

Library Director's Report

July 6, 2021

Prepared by Lori Stokem, Director

May Monthly Statistics: Statistical summaries for the month of June 2021 will be available at our meeting.

Financial/Donations:

Last check (10%) from the state in the amount of \$139.00.

News/Issues:

- I have been participating in virtual Director's Council meetings. This past month I also attended a Courtyard Committee meeting, a virtual new director's meeting, and a strategic planning committee meeting.
- Our new Game Lending Library is up and running! This new program was developed with the funding from the Challenge Grant. The cabinet Dave Culver made is near the entrance of the library and inside are multiple games that Karen Hickland ordered that can be signed out just like a book. The games are for people of all ages. Many of our patrons have already signed out a game and are very excited about this new offering at the library!
- During the month of June, I spent a couple of days at Salem Central School and was able to visit eight different classes to tell them about the Bancroft Library. Each of the students was given an application to get a library card.
- Mary, from SALS, came to the library last month and installed two new computers and updated our computer system. You will notice the new computers no longer have the towers under the desk, but small, compact hard drives on top of the desk. Two more computers have been ordered and should be coming soon. Thank you to the Friends of the Library for providing the funding for the new computers!

- Farm-2-Library Program Update: Everything seems to be running smoothly. The fridge is pretty close to empty every week! We've submitted our fee so we should also be receiving fruit on a weekly basis too.
- Karen has completed the requirements to become a Notary Public and has begun offering that service to our patrons.
- Karen continues to add some wonderful new books and DVD's to our shelves that are available for our patrons.
- We continue to keep our patrons informed of new books and library news through the use of the library's Facebook page, our webpage, and our newsletter. You can see video interviews of young, local authors, Autumn Fleming and Carynn Bohley on our Facebook page.
- Curbside service continues for patrons who are not comfortable coming into the library at this time. Currently, there are not too many people using this service, but there are still a few, so we will continue to offer it to our patrons.
- One of our library windows last month was put together by Alyce Harrington (Alternate Dairy Princess) with the guidance of FFA Advisor, Amy Maxwell. As it was National Dairy Month, the theme of the window centered around dairy farms and cows. The other windows are promoting our summer reading programs.

Looking Ahead:

- Strategic Plan: We had our first committee meeting last month. We reviewed the library's previous five year plan, discussed what we would like to see the library do in the future, and each person was given some ASK forms---easy questions to ask different people in our community about what they feel our community needs or what they would like to see in our community. We will be meeting again July 14th

- Juneteenth: Library holiday next year?

Programs:

- Chess Club has resumed their weekly meetings on Saturdays using Proudfit Hall. Their meetings have been very well attended by both adults and kids and they expressed over and over again how glad they were to be back playing chess again. I also asked Todd DeSoto, the Chess Club Advisor at Salem School to let his kids know about the Saturday Chess Club at the library. He sent them an e-mail letting them know they are welcome to join Mark and the others at the library on Saturdays.
- Scrabble Club has also resumed their weekly meetings on Wednesday mornings.
- Book Club will also be starting up again soon.
- We will be starting a new group that will learn to play Mah Jong. Kathy Rapp, a former teacher at Salem, has offered to teach this game to the group. I will have details about this new group soon.
- We have made available weekly "Take Away" craft bags for the children in our community. All the grab and go craft bags are usually gone by Friday. Last week they were all gone the day we put them out. These have been very popular and we have people asking for them each week now. We have received a lot of positive feedback.
- Summer Programing has begun! We are very excited about our summer reading programs. As we weren't sure what we would be able to do and not do this summer, we planned activities for outside. Karen has put a tremendous amount of planning and work into our "Community Solar System" activity. It started last month and will continue throughout the summer. There are sign posts throughout the community with pictures and information about each of the planets, along with a 3-D printed model of

each of them (Made in coordination with Todd DeSoto at Salem School). The placement and models of the planets are to scale. The library is the Sun and Pluto's home is at The Creamery! This is a wonderful activity that everyone in the community can enjoy. Kids who visit all the planets can come into the library for a free book (solar system, space, planets—provided by Books In Kids' Hands) and a goodie bag with some fun space items!

The library will also offer a "Read Your Way Across the USA" program. Participants can pick up a map of the United States at the library. Over the summer they can read a book that takes place in different states, read one book for each state—there are many possibilities. This activity can be used by adults as well as kids. At the end of the summer we will pick one adult name and one child name who will receive a Northshire Bookstore gift certificate (Donated by Friends of Bancroft Library).

- Last month we were fortunate enough to be able to offer our families with kids "hydroponic gardening kits" from Cornell Cooperative Extension. We distributed kits to 14 kids. The kits came with all they would need to grow lettuce without soil.