



Windham Public Library Report August 2017



Mission, Success, Measurement

One way that the library defines success at our mission is by reviewing and updating our strategic plan. Library staff members spent time this month reviewing the Town of Windham strategic plan and discussing how the library fits into the overall town mission, vision, and values. We discussed ways that we can meet our library mission while also participating in and helping the town meet its mission. This deep dive into what the library offers gave staff members the opportunity to reflect on our services, what is working well, and what we might change or add in the future. The staff came up with a number of specific ways that the library can work to address needs. The full time staff then met to review the specific programmatic ideas and determine 3 or 4 overarching themes that the library can address within the town's plan. I think the process that the staff went through was interesting and thorough. Considering the many changes that are upon us with the renovation, this gives us something to work toward.

What's going on?

In reviewing our statistics I noticed an increase in the number of program offerings this summer when compared to just a few months ago. This increase not only results in more patron visits but additional staff time planning, promoting, and carrying out the programs. In March of this year, the library offered 32 programs to patrons of all ages throughout the 27 days that the library was open; in August, the library offered 42 programs for the 27 days that it was open! In order to promote these programs, the Technical Services Librarian posted information about each program in a variety of locations: the library's online calendar, the library's Facebook page, the Town of Windham's online calendar, and 2-3 other online Maine event calendars. She also sends information to local newspapers, sends out weekly emails to subscribers, and promotes the events through the library's monthly newsletters and printed library calendars. All included, she created 196 postings for those 42 August programs. For each program the other staff members require time to prepare, depending on the type of program the amount can vary. Staff must ensure the Technical Services Librarian has the correct information to promote, shop for or set aside supplies as needed including finding books to read for story times, cook or bake (especially for the Library Tea), prepare examples of crafts, set up tables and chairs, assist patrons/speakers during the program, clean up afterward, and record the statistics. I applaud all the entire staff for how effortless they make programming seem and the number of great quality programs they plan. We always have wonderful feedback from patrons!

August was full of many events to complete the Summer Reading Program "Build a Better World." Story times, Books and Babies, the Chapter Book Discussion group, and Calm as a Critter (mindful thinking and yoga) were held weekly. Special events included the pet show where a dozen children shared their dogs, bunnies, fish, geckos, and stuffed animals. Many thanks to Stephanie Vary and Fran English who performed the judging duties for the show. In preparation for the upcoming eclipse two events were held with amateur astronomer Ron Thompson on August 7 followed by a session on making safe viewing boxes as a craft on August 9. A summer of individual math activities was celebrated with a Bedtime

Math party at 4pm, the time the new math problem was released for the day, on August 17. Eclipse Day, August 21, was an outstanding success. Diana Currier had kept staff apprised of situations the week leading up to the event, coordinated food, eclipse glasses distribution, worked out crowd control, arranged live streaming in the meeting room, and instructed all in the safe use of our NASA acquired ISO glasses. On August 21 a large group of folks waited patiently for their glasses behind the library (well over 100 people). When they were distributed many folks walked over to the nearest school field and began watching the moon pass between earth and the sun. Sally Bannen submitted some pictures of our event to a local TV station and they were part of their broadcast that evening. Tea was celebrated the next day with Moon Cake as the featured item. Blueberries, cheese and crackers rounded out the offerings. About 30 folks enjoyed conversation, a hot cup of tea, and sharing time together. The end of the year carnival was held on Wednesday, August 23, wrapping up the scheduled activities presented by the Children's Room. A good number of young readers completed the requirements for certificates and many older readers completed the Bingo sheet. On August 28 the letter boxing event closed with the gathering up of the kits at each location. Several folks commented on how nice it was to learn something new about Windham and one family shared that they found a new place to eat thanks to the letterbox located outside Chute's Restaurant.

Behind the scenes help and support is critical to Children's Room programs. Diana Currier often enlists the help of John McInnes for preparing displays for the Cornerstones of Science monthly theme. He has sawed pipes for underwater viewers, cut tree cookies, let us borrow a lobster trap and giant tree cookie, helped with finding a good home for the chicks we raised, transported the knight, and helped with prepping materials for the carnival. Thanks go out to local businesses that have supported our summer programs. Dairy Queen provided a free mini Blizzard to young readers who completed requirements and the Ice Cream Dugout gave the same group of readers a free bunt ice cream cone. Those completing our Bingo sheet received a free pass to a movie thanks to Smitty's. Lowe's provided a craft workshop at the beginning of the summer. With the help of our business partners, we bring good programs and events to the Windham community.

Upcoming Events:

Library Closed-Saturday 9/2-Monday 9/5-Labor Day holiday

Author Talk-Phyllis Chinlund-September 13th 6-7pm

Hannaford Helps Cause Bag Sale to benefit Windham Public Library-All month at Windham Hannaford \$1 of the Blue Good Karma bags goes to the library.

Zen Coloring Group- Wednesday, September 6th, 6pm

Movie Discussion Group- Wednesday, September 20th 6-7pm (Lion)

Books and Babies-Tuesdays 10:15

Preschool Story Time-Mondays and Thursdays (Thursdays beginning 9/14)10:30am

Children's Chapter Book Discussion Group-Wednesday, September 20th - 4pm

Movie Time for Adults-Monday, September, 18th at 1pm and 5pm (Lion)

Knitting Group- Knitters 'N More-Every Tuesday 1pm

Book Group-Wednesday, September, 27th- 6pm

Tech Help Thursdays-Every Thursday 10:30am-11:30am

<p><u>Monthly Usage Statistics</u> Attendance: 6,253 Windham items circulated: 8,955 Items received from Minerva libraries: 808 Windham items sent to other libraries: 823 New library patrons: 55 New items added to collection: 122 Special Requests: 9 Reference questions answered: 205 Computer sign-ins: Meeting room usage: 63 Download Library: 817 Zinio: 37 ComicsPlus: 40 Items repaired: 77 Volunteer hours logged: 42</p>	<p><u>August 2016</u> Attendance: 5,834 Items circulated: 8,840 Items received from Minerva libraries: 748 Windham items sent to other libraries: 762 New patrons: 78 Items added: 396 Special requests: 6 Reference ?'s: 254 Computer sign-ins: 626 Meeting room usage: 50 MI Downloads used: 528 3M: 102 checkouts Zinio: 42 Repaired items: 42 Volunteer hours: 99</p>	<p><u>Other August 2017 Stats</u> Book Group: N/A Coloring Group: 0 Tuesday Afternoon Knitting: 70 Author Talk: 9 Library Tea: 30 Movie program, adults: 2 Teen Scavenger Hunt participants: 23 Teen Event participation: 4 Tech Help: 15</p> <p><u>Story Time</u> Preschool Story Time— 4 sessions, 67 Adults, 97 Children Books and Babies—5 sessions, 43 Adults, 47 Children Saturday Story Time—2 sessions, 7 Adults, 7 Children</p> <p><u>Pass usage</u> Children's Museum —7 uses Dundee Park —9 uses Maine State Park Pass —16 uses/ 42 days Maine Wildlife Park — 13 uses Planetarium —1 use PASSES SAVED PATRONS \$1031</p>
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