

Hunterdon County Library Director's Report

April 2018

Buildings and Grounds

The library has ordered four phone/tablet charging stations complete with charging cords for a number of different types of electronic devices. Two stations will be installed in North County and two will be installed at Headquarters.

The library is working with County IT to review options to improve the wireless internet inside the libraries. At North County IT is looking to add a free cable internet line for wireless. At Headquarters adding a new line is more problematic, but there may be some options.

The County and the Library are working together to plan for a generator for the North County Branch. Following the recent storms this March the North County Branch was very well used by residents without power and internet.

Finances

The Director met with the County CFO to review the CY 18 budget and discuss budget planning for CY19 and forward. A revised CY18 Budget has been prepared for Library Commission approval. The County would also like the library to fully transition to using Edmunds for purchasing. The Director and Assistant Director are working on setting up training for the transition.

The Management Team will meet in April to prepare the annual request for the Friends of the Library. We will review our previous year's requests and determine our priorities for the upcoming Friends fiscal year.

In the Libraries

NJ Makers Day 2018 at South County was a major success. Nearly 100 people attended, over the course of six hours, enjoying demonstrations and hands-on activities. Patrons were able to use LittleBits circuits to blow giant bubbles, create a button with our button maker, try out hand tools to build a wooden coaster, create string art, and make a no-sew pouch. Many of the attendees were not regular patrons of the South County Branch and some were heard to remark that they were unaware that the library was even in the area. We can only conclude that the day was a successful outreach event which will hopefully result in increased patronage of the library.

NJ Makers Day was held at the North County Branch on March 24th. The event was a fun day of exploring for the 600+ people who attended. The activities and demonstrations included weaving, sewing, spinning, origami, slime making, beading, virtual reality computer programming, circuitry, LED flower making, button making, recycled crafting, HAM radio, paper airplanes, Mazebots, pulleys & knotting, FTC robotics, motorized models, 3D printing nametags, and 3D printed bubble wands. Fourteen exhibitors/clubs totaling over 50 people joined staff to

provide a variety of activities that kids found hard to leave. The most frequent phrase on the comment sheets received after the day was “I learned something new.”

The Adult Winter Reading Club held its End-of-Winter Celebration on March 14 at the North County Branch Library. Seventeen club members enjoyed the camaraderie of others who share their passion for reading. An icebreaker activity was followed by everyone sharing their favorite book of the winter. A lively and fiercely competitive game of Literary Pictionary capped off the evening. Door prizes, funded by the Friends of the Library, and donated hot chocolate and doughnuts from the Route 31 Dunkin' Donuts added to the enjoyment. Club members expressed their appreciation for the club, and said they liked the Bingo card aspect, as it got them to read books they normally would not have read.

Entries are already being received for HCL's annual Outdoor Art Show and Sale on Saturday, June 9 from 10 am - 2 pm. Local artists can pick up entry forms at any of the county libraries or online at www.hclibrary.us. There are categories for students, adult amateurs and adult professionals. Prizes will be awarded for first place in each category, as well as an award for “Best in Show” and Publics Choice.” Artists are welcome to sell their work. Children will have an opportunity to create their own art in the Meeting room throughout the day. Music will be provided by Marshall's Dixieland Band.

National Library Week is April 8-15, 2018:

- An information table will be set up in the lobby of HCL Headquarters with information about our programs and services. Patrons can also enter to win a gift basket, courtesy of the Friends of the Hunterdon County Library. A basket for kids and a basket for adults will be given away at HCL Headquarters, the North County Branch and the South County Branch libraries.
- On Wednesday, April 4, the HCL Bookmobile will be parked outside of HCL Headquarters all day. Patrons are invited to tour our “library on wheels.”
- On Wednesday evening at HCL Headquarters, there will be a drop-in children's craft in the Youth Services Department and the Richard Reiter Swing Band will be performing in the Meeting Room.

Staff Updates

A number of staff have expressed interest in attending the New Jersey Library Association Conference, May 31-June 1 and the New Jersey Association of Library Assistants Conference June 5th.

Library Administration has scheduled two of three branch meetings, Tuesday, April 24th and Tuesday, April 26th for Headquarters and North County respectively. The Library Management Team will meet on April 11th, having been rescheduled from a snow date in March. We intend to have these meetings regularly throughout the year.

Staff Day is May 4th, pending Library Commission approval. The plan is for a half day of information and interaction. All affiliate library staff have also been invited for the event.

Outreach/Partnerships

Hunterdon County Community Day is scheduled for Saturday, June 2, 2018 from 11 am - 3 pm, rain or shine. The Hunterdon County Library Bookmobile will be on hand for tours. The Friends of the Hunterdon County Library will have a table promoting their group and will also have their "fish" pond filled with books for younger children to win. Kathy Monti from Youth Services will also be there with a game for older children and information about Youth Services at HCL.

The Director attended a Clinton Sunrise Rotary Meeting and plans to attend as a regular member transferring his membership from the Piscataway Rotary Club. The Clinton Sunrise Club meets at 7:30 on Thursday mornings and supports many community events. The Director plans to attend meetings of other local Rotary's as well.

The Director met with Joe and Lori Hudicka. Joe is on the Board of the Hunterdon YMCA and works with Lori and their children to host events around creating, product development and entrepreneurship. In April, we are planning to meet with the President/CEO of the YMCA to discuss future collaboration.

The Hunterdon County Library Bookmobile will be at the Somerset Patriots TD Bank Ballpark on Saturday April 21 from 9 am – 12 noon as part of Healthy Kids Day[®] Swing for the Fences co-sponsored by the Hunterdon County and Somerset County YMCAs.

Affiliates

The Director and Assistant Director visited all the affiliate libraries in March and invited the affiliate staff to our Staff Day on May 4th. Library administration will be reviewing what services HCL currently provides and what opportunities there might be for further support.