

Director's Report: September 2020

1. Gratitude

- Thanks to Betsy for once again updating the sign, this time advertising Library Takeout, and also for a bouquet that spruced up the service table for a few days last month.
- Thanks to Betty and Kate for brainstorming/planning fall services for kids and their families!
- That famous YouTube sensation, Ms. Betty, has done it again with a video tutorial/craft, owl pencil holders!
- Doug Macleay has volunteered his expertise and time to give recommendations as to a permanent drainage solution for the library sump pump output.
- Liz Sonnenberg is nearly finished with her inventory of materials stacked on tops of the bookcases in the non-fiction collection. She has been volunteering two hours per week all summer.
- Jonathan Lagreze, Ellen Weeks, and Kate have all agreed to create videos for our Dig In grant, on the topics of seed saving, putting garden beds to bed, and planting garlic!
- Kate, Betty, and Betsy will be covering shifts during my upcoming surgery and vacation--I'm so grateful for this support.
- Thanks to Betsy for changing out our sign with a fresh new message for passers by!
- Thank you, Cheli, for bundling all of the meeting minutes together for us all to review, and for taking minutes for all of our meetings!

2. Administration/building and grounds

- The Firefighters' Association is considering whether they might erect their large tent on library grounds, per our request, until winter weather arrives. This could represent a win-win, because the library might then host the flu vaccine clinic.
- As mentioned above, Doug Macleay has volunteered to consult in regards to a permanent drainage solution for the library's sump pump output.
- We've signed a contract with Aves Appraisal, per the Board's vote last month. Edward will be coming out to complete this work in late September.
- No dates/numbers yet to share regarding the work on the concrete, but next month they will have a better idea.
- Scott Barrows has asked if the library might be interested in purchasing the 10' by 12' timber frame that was on display at the 2019 Heath Fair.
- Our new Open flag should be available September 4th. Let's give some thought to the sign advertising the library's hours.
- Chelsea will be on vacation 9/13-9/22, but also having surgery again on 9/11, necessitating more time off, on account of requirements to self-isolate. All but two shifts are covered. Liz Sonnenberg is interested in joining our team as a substitute, but is not as of this time 100% confirmed.

3. Youth services

- Summer Reading Club 2020 has officially concluded, with eight winners in total. One parent shared that the program was an incentive for her daughter to read every day. The gift certificate prizes to Mo's Fudge Factor and Hager's were a big hit.

- Following conversations with Melissa Pincus of CFCE, and a meeting between Betty, Kate, and myself last week, we are planning to put up a story walk on the grounds behind the library. Funding from CFCE should cover printing costs. As well, we have workbooks and activities to share with families, and are looking to put together some “book clubs in a bag,” or themed “book bags” for families with pre-K children. We’ve contacted the elementary school to inquire as to best ways to promote/communicate these services, and to ask how we can support them this fall as they proceed with virtual learning.

4. Public services

- Along with other participating Libraries in the Woods libraries, we’ll be co-hosting a virtual evening with Archer Mayor, via Zoom, in late September, when Mayor’s latest book, *The Orphan’s Guilt* is due to be published!
- We renewed our Mango subscription, and per last month’s meeting recommendations, have promoted this language learning database via the Clarion, Wowbrary, and our website.
- Per last month’s Board meeting, we’ve been updating news items in Wowbrary each week, including a book recommendation.
- We’ve gained access to HeritageQuest, an ancestry database from ProQuest, via the State Library. Login details will be available soon.
- The library received two more inquiries about deaccessioning local historical materials. This conversation is worth revisiting when the Board meets.