

Lions Clubs, Carroll County Public Library ask kids to Roar Like a Lion on Jan. 27



Kids participate in Roar Like a Lion Day, a day of service, in 2018 at the Finksburg branch of the Carroll County Public Library. This year, all branches of the CCPL and all Lions Clubs in Carroll are participating to make this happen on Sunday, Jan. 27. (Courtesy photo)



Lois Szymanski Contact Reporter Central Carroll Neighborhoods

Across the county, local Lions Clubs have been busy planning what they hope will be the largest service project in the history of Carroll County.

On Sunday, Jan. 27, from 1:30 to 4 p.m., they'll hold the first-ever countywide Roar Like a Lion Day — an afternoon of community service to be held at every library in Carroll County.

“Roaring Run and Deer Park Lions Clubs are looking forward to having the community come out in full force for this afternoon of service,” said Vicki Mahr of the Roaring Run Lions Club.

Mahr is chairperson of Roar Like a Lion day for the Finksburg branch. She spearheaded their first-ever day of service last year, but only at the Finksburg branch. Afterward, she took the idea to the region, expanding it to a day of service to be held at all library branches and with all Carroll County Lions Clubs participating.

“Last year, after this event, we delivered the many projects to a variety of organizations,” Mahr said. “First Responder Appreciation Bags were delivered to local fire companies, the

Carroll County Sheriff's Office, [Maryland State Police](#) and Westminster Police. The Homeless Care Packages were given to [a] Westminster police officer who handed them out to local people in need. Over 500 cards were created that were delivered to a Veterans hospital, Operation Welcome Home, and to children in the hospital.

“One of the most popular projects the community created were dog toys made from old T-shirts [that were] braided into ropes. Our 22W First District Governor, Evan Gillett, delivered them to Leader Dog for the Blind, the Lions organization that trains and provides seeing eye dogs. These are just a few of the ways our larger community benefited from the service of others.”

Gillett spoke of the sense of community that comes with this kind of project.

“Last year I was amazed at how many people turned out to help people they do not know and will probably never meet,” Gillett said. “The fact that people of all ages were willing to give a little of their time to do something nice for others makes me feel good about our community. We often hear about how today's youth does not want to get involved in service projects, but last year's Roar Like A Lion proved that was wrong because the youth of Carroll County were there in force to do the work.”



The Lions Clubs of Carroll County will be sponsoring a day of service in partnership with the Carroll County Public Library during which volunteers can help with a variety of hands-on activities and projects like those seen above. (Courtesy photo / BSMG)

According to Mahr, all ages can beat the winter blues and feel the warmth that accompanies a day of service.

A core team of overall planners, including Mahr, Susan Cox, Evan Gillett, Ron Kafchinski and Mike Garner worked together to make sure each library had many clubs involved and a variety of service projects at hand. Local Lions Clubs will supply materials, instructions and volunteers to lead each project with each project benefiting the community.

Lion Michael Garner of Westminster Lions Club is chairperson of the Roar Like a Lion day at the Westminster branch.

“The project is designed to provide the citizens of Carroll County an opportunity to spend time with their neighbors working on projects to show support for local volunteers, help those in need, and make a difference in the lives of the members of our community,” Garner said.

Those who attend can choose from a variety of projects including many Mahr named above, plus fleece scarves for the homeless, hospital busy bags, roses for senior lunch trays, Linus blankets and hospital busy boxes for children, kindness rocks, chemotherapy care packages for children, socks for the homeless and much more. In addition, participants can bring a non-perishable food item to support local pantries. Garner said participants can drop in for an hour or stay for the entire session, and student service hours will be available.

“There’s a wide variety of projects to participate in, no matter your age,” he said. “We hope people will participate in this project and help the Lions Clubs meet their goal of making this the largest service project in the history of Carroll County.”

Gillette spoke of the fact that several LEO clubs will also be involved in the day of service. LEOs are student Lions Clubs

“Lions Youth Foundation [also] gave us some grant money,” he said. “This event is strongly supported by all of the Lions of District 22-W.”



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The coordinator for Eldersburg Library, Ron Kafchinski spoke of the reasons it is important to him to be a part of this day.

“This is a great opportunity for the Carroll County Lions and libraries to provide an afternoon of service for the students of Carroll County while also giving the students and public an idea of what Lions can provide for the community,” Kafchinski said.

For additional information, call your branch library.

The Westminster branch is located at 50 E Main Street, Westminster, and can be reached at 410-386-4490. The Finksburg branch is located at 2265 Old Westminster Pike, Finksburg and can be reached at 410-386-4505. The Eldersburg branch is located at 6400 Hemlock Drive, Eldersburg and can be reached at 410-386-4460. The Mt. Airy branch is located at 705 Ridge Road, Mt. Airy and can be reached at 410-386-4470. The North Carroll branch is located at 2255 Hanover Pike, Hampstead and can be reached at 410-386-4480. The Taneytown branch is located at 10 Grand Drive, Taneytown and can be reached at 410-386-4510.