

LIBRARY DIRECTOR REPORT

*Submitted by Angela Zimmermann, Library Director
December 2019*

BUDGET

We are on track to fully spend the 2019 budget. There will be significant savings in the Salaries line item which will help in balancing the bottom line considering the red in several other line items. I'll be ready for any questions at Thursday's meeting. We've also received many decent end of the year donations to the library so the Donations line item (5806) is healthy.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS

Engberg Anderson will be returning for a meeting solely with the staff on Wednesday, December 18th to discuss the schematics thus far. We'll be dividing the staff into each appropriate department and discussing the functionality and efficiency of each area within the library. Engberg Anderson will be returning to the Board then in January to report and present again the 3D renderings.

CIRCULATION AND PROGRAMMING

Circulation was 24,538 in November of 2019, down 1.3% from 24,859 in November of 2018. For the entire year, we are down 2.8%. Similar to October of 2019, in most areas we saw a decline except for usage of MetaSpace 511.

Successful programs during the month of November: The John Gurda program was a memorable night bringing in 452 people to Brooklife church with many mentioning only commendations and praise for the library. The Mark Dvorak, folk singer, was our first program that we held on a Sunday afternoon and we had a fabulous turnout AND held the program back by the bay windows where the once ginormous Reference Desk stood. We also collaborated with the Waukesha Wrimos to host multiple programs/events for National Novel Writing Month. Much acclamation was also given for the Francis Gary Powers Jr. program. Painting classes, genealogy workshops, films, STEAM Wednesdays, and the bluegrass jam were also well-attended. I also held my first 'Coffee with the Director' program and it was a huge success!

The Winter Farmers' Market continues to bring in roughly 200 each weekend. The next Farmers' Market is this Saturday, December 14th.

Storytime attendance seems to continuously be climbing while Shake, Rattle, and Roll also brings in around 60 kids each Tuesday morning and Fantastic Fridays we see roughly 30 kids attend as well.

Midnight Magic: The library opened at 7:30 a.m. for the Friends of the Library during Midnight Magic this past Saturday. We also remained open until 6:30 p.m. for after the parade and for Kay's Academy of Dance performances which we accommodated to at 5:00 and 5:30 p.m., so the library was hopping!

The Teen Library Council continues to be gaining new members and assisted in their last few meetings with decorating the library. They are now preparing for their Holiday Karaoke Event on the 17th of December and working in earnest for the 3rd Annual Cultural Showcase (to be held on February 15th).

For further details on any of the aforementioned statistics and figures, please reference the charts immediately following this report.

CONTINUED SYSTEM INVOLVEMENT / AUTOMATION

The Alliance of Public Librarians (Library Directors within Bridges Library System) have not met since our last MCL Board meeting. We meet tomorrow and discussion topics include: Bridges APL representatives, APL 2020 officers and form of organization for officer transition dates, and portal training for Bridges Board and APL. It should be a fairly quickly meeting followed with a holiday party.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

The Friends of the Library raised over \$2,000 during their annual cookie bake sale at Midnight Magic. We applaud their efforts in all that they do to raise money for the library. Their next meeting will be in January where I'll be asking for some of their assistance in funding a few of the performers/dancers we have booked for the Cultural Showcase in February. The Friends of the Library do not yet have a President for the organization.

MEETINGS/OUTREACH

On November 15th, I attended a breakfast at the invite of the IT Academy (at the Mukwonago High School) to recognize their business partners and celebrate their 5th year in operation. I was surprised to receive on behalf of the library a plaque recognizing our partnership with the IT Academy since 2017. Noah Fairchild (employed as an Innovator in Residence at MCL) spoke at the breakfast about his experiences and job at the library and how it aligns with the IT Academy. He did a fantastic job!

Youth Services Librarian, Jane and myself met with Park View Middle School Librarian, Kari Adams to discuss more possible partnerships between the middle school and the library. We've thus far arranged book talks, class visits to MetaSpace 511 and further visits for Jane to partake in classes and presentations at the middle school. I also met with Ann Galinsky who once coordinated the One School, One Book program for Clarendon Elementary and is now working to create more programs and collaboration for the library and the middle school (her kids are now at the middle school). I've also had a recent conversation with Big Bend Elementary where we will collaborate during the springtime to bring an Open Mic Night to the library where students/writers from the elementary school can share their work for the public.

Circulation Supervisor, Tammy and I attended a workshop called 'Eliminating Fines: A win-win for your Library and Community.' I've brought this topic several times to the Board and at the moment, I have ZERO interest in eliminating fines at MCL. However, this trend is spreading across the nation so I do feel it's important we stay abreast in our research and understanding should MCL have to entertain the idea of eliminating fines in the future.

We partnered with the American Legion to bring again the High School Oratorical Contest to the library. The American Legion was beyond thankful for our cooperation and use of all of our meeting rooms on numerous occasions. And just recently (this past week) I've begun talks in earnest with the Mukwonago Historical Society on collaborative programs, marketing, and partnerships.

Aside from weekly department head meetings, monthly staff and director's meetings, reporting before the Village Board on December 18th for a rundown of library happenings, and the upcoming Engberg Anderson meeting, it is quite usual for meetings/outreach to slow down at this time of the year.

Beginning in the New Year, I will again start a rotation of bringing staff to Board meetings so that the Board may become better acquainted with the staff. We have many exemplary and talented staff here at the library so I think this will be an excellent way for Board and staff to meet.

OPERATIONS

We held an Amnesty Week November 10th – 17th and waived \$172.43 with food for fines. People were very generous though and brought in food regardless if they had fines or not. We ended up taking eight large boxes to both food pantries in Mukwonago.

We will be closed Tuesday, December 24th and Wednesday, December 25th / Tuesday, December 31st and Wednesday, January 1st. All other hours remain the same.

