

Librarian's Report
Freedom Public Library
July 16, 2020

We have been re-opened a little less than three weeks. The first two days, very few people came in, but that was then, this is now... we are busy, not only with normal circulation of materials, but helping people with more in-depth needs and registering new members. We are also spending a lot of time promoting and implementing the summer reading program. There are 147 people signed up in the various age categories. It seems to be going pretty well, though it's taking lots of time to teach people how to log their reading and choose their raffles. Although we have three computers set up, we have not had more than one person at a time using a computer so far. We are lending books in the library but we are also continuing to do a robust business of contact-free circulation in which people request or reserve materials and pick them up in the vestibule. This keeps Margarete quite busy every day. Patrons are happy to be back in the library and we have had no issues with anyone resisting our mask and sanitizing requirements.

Our virtual summer programming has attracted a lot of participation. We just published our 15th online storytime. We have 36 kids taking part in the storytime craft every week. This is our third week of Take & Makes for kids. I intended to have a weekly craft/activity for elementary-aged kids and another for teens, but I quickly realized I did not have time for two separate programs and have combined them into one, choosing projects that all ages can enjoy. So far, this has worked well. We have 38 kids taking part. Good thing we have extra funding, because it is expensive to provide this program to so many kids. I am grateful for Luane Genest who has taken over the preschool craft preparation and Renee Wheaton and Karrie Buttrick for their help with the kids' program. Cindy Fleming is two weeks into a Zoom writing workshop for grades 5-9. There were 6 the first week and 4 this week, very enthusiastic writers! She reports it's going very well. We have five kids signed up for book club that Luane is running at the end of the month.

I discovered a flood in the workroom a few days ago. There was a leak in the plumbing in the furnace room that I did not see until it got the rug wet between the furnace room and the custodian's room. I had Jarrod Hurd come see what was going on and he determined it didn't have anything to do with the furnace; he suspected the irrigation system so I had our landscapers come have a look. It's not that either. It's the backflow valve that needs replacing and A&W Plumbing and Heating is ordering the part and will install soon. We have a bucket under the drip so there is no urgency. The rug dried out well but has made a dirty stain. That carpet needs replacing anyway.

I continue to take part in a weekly check-in with my local colleagues and try to keep up to date with the emails from other libraries and the State Library. So many emails!

Sincerely,

Elizabeth A. Rhymer
Library Director