



Submitted photo

Carolyn Lowery, Children's Room staff member who developed the "Music and Movement" program at the Forsyth County Public Library, prepares children for a period of animated activity at the program's new home in the Milton Rhodes Center for the Arts.

Arts Council welcomes public library program to downtown arts center

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The Arts Council of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County welcomed "Music and Movement," the Children's Room signature program for kids from infants to kindergartners and their caregivers.

It is among library services that have moved during the two-year construction period when the Forsyth County Central Library is no longer "central" but still the sum of its parts that are scattered about the city.

The treasured North Carolina Collection, for instance, has a new home in the Forsyth County administration building. Other programs have found suitable homes.

Chris Jones, The Arts Council's chief operating officer, tells us why the council welcomed the library program.

"We are looking for ways to make the Milton Rhodes Center for the Arts Center more welcoming and vibrant, from top to bottom and throughout the entire day and evening. A morning program like "Music and Movement" certainly fits the bill.

"Caregivers, usually mothers, come in pushing strollers — some with two or three kids in tow — and head for our newly up-fitted Mountcastle Forum. Now also a performance space, as well a venue for meetings and receptions, it has a new floor that scores of boisterous kids cannot harm a bit. There is a lot of music and "to be sure, but that's just fine with us," Jones said. "And we already had addressed noise considerations while prepping the room for music and theatrical performances."

Nan LaRosee, Children's Room director at the central library, says "Music and Movement" is

offered every second and fourth Tuesday of the month from 11 to 11:30 a.m. The program is free and open to the public.

"The Central Library has been offering the program for about three and a half years. The Walkertown Branch was first and started offering it a year or so earlier. It replaced the traditional story time at the Central Library that was fading in popularity, and the very first week, 25 showed up, 30 the next and it kept growing," said LaRosee.

Average attendance now is 70-80, with the number sometimes going over 150 during the library's summer reading program.

Walk into the Mountcastle Forum and you will see kids marching, dancing, singing and keeping rhythm with sticks, maracas, rhythm eggs, and jingle bells and then, on cue, falling down and feigning nap time for a few seconds as the music suggests.

Library staff use a variety of children's music by such performers as Jim Gill, Greg & Steve, Bari Koral and Ralph's World, along with updated folk songs, a capella, and rock and roll classics.

They look for music that requires listening skills in order to interact with the song at the correct time and in the correct order, and encourages movement.

Staff have found that participants like to be fully engaged and actively contributing to all of the activities. Caregivers are free to join in or visit among themselves, making new friends.

Inquiries about "Music and Movement" can be made by contacting Nan LaRosee, Children's Room Director, Forsyth County Public Library 336-703-3041, laroseal@forsyth.cc.

Piedmont Opera partners with non-profits on student art contest

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

On March 13, 15 and 17, Piedmont Opera will produce Mozart's "The Magic Flute," a celebration of true love conquering all, which transports us into an enchanted world where good faces the forces of darkness.

To help raise awareness of this production, the opera has partnered with Associated Artists of Winston-Salem, the Hispanic Arts Initiative, The Children's Museum of Winston-Salem and The Arts Council of Winston-Salem/Forsyth County to create the "What's Your Story" contest.

Students in kindergarten through 12th grade were invited to submit an original fairytale concept. More than 70 submissions were sent in and evaluated by a selection committee. Then, the stories were sent to local artists to select a fairytale to bring to life

through assorted art forms.

"This is a great way to introduce different art forms to students. We also hope that students and their families will become more familiar with many of our local artists," said Marketing Director, Mariedith Appanaitis.

"The program has been a huge success and has been a great example of how non-profits can work together."

The Fairy Tale Project art exhibit will be on display at the Children's Museum through March 9. Select pieces from the show will also be on display at the Stevens Center on the campus of the University of North Carolina School of the Arts on March 11, 13, 15 and 17 during Piedmont Opera's production of "The Magic Flute." The art show is free and open to the public. Many of the artists and the young authors are available for interviews.

American Red Cross touts March

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

In honor of Red Cross Month in March, the American Red Cross encourages people to uncover their inner hero and donate blood or platelets, volunteer their time or sign up to organize a blood drive.

For more information, please visit redcross.org.

Officers: Avoid jury duty scam

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The Forsyth County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) has received several reports recently of a scam to have money sent to a location to avoid incarceration.

Since Monday, Feb. 16, five separate incidents have occurred within Forsyth County to residents who have been contacted by telephone by individuals claiming to be members of the FCSO.

The caller explains to the person (potential victim) that he/she has missed jury duty and was subsequently in contempt of court. In order to avoid being arrested and confined in the local jail, the person will need to make arrangements to meet in order to pay the court order money to avoid incarceration or to be taken into custody and transported to the jail.

The FCSO does not conduct business in such a

manner as recorded above. If a person fails to appear as directed by a Jury Summons, resolution to the matter will not be conducted by telephone requiring a person to transfer money.

If someone is contacted by telephone by person claiming to be a deputy sheriff directing a money transfer be made or imminent incarceration shall occur, the resident should obtain the caller's name, telephone number, and other relevant information before ending the call.

The resident should then immediately contact the local law enforcement for verification. The perpetrator(s) has been providing the potential victims with some of the victim's personal information in an effort to validate their scam. Once, the perpetrator was able to manipulate the caller ID to reflect the call was being placed from the Sheriff's Office.