

LIBRARY USE

Programs

- 16 programs for adults with a total of 185 adults attended. (Yoga classes avg 18)
- 8 programs for children (4 for school-aged children and 4 for preschoolers) 108 attendees

Programs are down in both number of sessions and attendance. This is due in part to a summer plan that counted on having the Bookmobile operational.

In preparation for Fall, the assistant director and I have reviewed the missing populations from our programs and made a plan for an increase in programming overall but particularly for school-aged children. We will also be partnering with the Town Rec's Senior group and offering them one program per month, currently scheduled through November.

Computers

There were 92 people who signed in to use a public computer in August, a small increase over earlier summer months.

Collections

Circulation of the physical collection is down again this month with 917 checkouts (943 in July, 1099 in June). Last year, August 2022 had 1100 checkouts. Looking at summer 2022 compared to summer 2023, we had more engagement with the physical collection last year by over 500 items. This summer there was less activity related to the Summer Reading Program since we were focused on the Bookmobile.

Circulation of the e-collections are on the rise in Libby with 326 checkouts this month. I've been very deliberate about checking holds by Dover patrons and buying things people are waiting for. Use of hoopla was the same in August as July, about 62 uses.

STAFF

I met with Lisa to discuss and develop her job description as full-time assistant director. She will slowly be taking on more administrative work while retaining the parts of her previous role that bring her joy.

We have had some staffing issues. A few clerks have worked extra hours the past month. Looking ahead, one clerk is scheduled for surgery at the end of the month and is likely out for a few weeks. The staffing issues also limit how much we can use the Bookmobile. So for both those reasons, I am hoping that we will be hiring at least one person before the end of this

month. However, I plan to reduce the number of clerks at the circulation desk for the morning shifts when there is no MHLS delivery.

EQUIPMENT

1. Currently the library has a separate machine for each of the following: copier, scanner, fax machine and b&w printer. I would like to replace these 4 with a single machine.
2. An MHLS technician spent the day at the library Aug 3 to review the equipment and networking in place, as well as to address my questions/ concerns about our tech sustainability. We discussed both DPL's tech equipment and networking. He made several suggestions that will help us. The main one for today is that we need a new router. The router we had isn't capable of the level of use that happens at a public library - at any speed. He recommended the one we can purchase from MHLS since the price is better and they set it up and install it for us.

BUILDING

1. The central A/C in the building went out during the brown-outs that turned into a blackout August 25. When the power returned, on Saturday, Aug 26, Rich Yeno sent a technician from Taylor to assess the system. He found that a breaker within the outdoor condensing unit had blown. They ordered that part.

We are all still waiting for that part to arrive. Taylor's best estimate is early next week.

2. Last week there was a disagreement between the library's gardener and the Town's landscaper on the front lawn of the library. The issues all tied back to miscommunication. I worked with the Town Supervisor and spoke with both parties involved, as well as several community members. The Town Supervisor and I agreed that we will work to have more precise communication about the existence and boundaries of the memorial garden going forward. The Supervisor said that he would tell the head landscaper to come inside the library the next time that he comes to work here so that I can walk the boundaries of the memorial garden with him.

In addition, the gardener agreed that should there be future issues with the landscaping, she will come first to me - whether calling my cell phone (before hours) or coming inside to find me. Then I will take up the concerns with the Town's employees and/or the Supervisor. Also the library will order Pollinator Pathways signs in order to help the public to understand the purpose of our garden. Dover is a Pollinator Pathways community and there are other gardens planted with that intention in public spaces in the Town. The library will also partner with the Pollinator Pathways group and have a program next Spring about how to maintain such a garden for maximum benefit to people and pollinators.