

**Mayor**  
Alice Ruby

**Acting City Manager**  
Kimberly Johnson



**Dillingham City Council**

Michael Bennett  
Aksel Buholm  
Curt Armstrong  
Kaleb Westfall

## MEMORANDUM

**Date:** August 29, 2023  
**To:** Kimberly Johnson, Acting City Manager  
**From:** Sonja Marx, Librarian  
**Subject:** Monthly Report

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### **Acknowledgements and Recognitions:**

William (Bill) Stroud was hired August 3<sup>rd</sup> as the Assistant Librarian under the LINKED grant to replace Helen Nelson who resigned in June. Bill is working 30 hours a week until Rene Johnson returns in September; they will then share the position until late October when Rene will leave again to care for her mother. Bill quickly learned the many aspects of working at the library before I left to care for my elderly mother in Colorado for two weeks. He has done an amazing job assisting the other librarians and even attending the weekly staff meetings at city hall every Tuesday at 8:30 am on my behalf.

### **Department Accomplishment and Opportunities:**

Our staff is getting back to our regular schedules as the summer ends with Lane and Jonas each working 14 hours a week. Jenice will also return to her 30 hour a week position as she finishes flagging for the summer on road projects.

With the library fully staffed this summer, I was able to take off time for much needed medical appointments for myself and other family members while in the Lower 48. Seems like this summer flew by quickly.

### **Projects – Progress and Public Impacts:**

With an open campus at Peter Pan and OBI for the first summer since the Covid outbreak, we have had many fishermen, fish processing workers, and visitors come to the library to use the facility, computers, and internet. The museum was also well attended with visitors touring the area. See attached the statistics for the library over the summer. The numbers have increased greatly compared to the past few summers. It's good to see the public returning to the library after Covid.

We had a tremendous Summer Reading Program under the leadership of Sarah Bailey working under the LINKED grant for the Dillingham Public Library. We had hundreds of children of various ages attending three days a week for 8 weeks. At the end, there was a pizza party and movie with many prizes for everyone. We will also be having a drawing for a \$50 AC gift card for those who participated in the reading challenge over the summer. The winner will be announced next month in the library report.

In July, the library received five new computers for the patrons to use, and two for the staff. Everything is working well with them, as well as the faster internet. The stats below show an increase in use over the summer.

The FOL and many city staff were able to move the used/donated books and bookshelves over to the library and museum one afternoon in July from the Old Territorial School building. Thanks to all those who helped. Also, a big thank you to the many volunteers who mowed the library lawn this summer. It's wonderful that there are those in the community who care for our library as well as the library grounds.

### **Upcoming Calendar Items:**

We are waiting to hear from the State regarding the PLA grant funding for FY 24. Usually, we have the funds available near the beginning of July to purchase materials for the library. The final report for the FY23 PLA grant is due October 2<sup>nd</sup>. We were awarded \$7,000 that year. We haven't heard yet what the amount will be for FY24.

Year Three for the LINKED grant begins October 1, 2023. With the \$25,000 that they pass through to us, we are able to hire more staff and order new materials for the library.

We were awarded e-rate funding starting July 1<sup>st</sup> using Starlink as the internet provider. The library was up and running mid-July as we got the new equipment in place and our tech people flew in to set up everything.

The FOL have a meeting planned to discuss helping a local group order books and promote reading in the schools regarding the Eskimo Scouts, the Alaska National Guard and the Alaska Territorial Guard. I will share that information in the next report as we get closer to the Veteran's Day holiday approaching. It sounds like a worthy cause to get behind and support them.

The LAB also has a meeting planned in September to finish up the Volunteer Policy. We are losing a board member, Rebekah Fonkert. The librarian (Rebecca Roenfanz) at the Dillingham Elementary School has shown interest in replacing her. We are sorry to see another person leave as she had served both on the FOL and the LAB for many years.

### **Public Feedback:**

The Battle Books were ordered, processed, and are on the shelves for students to check out as school has already begun. We continue to order books under the LINKED grant.

**List of Attachments:**

**Library Stats report for May 22<sup>nd</sup> – August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023:**

**Patron Visits: 3,537   Computer Use: 1,728   Wireless Use: 3,759  
Story Hour: 58   Museum Use: 564   Game Night: 7  
AWE Station Use: 73   Volunteer Hours Logged: 43  
Summer Reading Program Attendance: 295**

**Next Friends of the Library (FOL) meeting is in September.**

**Next Library Advisory Board (LAB) meeting is also in September.**

**Game night will begin every other Friday night once school starts.**