

Library Director's Report (July 2023)

Meeting Date: August 8, 2023

Prepared by Lori Stokem, Director

Monthly Statistics: Statistical summaries for the month of July 2023 will be available at our meeting.

Financial/Donations: State aid - \$1,437
Donation - \$50

News/Issues:

- Our Proudfit gallery has had a Norman Rockwell exhibit up during the month of July and will continue for a few more weeks.
- Karen has put together a great reading incentive for this summer! There are two challenges. The first one is an I Spy Challenge where you can choose a book connected to pictures on an I Spy page and the second one is Reading Through the Decades where you read books set during a specific time period.
- I have been participating in virtual Director's Council meetings.
- Farm-2-Library Program Update: Last month we had at least 66 community members take a food item from our pantry (Most likely more as people come and go that we don't see). Every month I have people tell me how much they appreciate the Farm-2-Library program.
- Karen continues to add some wonderful new books, games, and DVDs to our shelves that are available for our patrons.

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- 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. A summer newsletter will go out before our meeting Tuesday

Looking Ahead:

- I've been in touch with the person who books events for "The Quiet Epidemic." We are in the process of setting up a viewing of the documentary at the library in the fall.
- We have received the new router from SALS. I will be making an appointment with them to get it hooked up. We are also in the process of setting up multi-factor authentication through SALS (needed for our cyber insurance).
- Starting September 18th Washington County Public Health, in collaboration with the Office of the Aging and Disability Resource Center, will be offering a Tai Chi class for Arthritis & Falls Prevention at the library. It will be on Mondays and Thursdays from 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. in Proudfit Hall. The class will run until November 9th.
- The next pop-up lunch will be September 13. The speaker will be Public Health with a Tai Chi demonstration.

Programs:

- Our July senior citizen Potluck Luncheon was held July 23rd. Our guests at the lunch were fifth and sixth graders from Lunch, Learn & Play. A delicious lunch was had by all! After lunch we started the program by showing the kids an old telephone. There was much discussion about life before cell phones! Then the kids participated in a scavenger hunt where they had to find a senior citizen that could answer their questions. For example, they had to try and find a senior that grew up in Salem and then ask them what life was

- like growing up here. The conversations between the seniors and the kids were incredible! This was an excellent program! A great time was had by all!
- Throughout the month of July kids from Lunch, Learn, & Play came to visit the library. Our visitors were kids going into kindergarten through sixth grade. Our theme this year was S.T.E.A.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math). Each program began and centered around a book that was read to them by the volunteer leading the program. The kids learned about science lab safety, making bubbles, what happens when you do the yeast/hydrogen peroxide experiment, what you can make with a square, how to make slime, how to build a creative car, just to name a few! A huge thank you to our volunteers that helped make this program possible this summer---Mandi Ridler, Amy Frolish, Erin Rishell, Stacy Parker, Crystal Paul, Rachael Armstrong, Gayle Shaw, Karen Hickland, and Tara Carligure. Simon Hickland and Luke Snyder volunteered and were a great help. We had a total number of 113 kid visits along with 21 counselors.
- All of our regular programs continued throughout the month of July-Bancroft Book Buddies, Scrabble Club, Chess Club, Mahjong, Book Club, Kickin' Knitters, Tech Help with Noah and Tri-County Literacy.
- We continue to make available weekly "Take Away" craft bags for the children in our community.