

## Support Services Report to the Mead Public Library Board of Trustees

Respectfully submitted by Cheryl Nessman

April. 24, 2023

**Page Position:** Mead had more than 30 people apply for the recent Page position that was posted on the City's jobs board and we successfully hired a new page who started on Monday, April 24<sup>th</sup>. We believe that the new starting wage of \$15 helped attract potential employees, noting that we had only 10 applicants when we last posted for this position in 2021 at a starting wage of \$9.02. *We would like to thank Maeve and the Board for making this wage increase a reality.*

**Automation of patron purge:** In April, 2023, Mead moved to a semi-automated process for purging patron records that had less than \$50 in fines attached to them and that had been inactive at least 3 years. In total, 7,472 inactive patron records were purged from our system. We will be noting the decrease in patron card holders on our 2023 Annual Library Report, but now that the process is automated and ongoing, we do not expect to see such a sizeable decrease again in the future.

**New Memory Caregiver Kit Collection:** Using funds donated by the Sheboygan County ADRC, Mead purchased materials to create 11 Memory Caregiver Kits. The kits contain hands-on activities, puzzles, books, and music boxes with familiar songs, and are designed to help caregivers engage and connect with people who have dementia. Kits should be available to the public by the end of May.

**New JV Read Along Collection:** The Children's Department recently purchase 47 VOX books to start a new *Read Along* collection. VOX books are audio books that live within print books, helping emerging and struggling readers learn how to hold a book, turn pages, and pronounce words. We were able to utilize a donation from the Sheboygan County Retired Teachers Association, as well as existing collection dollars that were pulled into this fund, to seed this collection and we hope to see it grow. Each book costs about \$49. More information on VOX books can be found [here](#).