

June 2015 Narrative - All Departments

Administration – Marcia Lewis

Administrative staff and division supervisors prepared and submitted the library's 2016 budget request. A meeting with the city manager is scheduled for July 7 and the city budget will be presented to City Council in August.

The library's June staff meeting and several Safety Committee meetings focused on safety and security in the case of violence in the building. Larry Oliver, husband of library employee Darlene Oliver, has a background in security and has volunteered to advise the staff.

Marcia Lewis and several library employees attended the United Way State of the Community luncheon that focused on progress on the UW youth success goals related to ending poverty in Larimer County. Marcia and Beth Gudmestad toured the program at Lago Vista Trailer Village where many organizations including the library and Kids Read cooperate to provide learning activities for the children living there.

Bobbi Benesh and Marcia attended the memorial service for Vicky Chambers who was the library volunteer who taught the first Loomy Knitters sessions. The loom knit hats are the ones that have been donated or sold to raise funds for other charities including the homeless shelter.

Marcia gave a tour of the library to Vincent Junglas who is our new city attorney office contact.

Adult Programming & Volunteer Coordination – Bobbi Benesh

We had another Master Gardeners Summer Series here at the Library with a Question & Answer Session the last week.

Dr. Andrea Kulburg joined our repertoire of Doctor Talks speaking first on the subject of *Anxiety, Panic, & OCD*, which she will repeat once again in August and will give several more talks on a variety of physiological subjects this fall.

Our new resident Chiropractor has consistently been drawing a larger group this year. Joe Bowden, retired military, gave another very interesting talk on Space Weather. The Healthy Weight Book Club has been cancelled due to the lack of attendance.

Adult Services – Caroline Hilligoss

The explosion in self-publishing has created sky-rocketing demand for libraries to offer content creation tools, and in keeping with this growing function, LPL and Adult Services are excited to be able to offer two new tools to help both writers and artists in our community. The first tool is **Self-e**. This is a self-publishing tool that allows writers to upload a digital copy of their work using the **Self-e** website located on the Adult Resources page on the library's website. Once the book has been submitted it becomes part of the Colorado Authors collection is available across all Colorado libraries that subscribe to the service. Since **Self-e** partners with Library Journal, there is also an opportunity that Library Journal will select the author's work to go nationwide. The second tool is **Creator**. **Creator** will allow the library to showcase local artists, musicians, and videographers. Artists can upload their portfolio, musicians can upload their music, and videographers can upload their videos to the site. The addition of **Self-e** and **Creator** keeps Loveland Public Library in sync with the new direction of libraries as spaces for content creation.

As part of the adult summer reading program, Escape the Ordinary, Adult Services hosted a program to bring attention to our Military Heroes. Nine people attended our Flag Folding Ceremony. Charlie Nash, Chaplain for the Associated Vets, gave a heartfelt explanation of each fold as Max and Chris folded the flag. At the end, we answered questions and shared stories about being veterans or veterans we knew. The program was planned by Library Aide and Veteran Danielle Stephens.

Two summer reading events focusing on the bestselling book *Unbroken* were offered during the month of June. On Thursday, June 18th, Caroline Hilligoss facilitated a (very small) book discussion (one person attended), and on Saturday, June 20th, she was prepared (popcorn all popped!) to show the movie version of the book; however, no patrons attended.

The summer reading events sponsored by the Adult Services department for “Night of the Heroes” were seriously “dampened” by bad weather. Volunteers from Little Thompson Observatory were on hand for star gazing, which will be rescheduled for a future date.

Participation in the on-line portion and the “drop an entry in the jar” portion of the summer reading program continue to be strong – we have given away five Barnes and Noble gift certificates to date, and look forward to seeing the final participation numbers when the program concludes at the end of July.

The three sessions of the Adult Book Discussion Group met on June 2nd and 3rd, with Caroline Hilligoss facilitating. A total of thirty-one people attend the discussions of Louise Erdrich’s prize-winning novel *Plague of Doves*.

Children’s Department – Beth Gudmestad

The Children’s Department had a great June! Over 1400 guests attended the Summer Reading Program Kick-Off party on June 1, 2015. There were so many fun activities for everyone to participate in including competing in an obstacle course, learning how to play drums, and making super hero capes. Kris and Jane prepped 200 masks and capes for the event and within the first hour they were completely out of materials. Kris cut an additional 100 capes for participants. Sandy spent the afternoon taking 300 photos of superheroes at the photo booth. After the event, she painstakingly matched each child’s photo with an email address so that they could print their photos out at home. Amber organized the entire event and made sure that staff and presenters had what they needed for the day.

