

Report of the Librarian for December 2023 Activities

Unfinished Business:

We have two applications for the vacant Library Board spot. We are waiting for a recommendation to the City Council from the Administration, Finance & Property Committee.

New Business:

2023 statistics

Collection updates:

We received a grant from the John Henry Eldred Jr Foundation for the purchase of Children's media. We purchased approximately 60 nonfiction and Spanish language VOX books with these funds. This significantly improves our collection and allows us to create a small collection of titles that will circulate to the schools. Funds from the Friends of the Library allowed the purchase of additional puzzles and board games that have now been added to the collection. We created a separate section for Non-Fiction DVDs. These are mostly PBS and National Geographic DVDs. The circulation of these materials has already gone up.

Building issues:

We should have a janitor hired by the end of the week and starting before the end of the month. This will increase our janitorial hours from 1 hour a week to 5 hours per week with about the same price tag. We are sharing this position with the police department and court.

In building updates:

A new, large, colorful rug was purchased by the Friends of the Library from our Amazon wish list. This rug will be helpful with storytime and seating with kids.

Passive Programming:

We had several crafts available to make in the library in December and 1 week of a large craft table for families to make crafts from their imaginations. Several families told us that this allowed them to make presents for other family members that wouldn't have had presents otherwise. We also have the Nintendo Switch available for teens to play and this is starting to gain popularity as more teens discover it.

In-person Programming:

In December we offered after school movies on Wednesdays. Polar Express was the most popular with 27 people watching. Storytime took 2 weeks off for the holidays. Storytime has proved to be so popular that we now need extra staff present to help with the kids and adults. The next Community Read will be announced very shortly. We have been adding most programs to the Chamber of Commerce calendar and will test out paid Facebook ads in January.

New Building:

No new updates this month.