

County library wins national achievement

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(Photo: Mike Tripp/The News Leader, Mike Tripp/The News Leader)

FISHERSVILLE - The Augusta County Library recently received a national award for its Read & Feed program.

The library was the recipient of the 2016 Achievement Award from the National Association of Counties, according to a release. The award is intended to honor programs that offer new services to county residents, fill gaps in available services and promote intergovernmental cooperation and coordination in addressing shared problems, a release said.

County special ed pioneer Shriver retires as principal

(<http://www.newsleader.com/story/news/local/2016/06/29/retiring-principal-special-ed-pioneer-county/86512618/>).

Read & Feed is a literacy and nutrition outreach program for children and their families, which provides elementary school-aged children, their parents and siblings with nutritious meals, literacy and STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and math) programming and access to library books during the summer months, a release said.

Read & Feed brings pop-up libraries to schools, community centers and other sites that are more convenient to families. How the program works is the library staff provide literacy programs, teach craft activities, issue library cards and check out books and the schools make meals, provided for free with funding through the Virginia Department of Health.

The program is also an attempt to curb "the summer slide," which is the name given to the loss of learning and reading skills in children over the summer.

"Many children in Augusta County go hungry in the summer without school meals," Tammy Coulte, children's librarian, said in a release. "Not only is it hard for a child to focus on reading if they are hungry, children who do not read during the summer are at risk for the Summer Slide."

Augusta County Library collaborated with the nutritionist of Augusta County Public Schools, Cassell Elementary, Craigsville Elementary, the town of Craigsville and community volunteers to create and launch Read & Feed, a release said.

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