

Library Report 5/15/24

The library has been busy this month! The budget vote passed, and Melissa Benardot was reappointed to the Board of Trustees. The museum discount passes were renewed, and I am hoping to get the new ones into circulation by the end of May. LeRoy Property Services trimmed the shrubs in the front of the building. North Country Savings Bank dropped off a donation check to the library for \$500.

M. McDonald was out for an extended leave, and K. Martin, C. Russo and I took care of the building in her stead. Both worked tirelessly in assisting me in my new role during the last few weeks. The teamwork and cooperation that was shown during this time is invaluable. The three of us maintained our usual workload while adding in extra duties to keep things running smoothly.

In fact, all staff members were spectacular and deserve recognition. M. McGarvey continues to oversee the covering of all new books, as well as running one of our handicraft programs. B. Brabon keeps our statistics streamlined and runs one of our handicraft programs. D. Andre oversees processing new items, filing shelf list cards, and recycling. T. Henderson continues to shine with patron interactions as well as running a monthly book club. B. Perry and K. Smythe have knocked out several pages of shelf reading as well as aiding in recycling. S. Carey continues to assist in the children's room, and J. Dabiew will be returning from college and has graciously stepped in to fill several vacant shifts.

Cornerstone serviced the air conditioner and stated the unit in the Fiction Room was nearly "obsolete" and they will not be able to get any more refrigeration coolant for it. I have scheduled an appointment to get an estimate for a new unit.

I have done my best to incorporate several of M. McDonald's tasks into my workload in the hopes this will ease her return to work. The library's Facebook page and emails have been updated and addressed. We have scheduled 2 service calls with Cornerstone, ordered a new telephone to replace the long-broken one in the director's office and have paid several of the library's bills. We have also maintained the staff calendar and are set through mid-June. It is important to me that staff feel comfortable asking for whatever time they need and know I will do my utmost to make it happen.

The rest of May and all of June are looking to be busy as well! The book sale and Summer Reading Program are right around the corner.

A message from Mary: "Mary extends her sincere appreciation to the entire staff for working together to keep things running smoothly during her extended absence. She also thanks them for their cooperation in filling multiple shifts this month to cover vacations and sick leave."

Thank you,
Nicole Andre
Senior Library Clerk

Part-time Librarian I Report
May 2024

I have added two more kits to our collection, both made available to the Wead Library from the Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library System; these are the first kits in our collection geared towards an adult audience: "Remembering Birthdays" and "Remembering County Fairs." I finished processing the kits by ensuring all materials were included and clearly labeled, then adding them onto Horizon. Patrons can now check out the kits for 14 days each to explore the books, activities, and CDs inside.

Due to popular demand, the Wead Library held its second Plant Swap event on May 13th. Community members were encouraged to bring and trade plants rooted in dirt or loose cuttings. 11 people attended the program! This event connects with similar well-received, environment-focused programs and services offered this spring, including the Wead Library's new Seed Library and two presentations about composting.

I continued the ongoing weeding and reorganizing project of non-circulating materials on the mezzanine by following the library's Collection Management Policy. Some of these items will be reprocessed into our circulating collection. I also began placing MARC record requests for some new art book additions to our adult nonfiction collection. Weeding these materials on the mezzanine provides more storage and shelving space for new library programs and services.

Summer Reading Program preparations have continued! C. Russo and I have been contacting program performers, planning crafts, organizing activities, and preparing for the busy summer season. We are following the *Smokey Bear Reading Challenge* to celebrate Smokey Bear's 80th birthday and the Collaborative Summer Library Program's theme of *Adventure Begins at Your Library*.

Thank you,
Karlee Martin

Librarian Report
May 20, 2024

May has continued to be busy at the library. Story Hour, Stories & STEAM, and Bookworms have all been wrapped up and will return in October. I am waiting for details regarding the summer training sessions for the American Library Association (ALA) Thinking Money for Kids Program Kits. As part of the Thinking Money grant, the Wead Library is required to host at least five (5) programs using the Thinking Money Kits. In addition to the Playaway Launchpad tablets, the kits will include a party planning on a budget game, a money-themed puppet show complete with a pre-written script, an activity-based game that encourages currency recognition and fosters money math skills, a simulation exploring the costs involved with pet ownership, and a team-based game that challenges kids to build a financially viable farm. Playaway Launchpad tablets are kid-friendly devices that will be pre-loaded with digital content aligned with financial literacy. I plan to use these kits in Stories & STEAM and additionally in after school programming.

The Yearbook Project is again at a standstill. With the assistance of K. Martin, all yearbook data entry has been completed. In mid-April, K. Martin and I met virtually with a Northern New York Library Network (NNYLN) staff member about finally uploading our files to New York Heritage. I dropped the files off at the NNYLN offices 8 days later. Later that day, we unfortunately found out that the staff member we had been working with was no longer employed at NNYLN. As of now, I am not sure when we should expect to see our files online.

I have booked our first event for Summer Reading. On **Wednesday, July 10th at 11 a.m.**, the Library will launch the “Adventure Begins at Your Library” Summer Reading Program with a HERpetology reptile show titled “Herp Mobile.” The educational show will last 45 minutes and is presented by Zowie Auger from St. Lawrence County and 5-6 ambassador animals. As Scholastic Literacy Partners, we purchased 78 children’s and teen books to give away throughout the Summer Reading Program. The library’s status of literacy partner allows the library to purchase new books at a very discounted rate. We will also receive a bonus collection of books in Spanish (pre-k – 3rd grade).

The Libraries Transforming Communities (LTC): Accessible Small and Rural Communities grant implementation period will end on May 31, 2024. This means all funds must be spent by 5/31/24. The final report is due by June 20, 2024. Recently we have added a large “Children’s Room Entrance” sign visible from park street and the parking lot. Two smaller signs highlighting the accessible entrances are now attached to signposts at the front and back of the building. With the grant, we also purchased a steel post pounder, and 3M Safety-Walk Slip-Resistant General-Purpose Tape to be used to replace the aging duct tape on the interior stairs (park street side).

The Wead & Read vegetable garden has been planted for the 4th year in a row. K. Martin and I planted cucumbers and cherry tomatoes! I am really excited to continue to share fresh fruits and vegetables with library patrons.

On **Wednesday, June 12 at 3 p.m.** I plan to have a “Getting Started with Libby” workshop. This workshop is intended for patrons who would like to learn how to utilize Libby. Libby can be used on mobile devices, e-readers, and through your browser. Libby allows patrons to enjoy ebooks and digital audiobooks from their public library. Patrons are encouraged to bring their own devices to the training session; however, laptops will be available if needed. If time permits, I would also like to show patrons how to sign up for a New York public library card.

This month, with the assistance of K. Martin, I made the first purchase of digital audiobooks on Overdrive Marketplace. There was a combination of Metered Access (MA) titles which will expire after 24 months, and OC/OU titles which can only be checked out by one user at a time. OC/OU titles will stay in the collection permanently. All titles will be available to all patrons in the Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library System.

If you have any questions, please let me know.
-Chelsie Russo