

Springfield Town Library  
**Library Director's Report for November 2023**  
Submitted for discussion at December 12, 2023 meeting  
Sue Dowdell

**Sustainable Libraries Initiative, Building, and/or Grants**

*(Environmentally Sound, Socially Equitable & Economically Feasible):*

- Almost 3000 pounds of plastic recycled in Springfield via NexTrex, very close to 5<sup>th</sup> bench
- ARSL grant wrapping up:
  - Hand Dryers for the patron restrooms and timer switch for staff entrance light installed
  - Camera case and tripod arrived. Video camera being purchased in December.
  - Third little library finished. To be sent to the Family Center when set at the Plaza.
- Crab apple tree pruned – thanks to FOSTL funding
- ALA Libraries Transform Communities: Accessible Small and Rural Communities grant application for \$10K or \$20K to be submitted no later than December 11th
- Staff discussions regarding accessibility in print and online marketing (font types/sizes, color contrast, reading levels).
- Better Places crowdfunding grant application, in collaboration with Springfield On the Move, to be submitted in 2024 – for the back of the library: new fence, level space, add gate from the Woolson Block alley, cut down vegetation for better view of river – part of the Downtown Master Plan

**Staff changes:**

Kale's position has changed from library aide to materials handler as of December 4, 2023

**Patron Services:**

"Library of Things" collection:

- Two more children's snowshoes were donated
- Donated sewing machine ready on shelf. One more donation being checked. Two additional donations are promised. If all work properly, there will be 4 available.
- Thanks to FOSTL: document shredder, Kill-a-watt meter, 2 heat-guns, small foldable ironing board, portable CD player

**November Circulation and Use Statistics:**

- Visitors = 1840, compared to 1382 in November 2022 (33% increase).
- Patrons = 1353 total, including 58 non-residents
- Reference questions answered = 105 questions
- Tech help: 24 people for individual help sessions
- Website visits: 1765
- Computer users: 199 people used library computers, for over 172 hours in November
- Volunteer hours: 9.5 hours
- Circulation of physical/traditional library items = 2303 compared to 1921 in November 2022 (19.8% increase)
- Circulation of nontraditional library items = 55 (FOSTL purchase of new items: Kill-a-Watt Electricity Usage Monitor, portable CD player, two heat guns, shredder. Donation of 2 additional sewing machines that need to be checked before added to collection)
- Circulation of digital items
  - EBooks & EAudiobooks & Movies: 529
  - Database Usage: 122+ views– added info on Wowbrary about availability of Consumer Reports, expect NewsBank stats to be higher after social media push (NewsBank totals will not be available until 15<sup>th</sup> of the following month)

- Interlibrary loan:
  - Items lent to those in other libraries: 495
  - Items borrowed/received for our patrons: 415

November Programming: 25+ events serving/interacting with 249+ people

Adult:

- SSHP Landlord Meeting
- True Crime Stories of Burlington
- Army Corp of Engineers Community Conversation
- Dealing with Household & Estate Books
- Introduction to Death Journaling
- Snowman Bulb craft
- 3 Book Club meetings & 1 Page Turners sessions
- Scribble Society writing group
- Individual Tech Help

Youth:

- Teen Gaming
- Preschool story time
- Toddler Romp
- Thursday after-school programs (Board Games, Magic Flashlight, Legos, Far Out Safari)
- Golden Dome Book Club

All Ages

- Community Puzzle