

LIBRARY & RESOURCES USE

Programs

In September the library held 11 programs for adults with 124 adults (& 1 child) attending (avg 11 per program). The average is high thanks to the popularity of Maria Polhemus's online yoga classes. There were also 4 sessions of Storytime at which there were a total of 17 children and 14 adults.

Lisa and I met with the Director of Pawling Library, Chris Fisher and Neena McBaer who does youth programs at Pawling. We discussed complementary programming for homeschooling families and also collaborative programs for winter and spring breaks. In November and December, DPL will have morning programs for homeschooled children on the same days that Pawling has scheduled afternoon programs. We also agreed to meet quarterly going forward and to coordinate calendars between ourselves, Amenia and Beekman. Given the fewer options for free services and programs for youth in eastern Dutchess County, it serves all our patrons better when the public libraries work to avoid overlap or duplication of programs.

The program collaboration with the Dover Rec Seniors group starts in October with a ghost whisperer coming to speak. Additionally, DPL will collaborate with the Family Opportunity Center where I will teach an ESL for adults program there. They have also asked that the Bookmobile visit for a program that explains how the public library system works and gets folks signed up for library cards.

Finally, DPL is participating in the Great Give Back. All Dutchess County Libraries are collecting toiletries for area food banks or other distribution centers. Donations made at DPL will go to Center of Compassion. There will be a donation bin in the library through the end of October.

COLLECTIONS

Physical Collection

Physical items' circulation was down again this month: 850 checkouts and 517 renewals (last month 917 checkouts in Aug, 943 in July, 1099 in June). We're not alone in this downward trend of circulating physical items.

I pulled data to compare the third quarter circulation of physical items in 2022 vs 2023. The difference in checkouts was 740 items more in those 3 months for 2022, than in 2023. I asked Lisa what she thought might have been different last year than this year and she thought the biggest difference was fewer programs this year. Program attendance definitely drives at least youth circulation.

The data point that I'm focused on is the number of holds that patrons placed to request things. In 2022 there were 358 holds and in 2023 there were 260. To me, that decline is possibly a sign that fewer people are turning to the library to meet their needs. (It could also be that the items they were once requesting are in the collection this year versus last. But, I don't think so.)

When considered with the data from Sierra that DPL has 4116 cardholders but only 584 have something checked out, it helps prioritize the messaging DPL needs. I want to have a campaign through social media, programs and outreach that both shows non-users what the library actually is, and also, re-acquaints former users with their library too.

E-Collections

OverDrive/ Libby data use for September was up: 492 checkouts by 96 unique users. (August was 326 checkouts by 102 unique users). Top two unique users borrowed 44 and 43 items respectively. Of note, the user who borrowed 44 items borrowed only juvenile items (mostly e-books of graphic novels) and the user who borrowed 43 items mostly read magazines and also a few fiction audiobooks.

Hoopla use is roughly the same for September as for August. (total of 60 items checked out by 29 unique users). The majority of hoopla users (14 individuals) are borrowing 1 item per month.

STAFF

Due to clerks being ill in September, there were staff shortages. Thank you to trustees - Sue Allen, Barry Schibanoff, Steve Talleur and Chris Bergin - for helping us keep the library open. I reached out to neighboring libraries. Next week and the week after, a clerk from Millbrook will sub two shifts per week. Lisa and I are delighted (and relieved).

Lisa, Chris Bergin and I interviewed two candidates for the Social Media/ Marketing Assistant part-time position. One candidate stood out and I called their references today.

In the next week, I will meet with each of the staff members for their second review meeting with me since I started. Each staff member will be asked to commit to the exact tech training sessions they will be doing to fulfill the NYS requirement. In addition, they all need to do prevention of sexual harassment training since everyone's expired in September.

BOOKMOBILE

The bookmobile is back on the road. Lisa and Chris have been taking it up to High Meadow every Tuesday morning. So far, the response is underwhelming. High Meadow poses a communication challenge when it comes to getting the word out about programs+. When staffing balances out again, Lisa will try an afterschool program at High Meadow. However, in October, she'll continue Tuesday mornings for consistency.

Again when staffing allows, we are planning a trip to Tally Ho with Victoria Herow, the director of Amenia Library and to Powell Park.

BUILDING

After much ado, the landscaping to clear out the vines and weeds from the eastern side of the entrance ramp has been completed. In addition, the landscapers cleared out the brush around the shed.

The Town got the building's A/C fixed, but it cannot operate until NYCONN visits to reset the fire alarm. There were two issues following the blackout. The Town got the burned out breaker in the exterior condenser fixed. The fire alarm was tripped by the blackout and shut off the fan. A handy fire prevention element of our alarm that sadly requires a NYCONN technician to reset.

Steve T has spoken to NYCONN about having them come out to review the system. The new commander of the American Legion, Jan Maluda will be invited to join us for that NYCONN visit. The Legion shares the fire alarm system.