in the Census. Children younger than 5 years old, for instance, are the most undercounted age group. The Annie E. Casey Foundation recommends libraries as a trusted messenger of information about Census participation to parents and guardians.

Beginning March 13, each location of the Burke County Public Library will have dedicated workstations for those wanting to use them to enter their census information. Library staff will be available to provide assistance.

A public library is located within five miles of 99% of hard-to-count census tracts identified with the lowest response rates in 2010—and 73% of the time a library is located within one mile.

#CountOnLibraries

ALA American Library Association

Living Well by the Numbers

Monthly statistics for all Burke County Public Library locations.

Item	February FY 18/19	February FY 19/20	Change
Circulation	13,132	14,230	+8.36%
Library Cards – New and Renewed	411	439	+6.81%
Library Visits	NA	8,347	NA
Programs – Number Held	NA	117	NA
Programs – Number Attending	NA	1,960	NA
Computer Sessions	2,667	2,888	+8.29%
Ebooks Checked Out	2,224	2,806	+26.2%
Items Added to the Collection	649	753	+16.0%
Items Removed from the Collection	201	153	-24.3%
Items in the Collection	139,794	142,763	+2.12%

Friends Spring Book Sale on April 17/18 at the Collett Street Rec.



19th Amendment Exhibit

On Saturday, February 29, from 10 am to 3 pm, the Morganton Public Library hosted an exhibition from the State Archives of North Carolina titled: "An Absolute Moral Certainty — The Woman Suffrage Movement in North Carolina." The year 2020 marks the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment, guaranteeing and protecting the right of women to vote. Over 100 people viewed the exhibit and many had the photos made wearing a suffrage sash. A representative from the League of Women Voters of Catawba Valley was available to register people to vote.



The first attempt to grant women suffrage came in February 1897 when J. L. Hyatt, a Yancey County Republican, introduced a bill in the state senate. Legislators referred it to the Committee on Insane Asylums, of which Hyatt chaired. The bill never received attention and died.

From General Assembly Session Records, January-March 1897, Senate Bills 635-839, (S.B. 676), State Archives

The exhibit included original archival documents and materials relating to suffrage, including a copy of the 19th Amendment sent to North Carolina for ratification in June of 1919. This document — along with pro- and anti-suffrage propaganda, hand-held fans, facsimiles of legislation, political cartoons, and a suffragist's sash — will travel the state from November 2019 through November 2020.

Although women have had the right to vote since 1920, the North Carolina Legislature ratified the 19th amendment on May 6 1971. There were no dissenting votes.

Gathering of the People

The Morganton Public Library hosted the 18th Gathering of the People in Celebration of Black History Month on Sunday, February 23. Over 175 people attended the program. The topic was the historic community of Jonesboro in Morganton which is listed on the National Registry of Historic Places. Laurie Johnston, Curator of the North Carolina Room, gave a slideshow presentation on the history and people of Jonesboro. This was followed by a panel discussion of what it was like to live and grow up in Jonesboro. Members of the audience added to what the panelists had to say by sharing their own remembrances. The panel moderator and six panelists were: Ruth Roseboro, Beverly Carlton, Jeanne Fleming, Thomas Tapp, Rosetta Ferguson, Rev. Diane Conley, and Robert Carter.



HISTORIC JONESBORO COMMUNITY IN MORGANTON, NC

- The Jonesboro Historic District is located along sections of West Concord Street, Jones Street, South Anderson Street, Bay Street and Lytle Street. The district consists of forty-one buildings.
- The area has traditionally been a black residential neighborhood and remains so today, Morganton's only intact historic black community. Homes in the district were constructed between ca. 1895 and ca. 1935 and include examples of vernacular Victorian cottages, bungalows and shotgun houses.
- Perhaps the most significant resident of the neighborhood was Philo Harbison. Harbison was born a slave in 1856, but resided in his master's house and was taught to read and write. As an adult, he trained as a master carpenter and ultimately became a contractor and builder. The only existing homes he is known to have built are his own home in the Jonesboro district and the houses he built as rental property.

— From the State of North Carolina Division of Archives and History (1986)

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