

Director's Report to the Library Commission

June 17, 2024

Budget News:

- We received a grant from Traveling Toys in the amount of \$3,333.33 to start a toy/game collection! Stacey Burt is working on developing a list of toys and games to purchase. Patrons will be able to check out these items.
- We have also been notified that we will be receiving a grant from Ledyard Rotary! The amount is unknown, but we are thrilled to have Rotarian's support for our new Children's Wonderbook collection. Ledyard Lions and New London Kiwanis both gave \$500.00 to this new collection. Each Wonderbook costs \$60.00 on average. Adding these grants together should give us enough to start a new collection for both buildings.

Library News:

- Our annual staff meeting went very well. Everyone on staff made an effort to attend.
- Several staff members participated in a library promotional video that was published to our library social media accounts which follows Objective #2 increase library's social media presence in our strategic plan goal of increasing community awareness of library services.
- In preparation for summer, Stacey Burt and Jadzia Childs (Youth Services team) recorded and submitted a Summer Adventure Program promotional video to Ledyard schools. A letter also went out to caregivers encouraging families to read and use the library this summer! Stacey also attended the Ledyard Farmers Market on June 12 to promote the library and all our offerings. This meets our strategic plan goal of collaborating with town and regional organizations specifically with the schools to encourage and support literacy.
- The Summer Reading kick-off program is Saturday, June 15 at 10:30 a.m. Bill Library. Michele Urban will present Find Your Dinosaur Roar, a "dino-mite, prehistoric music adventure" that will have families roaring with delight! Adult Summer Reading also begins on June 15, so stop by either location to pick up your bingo card for a chance to win exciting prizes.

Building News:

- Public Works is in the process of getting a quote on two new pillars for the Gales Ferry Library entrance. The goal is to replace both pillars soon to eliminate the animal infestation and rot. Stay tuned for more information.
- An electrical breaker was tripped in the basement of Gales Ferry two weeks ago. The cause is unknown, but it may have been because of the mini-fridge. A new refrigerator has been installed to replace the old one and is also on a different breaker.
- Two new slat wall display units will be added to the Bill Library in the next few weeks. This will allow us to do a better job displaying and drawing attention to our collection items on a consistent basis.
- A new board book shelving unit will also arrive and will be an excellent addition to the Bill Library. This unit will allow us to more than double the size of this current popular collection. To put this in perspective, last month Gales Ferry circulation statistics reported that our board books accounted for 7.6% of our total circulation for the month (adult fiction was 7.4%)!

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Smith

Library Director