

Mayor
Alice Ruby

Manager
Robert Mawson



Dillingham City Council
Kimberly Johnson
Michael Bennett
Aksel Buholm
Curt Armstrong
Kaleb Westfall
Perry Abrams

MEMORANDUM

Date: January 3, 2023
To: Robert Mawson, City Manager
From: Sonja Marx, Librarian
Subject: Monthly Report

Acknowledgements and Recognitions:

The temporary Assistant Librarian position funded by the LINKED grant was advertised again. Rene Johnson's last day for this year was December 3rd. She will be rehired in May when she returns to Dillingham.

In December, we received an application, and then interviewed and hired Jennifer Bennis as another Assistant Librarian, starting December 14. Before Jenice left on her two week vacation, she and Sonja began training Jenny. After the new year, Jenny will be working with Lane and Jonas each day until Jenice returns to work on January 9th.

Most of the library staff were able to attend the City's Employee Christmas party at the Senior Center on Thursday, December 15th which started at 4:30 pm with a catered prime rib dinner from the Bailey's with all the trimmings, followed by games and gifts providing food and fun for all.

Department Accomplishment and Opportunities:

Jenice was able to complete her six courses online for the APEI training before she left on her vacation. She was then able to use her eight hours of earned admin leave for her trip. We are so glad Jenice has the opportunity to travel abroad to Costa Rica.

Story-time puppet shows for the season were performed by Sonja for the children and their families on the last two Fridays in December at the library. We were open to the public on those Fridays when the other city offices were closed. Since we are normally open on Saturdays, we chose to take our admin leave days on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve and then be closed those two Saturdays. The library staff appreciates this gift of paid leave from the City Council during the holidays.

Projects – Progress and Public Impacts:

There are always projects to be done at the library. New ones pop up daily.

Upcoming Calendar Items:

This report marks the beginning of a new year; the first time I have had to write out the year 2023. I wonder how many times we will forget and write 2022! The year 2022 went by fast with memories and effects of Covid continuing to impact the library. The numbers of patrons visiting the library to checkout materials and using the computers for the internet are still low. One wonders if libraries statewide will rebound after the effects of the pandemic. We are hoping 2023 will be the year we return to what we were in the past; a thriving, robust library, meeting the needs in our community.

The Library Advisory Board planned to reschedule their meeting for January when others return from traveling for the school/holiday breaks. We will announce the meeting time and date when it has been determined. The LAB continues to seek a board member to fill a vacant seat.

The Friend of the Library have planned a meeting Wednesday, January 4th at 11:30 am in the library. Topics for the agenda include: FOL engagement in January, Caldecott and Newberry unveilings, and book recommendations to the librarian for purchase.

Sonja will be on vacation with her family in Colorado for two weeks in the new year. (January 2nd through 16th).

Public Feedback:

Last Friday, December 30th, the library hosted a game night, with hopes of many more to come. Those that attended the event had a great time. Future dates will be scheduled.

Library Stats report November 21, 2022 – January 1, 2023:

Patron Visits: 482 Computer Use: 48 Wireless Use: 440

Story Hour: 17 Museum Use: 30

AWE Station Use: 6 Volunteer Hours Logged: 3

Next Library Advisory Board meeting is to be scheduled for January, 2023