

Buildings and Grounds

The committee met to discuss the possibility of doing a full building conditions study, and a long range plan. Proposals were submitted and the final selection for the building conditions assessment is attached. We are still soliciting proposals for long range planning.

Library Renewal Advisory Committee (LRAC)

The Committee met at 6:30pm on 10/7/21. Meeting summary is attached.

The LRAC strongly recommended a survey be done of the entire community, as well as a building conditions assessment, and a long range plan.

A draft survey that was used at Pearl River Day is attached; it is being edited prior to being mailed.

2022 Holidays and Closings

January 1, 2022 falls on a Saturday. The federal government will observe New Year's Day on Friday December 31, 2021. The PRPL contract already stipulates that the Library is closed on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day.

Recommendation: The Library be closed for 3 days, December 31, 2021 thru January 2, 2022. FT employees have two paid holidays. One will be used for December 31, 2021 and the other will become a floating holiday.

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day fall on Saturday, 12/24 and Sunday, 12/25 in 2022. New Year's Eve and New Year's Day fall on Saturday, 12/31/22 and Sunday 1/1/23. The federal government will observe Christmas on 12/26/22 and New Year's Day and 1/2/23. PRPL FT employees will receive a total of 4 paid holidays over the two weekends.

Recommendations:

- That the Library be closed December 24-December 26, 2022 (3days). FT staff will have two paid holidays; one will be used on December 26 and the other will be a floating holiday.
- That the Library be closed December 31, 2022-January 2, 2023 (3days). FT staff will have two paid holidays; one will be used on January 2 and the other will be a floating holiday.

This provides a balance between be open to offer services to the public, but at the same time minimizes and number of floating holidays that staff would be using while we are trying to be open to the public.

Statistics Report Analysis

Databases

- Hoopla usage up 42%
 - eAudiobooks up 137%
 - Ebooks up 51%
- Kanopy users up 27%
 - Videos played up 18%
- OverDrive eAudiobook usage up 52%
 - YA eAudiobooks up 45%
 - Overall circulation was up 5%

Library

- We added 36% more materials
- Adult circulation up 4%
- Juvenile circulation is up 60%
- YA circulation up 31%
 - Overall circulation is up 23%
- Provided 104 Notary Public services
- Adult Reference up 1%

We continue to refresh our entire collection by weeding non-circulated items. We have added over 380 newly purchased items. Additionally, circulation has been up 23%.

Trustee McCue brought up the following really interesting statistical anomaly in our most recent board meeting monthly statistics.

Even though we have been open for more days this year, compared to last year, the number of in person visits is lower.

To figure out why, we've done an analysis of in person visits (below in total, month by month). Comparing our Jan-March pre-pandemic (when business was booming) is skewing the total count when looking at YTD comparisons for prior years. Our numbers are up this year during the pandemic compared to last year. There are multiple factors causing this: limited in-person programming; people have a better understanding about the pandemic this year than last and some are having a hard time coming back even with the vaccine.

Totals

Jan-20 to Mar-20 = 26,048 (Pre-pandemic)

Jan-21 to Mar-21 = 3,701 (Pandemic)

We just opened back to the public, no vaccine

Down 86%

Jan-20 to Aug-20 = 30,546 (Pre and pandemic)

Jan-21 to Aug-21 = 16,137 (Pandemic)

Down 47%

Mar-20 to Aug-20 = 9,583 (Pandemic)

Mar-21 to Aug-21 = 12,222 (Pandemic)

Up 28%

Here's a look at a month to month comparison (below).

Patron In Person Visits

Jan-20 = 10,418

Jan-21 = 956

Down 91%

Feb-20 = 10,545

Feb-21 = 1,106

Down 90%

Mar-20 = 5,085

Mar-21 = 1,639

Down 68%

Apr-20 = 0

Apr-21 = 1,853

Up 185300%

May-20 = 0

May-21 = 1,506

Up 150600%

Jun-20 = 357

Jun-21 = 2,740

Up 668%

Programs and Events

Our September 11 Commemoration –a collaboration with the 9/11 Memorial and Museum– was on display in the Community Room for two weeks and was visited by over 150 patrons and other guests, including members of the Senate.

John collaborated with Irene and Mike to create a special library tour for seniors. Many in attendance were long-time members of our Writing from Life program.



Knitting Club continues to grow, with over 20 members attending our outdoor sessions. Although it was forced into hiatus in March 2020, it returned virtually and now has returned in person. This program has been running on a weekly basis since January 2008 and has had over 600 sessions and is our longest running program.

Yoga with Sharon and our Senior Card Players Program both continue to fill the Community Room with activity.

Writing from Life milestone - 175 sessions

At a recent session, a participant pointed out that there have been over 175 sessions of WFL over the past six years, making it our second longest continually running program. It ran for 32 weeks straight on Zoom while the library was closed. Members currently attend in-person as well as online. Volume V of WFL is due out this December.



Our College Preparedness Series kicked off in September with two programs: *SAT vs. ACT* and *College Admissions During COVID*. The series will continue with programs on financing college, *Practice ACT and SAT* tests, *Applying to College One Step at a Time*, and *Choosing the Right Schools*.

The Learning Lab began offering in-person programming in September. Our new hire, Alicia Vonderhorst put her teaching and Makerspace experience to use by jumping into a full schedule of programs: My First Robot, Teen Technology Club, Math Club, Switch Club. Katie Bertussi also offered Saturday in-person STEAM programming in the Learning Lab.

Plans were finalized in September to restart our Tech Help Outreach to the Senior Center at Temple Beth Am; we will be going to the senior meetings twice a month beginning in November.

Our collaboration with the Promenade Assisted Living Center is expanding. Along with virtually attending our Senior Trivia programs and Jim's Local History Programs, Promenade residents will soon have a new program from PRPL. Cheryl Baker and John collaborated on a senior crafts program that is set to start in mid-October. Craft kits will be delivered to the Promenade twice a month so residents can participate in a live Zoom class created specifically for them.

Visits from the Girl Scouts/Brownies continued in September, with one group providing public information sessions on the importance of bats; another group sprucing up our front garden for all, and the Brownies participating in a special library tour.



Public Service

During the month of September, the Public Service Department added new team members: Librarians Kristen McIver, Dominick Martiniello and Librarian assistant Jerry Graham. Kristen, Dominick and Jerry have trained well and have already become assets. They have been working the Adult and Children's information desk and have assisted with maintaining our collections. We have added a new podcast featuring Jim Cassetta and Sarah Northshield. Patrons have shown appreciation for the many tables we have set up around the library for group and quiet study.

Compliments/Highlights/Appreciation:

- Helping patrons upload resumes for job applications;
- Multiple families were coloring firetrucks and dogs wearing firefighter hats for the bulletin board,
- A family from Wykoff, New Jersey visited the library and wanted to sign up for library cards. Their town has a reciprocal agreement with surrounding towns (including Pearl River) to sign up for library cards. The younger patrons were excited to find graphic novels they liked (including The BabySitter's Club) and were very enthusiastic to join our library.
- A patron came to My First Robot and played a multiplication game on the computer while waiting for patrons to arrive. She said she made her game name "ilovecoding" and it was "because I love it here!"