

Director's Report to the Library Commission

April 15, 2024

Budget News:

- The public hearing on the Town budget is today, April 15.
- I attended the April 3 Finance Committee meeting to present three grant opportunities that the Ledyard Library is interested in applying for to expand our Children's collection with modern interactive audiobook options.
- Since the Finance Committee passed through the grant opportunities to Town Council, I also attended the Town Council meeting on April 10. The Council voted in approval of the Mayor to submit the following grant applications to expand the Libraries Children's Collections with modern interactive and audiobook options:
 - Dollar General Literacy Grant for Tonieboxes in the amount of \$4,000;
 - Ledyard Rotary Grant for Wonderbooks in the amount of \$1,000;
 - New London Kiwanis for Tonies and Wonderbooks in the amount of \$500.
- Library Giving Day was a success again this year bringing in \$946.14 from 7 donors. Thank you to all who donated including John and Claire Bolduc, David and Marie Engelman, Nancy Strawderman, the Tainter Family, Gayle Wilson, anonymous and an anonymous amante de la biblioteca! Donors will also be recognized in our May e-newsletter.

Library News:

- Library staff gave out 500 free ISO certified eclipse glasses in 3 days! We are collection solar glasses back to be recycled through the Astronomers without Borders program through April 19.
- Over the last year, there have been many changes beyond our control that have impacted our newspaper subscriptions. In light of this, we are examining our subscriptions and public interest in them through a survey. The survey is available on our website and is also in print at both locations. Your input is valuable to us as we find solutions.
- Since June 2022, our e-newsletter subscribers have grown from 1,003 to 1,419 (a 41% increase). You can subscribe through our website www.ledyardlibrary.org > scroll down on the homepage left side and enter your email for E-newsletter signup.
- In following the goals from the 2020 Strategic Plan, library staff members are working hard on the *Marketing Goal: To increase community awareness of library services*. Specifically, *Objective #2 Increase library's social media presence*.
 - January – March 2024, our library Facebook visits have increased 33% (over the same time last year)
 - January – March 2024, our library Instagram visits have increased 61% (over the same time last year)
 - The library social media accounts (Facebook and Instagram) saw a combined 40% increase in new followers from January – March 2024
- April 21-27, 2024 is National Volunteer Week. Thank you to all our library volunteers who put in countless hours of volunteer work over the course of the year especially the Ledyard Library Commission, Friends of the Ledyard Library, Teen volunteers, Seed Library volunteers, our book menders, and special event volunteers. You are all invited to our Volunteer Recognition Gathering at Bill Library on Wednesday, May 15, 2024 from 4:30-6:00 p.m. Please bring a potluck dish or dessert to share. Thank you, we appreciate you and all you do!

Building News:

- Increased mice activity was noted by pest control at the Bill Library. Upon further investigating, a sizeable hole was found on the outside meeting room door. Public Works installed a metal door plate to deter entry.
- Thanks to our talented Public Works team, there is a new coat rack in the hallway by the meeting room at Bill Library.
- Step stools for our young patrons now live in all restrooms along with both Children's Rooms.

Town News:

- A sidewalk construction project started on April 8. This newly designed sidewalk will come between the Bill Library and church and head up to the High School. From our Public Works Director: "It will include a considerable amount of effort at the trailhead area between the library and the church and will involve converting the cul-de-sac area to a curved section of road and some parking changes at the end of the parking area toward the church. It will be pretty busy, but the parking area toward the south end would remain accessible."

Respectfully Submitted,
Jennifer Smith
Library Director