

Library Director's Report (April)

Meeting Date: May 10, 2022

Prepared by Lori Stokem, Director

April Monthly Statistics: Statistical summaries for the month of April 2022 will be available at our meeting.

Financial/Donations:

A donation was made in memory of Janet Donoghue. The donation includes a Smart TV and a monetary donation.

News/Issues:

- I have been participating in virtual Director's Council meetings. We are meeting monthly.
- Farm-2-Library Program Update: Food delivery has continued but changes in the program are taking place. Next week I'll be attending a Zoom meeting for all the libraries participating in the Farm-2-Library Program. A couple weeks ago, Erica, from SALS, notified us that in the near future we would need to pick up the food from the Comfort Food Community in Greenwich. I reached out to the Salem community for volunteers to help us with this. We now have four volunteers (They each will pick up once a month) to pick up the food and we have five people that are willing to jump in if one of our regulars can't do it. Karen Hickland and I will do the first pick-up ourselves so we can let our volunteers know what to expect. We live in a great place where people are so willing to lend a hand.
- During April the Office of the Aging was able to resume their monthly senior citizen lunches. At the luncheon 15 lunches were served followed by a short program which detailed the services available through the Office of the Aging. They will be coming back again this month.

- DMV came on Wednesday to test their equipment to make sure everything works before they set up a time to come back to Salem. Hopefully, they will start back up again soon.
- I met with the Historic Preservation Committee and gave them an overview of our plans for a Story Walk in Salem. They approved our plans so our next step will be to finalize where the Story Walk posts will be and contact the property owners for permission to put them up.
- Last month our Maker Space items were put back out along with the children's play area. Many kids/youth have been using both of these offerings.
- Invitations were sent to the elementary teachers and jr/sr high English teachers inviting them to bring their classes to visit the library. As of right now, I've heard from four teachers who are interested in bringing their class for a visit in June. I expect I'll hear from more of them in the coming weeks.
- This weekend Melissa will be attending an event, Spring Into Salem Artisan Fair, at Blindbuck Valley Farmstead. She will be there representing the Salem Food Pantry, Books In Kids' Hands, and the Bancroft Public Library. She will have information about the Salem Food Pantry, Books In Kids' Hands will be giving out free gently used children's books, and the library will be providing some crafts along with library card applications and information about what the library has to offer.
- Cement has been poured out back. It looks great and we will be moving forward on more plans for the court yard soon. I met again with Karin Foster to review some of her ideas for the court yard in memory of her daughter. I also met with the Courtyard Committee on Thursday.
- The 2021 Report to Our Community is complete and I will have copies of it available at the board meeting on Tuesday.
- 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. I have started working on a newsletter that will go out before the end of the month!

Looking Ahead:

- I met with Chelsey Horner a few weeks ago and we discussed the library working together with Lunch, Learn and Play this summer. We've set up a schedule where first, second, third, and fourth graders will be visiting the library. While they are at the library we will have a guest reader read to them and have a craft for them to do.
- In May students at SCS will be participating in a "Day of Service." Some of the students will be helping at the library by working in the court yard.
- Marcy Armstrong has advised us that she can no longer work on Saturdays after this coming week. We are very appreciative of all the time she's dedicated to the library on the weekends. She will still be filling in now and then during the week when there's a need if she's available. I've invited Gayle Shaw to join our team at the library to work on Saturdays. Having worked as an aide in the library at school, Gayle comes to us with a wealth of knowledge of books and the workings of a library.

Programs:

- Scrabble Club continues to meet weekly on Wednesday mornings, Book Club meets the beginning of each month, Mah Jong also meets on Wednesdays, and Noah continues to provide tech help every Tuesday. Chess Club is back and meeting every Saturday! Their participation has been great!
- Karen and I are working with a couple of volunteers to get some new programs up and going.

- 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.