

# Library Director's Report

August 3, 2021

Prepared by Lori Stokem, Director

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

## **Financial/Donations:**

We received a check from the Salem Rotary Club for \$200 to help pay for the fruit for the Farm-2-Library program. I presented to their group via Zoom a couple of months ago. They would like us to keep them updated on the progress of the program. A thank you note has been sent.

A donation for the Friends of the Library was received from Wendy Hull and Kenneth Cassidy in the amount of \$200. Another donation in the amount of \$20 was received from Cindy Fronhofer in memory of author Bruce Hiscock. Thank you notes will be sent.

## **News/Issues:**

- I have been participating in virtual Director's Council meetings. This past month I also attended a strategic planning committee meeting.
- Our new Game Lending Library has been well received with many patrons taking out games each week! This new program was developed with the funding from the Challenge Grant. This month we have continued to add more games to the game library!
- During the month of July one of the summer school classes at Salem Central School started visiting the library every Wednesday morning. Their teacher and teacher aide are helping them get a library card so they can check out books during their visits! (They each have a library card now!)

- Farm-2-Library Program Update: Everything has been 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. Through our Facebook page, I have had some libraries in other parts of the country contact me for information about the Farm-2-Library. They would like to start something similar in their own libraries. We have had a huge amount of positive feedback from our patrons and community members about this program!
- I have completed my Notary exam and am in the process of filling out the paperwork so I will also be able to provide notary services soon.
- Karen continues to add some wonderful new books, games, and DVD's to our shelves that are available for our patrons.
- I recently met with the Fosters so the girls could make "In memory" plates for books donated in memory of Ruth Foster. They also made them for the three kids' Playaways that were purchased with the Foster donation money. The books and Playaways are now available for patrons to borrow.
- We continue to keep our patrons informed of new books and library news through the use of the library's Facebook page, our webpage, newspaper articles, and our newsletter.
- 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.
- Our library windows this month promote our summer reading programs. The windows with a solar system and space theme bring attention to our current community reading program (see below). Displayed on our side windows and our inside tables are dioramas made by local artist Tom Gray. Mr. Gray recently passed away and his sister generously offered to let us display his art work in the library.

## Looking Ahead:

- Strategic Plan: Our committee met last month on July 14<sup>th</sup>. The committee reviewed the information each person received from using their ASK form. Everyone shared the answers members of the public gave them about what our community needs. (I can review some of their answers later in this meeting). We will be meeting in August to consider how the library can help meet the needs of the Salem community and then develop several goals.
- New Hours: Library hours will be increased before the end of the month.

## 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 at the beginning of August.
- We will be starting a new group that will learn to play Mah Jong. Kathy Rapp, a former teacher at Salem and her friend Lorraine, have offered to teach this game to the group. They will be meeting on Wednesdays at 2:00. I expect to hear back from Kathy very soon about when she would like to begin!
- Noah continues to provide tech help every Tuesday.
- 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.

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 continues! We are very excited about our summer reading programs. Our "Community Solar System" 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 is also offering 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).

- At the end of the month, Farmer Tom, will perform on Saturday, August 28<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 noon. He will sing and provide entertainment geared toward kids. We will ask families to sit together and practice social distancing.