

## Hunterdon County Library Director's Report July 2018

### **Buildings and Grounds**

The major collection management project continues, including weeding, shifting and reconfiguring collections. The Non-Fiction collection has begun to be shifted into order with the final goal of all of the entire collection on one floor.

### **Finances**

The Friends of Hunterdon County Library (FOHCL) approved the Library Funding Request for 2018/2019. There is funding for continuing popular programs, increased funding for children's programming as well as funding for STEM/Maker equipment and additional eBooks.

The County Freeholders approved the budget in late May, and now the library has the full budgeted funds available. The half year spending report is available in the Library Commission packet. Planning for the CY19 budget has started.

### **In the Libraries**

By patron and staff request, item hold limits have been raised to a total of one hundred. The limit for DVD requests remains at ten.

HCL's Annual Summer Concert series kicks off Wednesday, July 18. There will be five concerts this year, 3 at the Headquarters Library and 2 at the North County Branch Library. The series is sponsored by the Friends of the Hunterdon County Library. This year's schedule is...

- Wednesday July 18 at 6:30 pm at HCL - Due South performs new and classic country music
- Wednesday, July 25 at 6:30 pm at NCB - The SummerSwing Orchestra performs Big Band favorites
- Wednesday, August 1 at 6:30 pm at HCL - The Blawenburg Band performs Patriotic Marches
- Wednesday, August 8 at 6:30 pm at NCB - Raritan Valley recovery performs folk and bluegrass music
- Wednesday, August 15 at 6:30 pm at HCL - Rave On! Perform the music of Buddy Holly, Roy Orbison and early rock and roll

The County-wide Adult Summer Reading Club is off to a rousing start with 147 members from 9 Branch & Affiliate libraries plus the Bookmobile. The stated goal of reading 1,621 books is already 25% complete, with 7 members already surpassing their personal goals. In addition to blogging about great new books, readers have weekly chances to win gift cards for favorite local 'treateries', courtesy of the Friends of HCL.

September is National Library Card Month and The Hunterdon County Library and the Flemington Free Public Library is teaming with local businesses to offer discounts during the month of September when you show your library card at participating businesses. We are

currently contacting businesses for possible inclusion in this program. We will be printing out brochures for distribution with the list of participating businesses and their discounts and providing each business with a sign detailing the promotion.

NCB's experiment of showing one feature film with captions turned on, has proven very popular. The Friday afternoon viewing consistently attracts a large audience, and comments are favorable. Movie fans thanked us for showing films in the daytime, since they no longer drive at night; and for showing films on a weekday when they can get here on the Link, which does not run nights or weekends.

Seven new volunteers joined the NCB team in June, bringing the total to 45. About half are students donating service to their community, as required by organizations like National Honor Society, Scouts, etc. Their extra help is welcome in the Summer when circulation soars.

Mr. Ray, a guitarist, rocked the Headquarters Library lawn! Over 60 attendees helped the Youth Services Department to kick off the 2018 Summer Reading Club. The theme this year is "Libraries Rock!".

The HQ Teens and Tweens started their summer at the end of June, with "Sonic Sound" a Mad Science program for Tweens which looked at the science of music. The Teens had a fun Trivia Night emceed by the Library's own Jim Thatch who did an excellent job! The Teens enjoyed "make your own" Italian strawberry sodas while they played trivia.

### **Staff Updates**

The Director hosted the second round of Branch Meetings where we followed up on issues raised at the first meeting, and discussed new issues.

Supervisors are working on the semi-annual performance evaluations for staff. The deadline for these evaluations is August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018. Library administration in coordination with supervisors is also working on updating and creating new job descriptions.

The Cross-Training Task Force meets for its inaugural meeting on July 11<sup>th</sup>. At this meeting, the group will discuss expanded training on specific duties that are necessary to day-to-day operations while being cognizant of job title restrictions. The group will also be discussing more comprehensive training of all staff members to increase flexibility and improve customer service.

### **Outreach/Partnerships**

The Director attended the Hunterdon County Community Organizations Active in Disasters (COAD) meeting on July 10<sup>th</sup> at the United Way Volunteer Center in Flemington.

Representatives from other county departments, the United Way, the Red Cross, the NJ Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) were present at the meeting. The group meets quarterly to discuss actively preparing for disasters.

Manny, the Praying Mantis, created by a Master Gardener, that has been on display for several years on the lower level was invited to participate in a Vacation Bible School program just down the road from the library. Manny has returned, and was proclaimed a hit.

### **Technology**

After due diligence by the County Purchasing Agent, the library placed an order for an online program registration and meeting room product. Library administration hopes to have the product set up and live by August 1<sup>st</sup>.

The Library Management team are testing a new option for staff to use when “calling out” of work. The new option provides notifications to multiple supervisors and members of Library Administration.

The Website/Social Media Task Force will meet to begin discussions on revamping the library’s website and social media presence.

### **Affiliates**

The Affiliate Services Task Force meets for its inaugural meeting on July 18<sup>th</sup>. After this meeting, the group will reach out to staff at the affiliates and coordinate future meetings.