



MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 26, 2022
TO: Robert Mawson, City Manager
FROM: Sonja Marx, Librarian
SUBJECT: Department Report

STAFF REPORT

We have had good attendance for our Summer Reading Program that started June 24th. It is nice to finally have this annual event held within the library, in-person, once again. This year we incorporated some different themes for the event. The State library's program is "Read Beyond the Beaten Path." We are the first library in Alaska to use checkerslibrarytv.com for our Summer Reading Program event, "Off Road Adventures". The children watch a different downloadable video each week which includes adventures with Snoozer & Checkers while reading books, along with a "how to" craft project to work on in the library, and activity sheets to take home. The library provides a snack for the participants along with prizes for the children's participation during the week as they log how many books and/or minutes they have read. It has been rewarding seeing them return each week with their progress reports.

Starting July 15th, we were pleased to have Sarah Bailey join us on Friday mornings from the DCSD. She has been hired through the LINKED grant to help us with the SRP event for the younger ages at the library to promote literacy this summer. She is also at the library Monday through Thursday from 12 noon to 2 pm to provide tutoring for any students over the summer. Having her here has allowed me to start the Fork Farms Hydroponic Growing System with the older children in the museum area. This is a unit that was purchased with funding from the state through the Interlibrary Cooperation Grant that we applied for and were awarded. Soon we will be harvesting our first crop of different lettuces and basil sometime in August. The system came with curriculum for K-12. We plan to continue this project as the new school year begins, inviting those interested to participate in this STEM learning experience.

Through the BBEDC Summer Youth Internship program, we were able to hire Jamal Romie to work at the library this summer as a Library Aide/Clerk. He jumped right into the job and has been doing great! We also advertised for a Seasonal Library Assistant; however, no one has applied for the position.

I was able to attend my first in-person library conference training opportunity since the pandemic shut down participation at such events. IMLS grant funds were used for this continuing education event that was held in Anchorage in July called "Designing for the Future – the Post Pandemic Library Workshop".

This was the description of the training event I was able to attend for the library:

“The past couple of years have been challenging to say the least. The COVID pandemic, economic insecurity, increased political polarization and social unrest have severely tested our country and affected how members of the public interact with one another. **Designing for the Future** is an interactive workshop that will guide participants on how social and behavioral changes from the pandemic will affect the future design and operation of libraries and other public institutions. The Alaska State Library has partnered with NYU professor and space planning expert [David Vinjamuri](#) to offer Designing for the Future workshops in Anchorage, Juneau and Fairbanks. During the workshop participants will examine seven fundamental issues related to library space planning and design.

- A return to territoriality
- The concierge is here...forever
- The adaptable library
- The library a municipal point of service
- The library as community & civic hub
- Delivering services outside of the library
- The engaged staff”

And finally, for this Department Report that covers the two months of June & July, I’m happy to say our annual Friends of the Library Book Sale at the Old Territorial Building is happening once again, thanks to the youth who have been hired this summer to work on projects throughout the city. Currently, the book sale is Monday, Wednesday & Friday from 11 am to 2 pm until August 12th, 2022. Donations are received for the books. We were unable to hold this event for the past two summers due to Covid-19.

Library Stats report May 23rd - July 24th, 2022:

**Patron Visits: 1,133 Computer Use: 154 *Wireless Use: 997 Story Hour: 71
Other Visits (including SRP): 107 Museum Use: 179 Movies Shown: 0
AWE Station Use: 9 Volunteer Hours Logged: 11**

Next Library Advisory Board meeting to be scheduled; two open seats need to be filled.

The Friends of the Library Board is now complete and operational after the pandemic.

The Library will be closed Monday, September 5th, 2022 for Labor Day.

***The WiFi usage report was offline for most of July; there was much more usage than reported.**