



TO: City Administrator and City Council
FROM: Jennie Garner, Library Director
DATE Dec 1, 2020
SUBJECT: Monthly Library Report

Library News

With COVID cases again on the rise in Johnson County, we are dialing back services to keep the community and staff as safe as possible. We were checking out laptops to patrons for use with our WiFi in the parking lot but using a laptop in a vehicle in colder months is not ideal and we now people need technology so we have added a second computer to one of our meeting rooms for patron use by appointment with a third computer available in the Teen Lounge. We also continue to offer access to the DMV kiosk by appointment. While the library is not currently open for browsing in an effort to limit contact, we are still providing curbside services and afterhours pick up in the new lockers is going well. The programming team is developing monthly make-and-take crafting kits that have been popular with all ages.

Staff has shifted back to working in three teams, two full-time teams alternating days in the library with working from home and one part-time team covering expanded Saturday hours from 10am-3pm. The full-time staff is fortunate that we are able to work remotely to continue to plan and implement virtual programming, work on the diversity audit of the collection, access professional development courses, and other projects. In order to keep communication channels open, the weekday teams meet twice weekly in Zoom to discuss operations and workflow and the part-time staff meets with Kellee, our Public Services Librarian.

Knowing many were self-quarantined and that holidays can be a difficult time for many, Janet, our Tech Services Assistant Librarian, reached out by phone to some of our patrons last week to check in, wish them well, and let them know about the services we are offering.

The Friends of the Library created a Cookie Kit fund-raiser in lieu of their annual Cookie Walk and it went fairly well. They put together ingredients for four kinds of holiday cookies and sold fifty kits that will be distributed in December in holiday themed/decorated bags.

We've heard from many patrons over the last – very long – nine months how much they miss the library being open. The reverse is also true...it's been incredibly tough for staff to not be able to welcome the public into the library, as it has been for so many community organizations and businesses. The word that comes to mind most often for me this year is *resilience*. The flexibility the staff has shown in pivoting and reinventing our work is remarkable. It is gratifying to work with a cohesive team – both at the library and throughout the city.

FY20 certainly ended very differently than we'd anticipated and FY21 promises to be just as unexpected. Despite the obstacles we all faced this year, we are proud of our accomplishments. I share some of those with you here by including our 2019-2020 Annual Community Report (below). Wishing you all happy holidays and a promising New Year.