

Springfield Town Library
Library Director's Report for July 2023
Submitted for discussion at August 8, 2023 meeting
Sue Dowdell

Staffing:

- Being short-staffed has slowed many of our initiatives. Staff is doing a wonderful job picking up the slack in every area, but it has been stressful.
- A Hire Ability student has been working 20 hours / week helping out in various roles this summer, learning a variety of new skills, helping with summer lunches, and reading to the children.
- Second interviews for candidates for the Youth Services Librarian position will have been held by Friday, August 4th. Anticipate an update at the trustee meeting.
- Library Aide Kale is now helping with the digitization of historical trustee minutes (1976 and beyond).

Sustainable Libraries Initiative

(Environmentally Sound, Socially Equitable & Economically Feasible):

- Plastic collection in collaboration with Springfield Rotary Club: Over 1900 pounds have been collected. The third bench is to be installed in the Union / Park Neighborhood. We are close to achieving the fourth bench.

Building and/or Grants

- The town will be putting the roof out to bid again with new specifications.
- Three companies have come to look at the A/C & Air Handler systems. We have not yet received any complete quotes. The condenser had blown a fuse which caused an issue but fuse was replaced. Crossing fingers.
- ARSL grant funds (Sustainable and Resilient New England Libraries)
 - 2 of the Little Libraries are almost ready go to Springfield Housing Authority – need to order name plates. 3rd one is for Family Center, which we believe will be relocating to North Springfield.
 - Pavers have been donated by the Hartness House Inn. Jeff from Woodbury Florist will install between the gate from the ramp to the side garden for better accessibility
 - Vegetables are free for anyone in the community to harvest when they are ready
- Still waiting for Preservation Trust consultant to submit report
- CLiF Summer Reading Grant author event took place on Wednesday, August 3rd.

.Patron Services:

July Statistics:

- Patrons = 1213 total, including 45 non-residents
- Visitors = 1975, compared to 1578 in July 2022, highest amount in 4 years.
- Reference questions answered = 48 questions
- Tech help: 14 people for individual help
- Website visits: 2070
- Computer users
 - 193 people used library computers, for over 158 hours in July
 - an average of 65 people per day logged into the Project Connect Wi-Fi including outdoor access when the library is closed
- Volunteer hours – 57.5 hours
- Circulation of physical/traditional library items = 2258

- Circulation of nontraditional library items (Library of Things, items mostly received from grants or FOSTL) = 63
- Interlibrary loan:
 - Items lent: 424
 - Items borrowed/received: 430
- Circulation of digital items
 - EBooks & EAudiobooks & Movies: 548
 - Database Usage: 236 views (note that Newsbank totals will not be available until 15th of the following month)

July: xxx programs serving 452 people

Adult:

- Ask Our School Superintendent
- Original Bucky Lew in Vermont
- Home Deliveries
- Suzanne Woods Fischer – author visit
- 3 Book Club meetings & 2 Page Turners sessions
- Scribble Society writing group
- Individual Tech Help
- Button Art craft

Youth:

- Summer lunches for youth weekdays from July 2-31
- Nature Museum of Grafton
- Teen Advisory
 - Dungeons & Dragons group
 - Frog Painting with Ella
 - Origami with Kate
- The Space – Scavenger Hunt teams

All Ages

- The ARTS Bus at Springfield Street Fest
- Shark Week Movies
- Friday afternoon movies
- Interactive Movie / Encanto
- Summer Reading