

Programming and Outreach

Programs – We held 11 youth programs with attendance of 255 in January. We had 6 adult programs with 39 people in attendance in January. Planning for Summer is well underway and will be completed later this month.

School Partnership – New Directions Learning Community (NDLC) approached the library about partnering on a bridge reading program this summer. NDLC will be hosting an 8-week reading class for grades K-4, once a week for an hour in July and August. The library will provide the space and staff assistance in selecting books, teaching library skills, and helping families get library cards. I also met this month with staff at Park to discuss Beanstack, our online reading program software. Beanstack has recently rolled out a platform for schools to subscribe to. We are exploring ways that we can partner in offering Beanstack to Park students, to use in their classrooms and then easily transition into the library's summer learning program in June.

Administrative Updates

Hoopla – Our hoopla contract began on February 1. Our official launch was February 14. I will be able to provide statistics in future reports. We have had favorable response from patrons and staff that have already started using it.

Staff Training Day – Held on Friday, February 11. We received safety training from Fox Valley Safety, including safe materials handling, blood borne pathogens and cleanup, and ergonomics. We hope to provide staff with CPR/First Aid training at our June staff day and will have additional mandatory City training in September. Fox Valley Memory Project joined us for a valuable training on creating dementia friendly communities. Their "Purple Angel" training educated us on what dementia is, signs and support for those with dementia both in our personal lives and at the library. We discussed ways to communicate with community members with dementia, services and resources the library can add, and how to respond in crisis communication situations. Personally, I look forward to future partnership with FVMP and will be looking for grant funding to develop circulating reminiscing kits, a toolbox of activities and books to help community members with dementia and their care partners engage and share stories. The remainder of the day was spent updating and refreshing staff on policies and procedures, including Request for Reconsideration, various circulation policies, customer service best practices, and training on new services added this year.

The Friends of the Library met on February 10. They will be hosting a fundraising event on April 3 – Thank You for Being a Friend – a Golden Girls themed trivia day. Staff members Jody and Jenny are leading the coordination of the event and will be hosting the trivia. Tickets for the event go on sale on February 28. Space is limited, ticket holders receive event entry, a goodie bag of Golden Girls-themed items, and a 2022 Friends membership. Friends discussed the presentation to merge the Friends and Foundation.

Get to Know Our Newest Staff:

Bobbie B –

What is your position at KPL? Library Assistant

How long have you worked at KPL? I started off as an on-call position in summer of last year and shifted into the part time library assistant position in September.

Tell us a bit about yourself: hobbies, family, whatever you'd like to share. I love to read (obviously), but also enjoy baking and cooking, and searching for exciting treasures in resale shops and thrift stores. Most of my family lives in the Fox Valley area and we spend a lot of time together. I also have two cats named Dash and Sissy.

Why do you love Kaukauna Public Library? A lot of it has to do with my coworkers. Everyone seems to be in a good mood and happy to be at work overall. It's great to work with a group of people who enjoy their jobs.

Tell us about a project, service, or program you worked on that you are proud of. Or something you're excited to work on. One of my main tasks is setting up the themed book displays throughout the library. I'm always

happy when I see that a lot of books have been picked up and checked out. I'm looking forward to working on the Creator in Residence project for the summer. I think it'll be a different way for us to connect with the community. I'm also excited for the Peeps diorama contest for April. It will be fun to see what everyone thinks of for their entries.

What is something people might be surprised to know about Kaukauna Public Library? I think some people would be surprised at how engaged the library is with the community. Whether it's the food pantry, providing meeting spaces for different groups, having the local history resources, or the selection of materials designed to welcome everyone, the library makes it a point to connect with everybody.

If you could have one super power, what would it be and why? Teleporting! I would save time driving to work and could travel anywhere I want.

What is one topping that should never be on a pizza? Broccoli! Just about anything else is fine with me.

Sarah M –

What is your position at KPL? Assistant Librarian/Storytime Programmer

How long have you worked at KPL? Since June 2021

Tell us a bit about yourself: hobbies, family, whatever you'd like to share. Proud mama to 4 kiddos; 17, 14, 10 and 9. We love going on nature walks and spending time outdoors. As a family we are avid movie goers and enjoy playing games together, although we are quite competitive! I taught 4k for 10 years and have a deep love of reading, historical nonfiction and horror are my go-tos.

Why do you love Kaukauna Public Library? Not only the rich history and beautiful location but the services we provide and the community engagement are just a few of the reasons I love KPL!

Tell us about a project, service, or program you worked on that you are proud of. Or something you're excited to work on. Every service or program I am involved in instills a sense of pride, however, I am always proud of my story times. I spend a lot of time making sure there is a level of education represented and a craft to reinforce that learning at home. I recently helped put together the Chinese New Year craft packets and feel incredibly accomplished with the information I included so families can fully immerse themselves into the culture!

What is something people might be surprised to know about Kaukauna Public Library? One thing I found fascinating is that the entire collection, 690 books, were checked out the first day open as a public library, and it was opened in the jail! I'm not sure many people read the history and I always enjoy sharing that fact with patrons.

If you could have one super power, what would it be and why? Shapeshifting. Hands down, the best ability would be to morph into any other being.

What is one topping that should never be on a pizza? I would never eat a slice of pizza with an anchovy on it. That being said, I admire the variety of tastes in the world and believe any topping is acceptable.

Nancy T –

Position at KPL - Library Assistant, Preschool Programmer

How long have you worked at KPL? I just started in January of 2022

Tell us a bit about yourself: I am a fourth-generation farm girl. I worked at Menasha for many years as a librarian and then as a 6th grade ELA teacher. For the past 5 years, I lived and taught in Qatar (in the Middle East). I loved being a librarian there and teaching with educators from all over the world.

Why do you love Kaukauna Public Library? I appreciate how kind and helpful the other librarians are and how everyone is committed to having the best library possible. Also, the building is beautiful.

Tell us about a project, service, or program you worked on that you are proud of. When I was a middle school librarian, I held a reading contest where we took the student winners to Barnes and Noble. With proceeds our school made from bookfairs, the students could pick out up to a \$10 book of their choice for their very own. There were some students who had never been to a bookstore before, so I was glad we were able to go on a field trip for this. I also went through a book challenge as a middle school librarian, and fought against censorship. Thankfully, the school board also upheld our students' rights to intellectual freedom.

If you could have one super power, what would it be and why? To be able to read everything and to save all of the stray animals in the world. I came back with four cats that I rescued off the streets of Qatar.

What is one topping that should never be on a pizza? Anchovies