

Library Director's Report

September 7, 2021

Prepared by Lori Stokem, Director

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

Financial/Donations:

We received a check in the amount of \$1,382.00 (FY21-22LLSA).

We have ordered three more public computers, one staff computer and one monitor. .

News/Issues:

- I have been participating in virtual Director's Council meetings. This past month I also attended a strategic planning committee meeting and I met with Janice Quartararo at the Courthouse.
- Farm-2-Library Program Update: Everything has been running smoothly. The fridge is pretty close to empty every week!
- On August 18th the Legion Auxillary came in and cleaned out their closet in the kitchen in Proudfit Hall.
- I have passed my Notary exam and have completed the paperwork required. I'm just waiting to hear back from the state. Karen has provided notary services to numerous people during the past month.
- I wrote a letter to the new faculty at school to be included in a "New Employee Basket." The letter included information about the library and I also attached an application for a library card.

- Karen continues to add some wonderful new books, games, 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, newspaper articles, and our newsletter.
- New Hours: Library hours currently are:
 - Monday: 1:00 - 6:00
 - Tuesday: 1:00 - 8:00
 - Wednesday: 10:00 - 6:00
 - Thursday: 1:00 - 8:00
 - Friday: 1:00 - 5:00
 - Saturday: 10:00 - 2:00
- 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. With our current situation with COVID, I would not be surprised to see some of our patrons taking advantage of this service again.
- Our library windows last month promoted our summer reading programs. The windows had a solar system and space theme which brought attention to our current community reading program. 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 August 19th. During August I met with Janice Quartararo at the Courthouse and asked for her input on what she's been hearing our community needs. I will be implementing some of our ideas into our Strategic Plan. At this point, we are writing out our goals. We are finishing things up and I'm hoping to have

the completed plan at our next board meeting for approval (I will send you each a copy ahead of time).

- In October, the Fort Salem Theater will be presenting "Diary of Anne Frank." We will be working with the theater and the Courthouse with activities related to that performance. The Courthouse is going to put together some kind of historical presentation about Anne Frank and the library will dedicate at least one of our windows to the subject and display books about Anne Frank. I also put the theater in touch with one of the teachers at school as they are hoping to do an extra performance in which high school students may attend.

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.
- Scrabble Club continues to meet weekly on Wednesday mornings.
- Book Club started up at the beginning of August and have now met twice.
- We have started a new group that's learning to play Mah Jong. They are meeting on Wednesdays at 2:00.
- 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 has ended! Our "Community Solar System" was a huge hit with both kids and adults! They had fun finding all the planets and learning fun facts about them. Kids who visited all the planets came 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 also offered a "Read Your Way Across the USA" program. Participants read over the summer and filled in a map of the USA. One adult name and one child name was picked to receive a Northshire Bookstore gift certificate (Donated by Friends of Bancroft Library).
- At the end of the month, Farmer Tom, came to perform on Saturday, August 28th at 12:15 noon. We coordinated with the Courthouse so he could perform outside on their lawn. He sang and provided entertainment geared toward kids.