

# Rolling Meadows Library

## June 2023 – Executive Director’s Report

### Executive Summary

Summer Reading Kickoff! Need I say more? Last fall, the Programming Committee was formed in the hopes of enhancing interplay between departments’ program planning. Their work has paid off in so many ways, but the Summer Reading Kickoff is noteworthy. The group devoted a lot of time on thoughtful planning, all the while brainstorming new ideas along the way. The Programming Committee’s current membership is: Lucia (chair), Sharon, Janet, Jennifer, and Mary Constance. They deserve much praise for producing an excellent event. Of course, the Kickoff could never have happened without the many staff who helped with preparations, contributed additional ad hoc planning, and then worked the event. Another group of unsung heroes, those staff who worked in the Library while others worked the Kickoff, also helped to make the event possible. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to everyone who contributed towards making the Kickoff such a magical experience for the community.

### In the Library

- We rearranged the tables and seating in the garden lounge. This long overdue rearrangement makes the room a more pleasant and usable space for our patrons. (JC)
- June 7 was the Kickoff for Summer Reading Challenge: Take a Bite Out of Reading! It was a huge success with an ice cream truck and DJ. We gave out 600 ice cream treats, signed up our largest number of Summer Readers in a long time, and for a brief time had a beautifully decorated chalk-drawing sidewalk. (LK)

### In the Community

We had a booth at the Summer Block Party hosted by the city. Carrie and Elizabeth of Reader's Services joined Laura and Lucia at the event. We handed out popcorn with the Library info that said, "Pop into the Library" We saw many old friends and met quite a lot of new people making this outreach very worthwhile. (LK)

### Department Highlights

#### Youth Services

- We have signed up well over 500 kids for the Summer Reading Challenge. The best sign up in years!
- We have held over 20 library programs, highlights include: Stop Motion Animation, Paint Our Windows, Pizza Pillow Party, Rainbow Lemonade STEM, Drop in Surprises and all of our Storytimes. All this in just the first 4 weeks of Summer.
- Our Educational Services Coordinator, Darlene E. has retired. We miss her tremendously.

#### Readers Services

- The Adult and Teen Summer reading program began on June 5. Our patron sign-up so far this year has surpassed that of our entire participation last year (291). We are currently at 370 and still counting!
- Our circulating board games collection became a reality this month. The new collection was previewed and promoted at the Summer Reading kickoff party on June 7.

#### Reference Services

- In conjunction with the youth department, Lauren V. hosted a new family program: seed balls (air-dried clay, seeds, soil, and then plant!).
- Lauren Van Dyke is also making inroads with the community by reaching out to the Rolling Meadows Garden Club and offering library resources and books.

### **Special Services**

- After much preparation, the Summer Reading Challenge decor was completed on the main and lower levels. Jessica V. is responsible for the vision and execution of the appealing decorations throughout the library.
- The June concert was well attended. We had 62 people come to the library to enjoy the music of Jazz Spectrum on June 25.

### **Circulation**

- We are participating in the Ravinia Festival's Words and Music program. We received 50 lawn passes to several classical concerts. Any patron who checks out six CDs is eligible to receive two free passes. All of the patrons who have participated have been very enthusiastic!
- We have begun checking out the board games and disc golf sets that were recently added to the collection. Several patrons have expressed their appreciation for these new items.
- We are thrilled to welcome Jessica E. to our staff. She is learning quickly, and we know she’s going to be a great addition to our department.

### **Technical Services**

- We added four disc golf sets to the Library of Things collection. The sets include everything you need for a family of four to play. With safety in mind, each disc has been labeled with our address and a statement saying if found please return. We want to prevent patrons from trying to retrieve discs that might have flown into the creek or other hazardous areas.
- The Vega Discover homepage has been updated. Highlights include the high school summer reading choices and biographies of the authors selected for reading in our book discussion groups.
- Our collection of board games have been changed to allow for checkouts. Velcro straps have been added to each game to keep the contents from spilling out when the game is traveling and when returned.

### **Facilities**

- Helped set up Summer Reading Program event.
- New signs installed by 10-minute parking spaces.
- Curbs and speedbumps painted in parking lots.