Our guests have been excited about the on-line platform, READsquared. We’re using this resource to record minutes read, log badges earned, and send out prize alerts. Over 3,000 library customers have signed up for this summer’s program. This is an increase from the 2,400 customers who participated in last summer’s program. One parent shared that her kids are “super motivated” to read this summer. Her kids get excited to record their points! Every child who reads 300 minutes earns a Loveland Public Library yard sign and a free book. It has been fun receiving photos from children who are standing in front of their yard signs with huge smiles on the faces.

Kris, Lolly, Jane, and Sandy have all been busy with Lap Sit and Storytimes. Over 2,300 guests attended these programs in June. Krista made additional superhero capes for the children to wear. These capes are a huge hit with the children in storytime. In June, we had a parent who had an open carry gun on his belt. This raised lots of red flags with the staff who are deeply concerned about the safety of the children while at the library. After speaking with legal, it was determined that even though staff doesn’t like it this parent does have the right to carry a gun.

The Children's Department cleared out the Homework Help Center for the summer and set-up an iMake lab for families to use. This lab encourages participants to create. In June, over 1100 people visited the lab. While in the lab, families are encouraged to use Cubelets to create objects that move, make superhero puppets, and learn to weave using fabric remnants and yarn. Each week the children's department changes the activities in the room. A light table and train table are set fixtures in the lab that draw huge crowds on a daily basis. The staff is so excited with the response that they are deciding how to continue to offer the lab throughout the upcoming school year.

Our Story Teller in the Park program has been reaching huge crowds this summer. On the first day of STIP over 70 participants showed up to hear Cindi read superhero stories and pick up kryptonite without using their hands or feet. She has groupies that show up multiple times during the week at different parks. The Library LIMO, Library Interactive Mobile Outreach, showed up at Sunnyside Park honking its horn and inviting kids and parents to sign up for the summer reading program. The LIMO seems to always bring a smile to everyone's face!

Jane and Cynthia have had a high demand for Kids Read this summer. Every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon during the summer, they connect children with Buddy Readers. For half an hour, these partners engage in reading awesome books while having fun playing Kids Read. During June, Marcia and I toured the outreach site at Lago Vista. We were both blown away by the facilities and impressed by the programs that children participate in all year around.

The Chilson Center Day Camp visits the library weekly. Sabrina developed a power point program called Library 101 that highlights services, programs, and materials that are offered through the library. She presented this program to the day camp in June. Cynthia, Jane, and Becca also assist with making day camp visits a success.

Cynthia and Amber met with Margaret Crespo from Thompson School District. They discussed ways to improve the sharing of information about library programming and outreach opportunities within the schools.

We wrapped up June with a phenomenal program presented by the Kalama Dancers. Over 200 participants attended this program. As soon as they started dancing, the rain began to fall forcing us to move the program to the Pulliam Building. Amber was prepared for this possibility and very calmly stepped in to make the transition to another venue run smoothly.

To go along with the SRP theme, Dobby is dressed as a Superhero Super Reader!

Customer Service – Joanna McNeal

Customer Service has been very busy with the Summer Reading Program, particularly at the beginning of the month. We issued 47% more cards than in May 2015 often to entire families who were new to the library as well as renewing cards for people who hadn't visited in a while.

Jo is still working on the re-branding committee who last week released a survey to vote on logos. Haley and Jo met with Author Showcase committee and have set a date for a fundraiser to be held at Barnes and Noble in early August.

The Customer Service team met with Larry Oliver, a security specialist, to discuss specific safety concerns regarding what to do in the event of an active shooter at the library (Larry will be meeting with each division

to plan the same thing). This is part of ongoing library-wide training in how to deal with personal and customer safety.

Darlene has been very active using the LIMO. Kathleen has submitted an article to consider for Shelf Life in the Reporter Herald. Cindi has been designing new book marks promoting book suggestions and has begun looking at better ways to layout and label the New Books area. Lori has been investigating more efficient ways for patrons to alert us to problems with faulty media, i.e. discs that won't play.

The display case in the Galleria featured china dolls from the Fort Collins China Doll Club.

Library Subs – Beth Gudmestad

Since the start of the summer, the subs have been instrumental in providing desk coverage during high volume programming in Children's and teens. Each sub assisted during the Kick-Off for the Summer Reading Program on June 1. Maribeth volunteered to host a program in teens where she used her creative talent to make "Evil Minions". The teens really enjoyed making the minions. Maribeth was very organized and prepared for this event. Kathryn volunteered to help at the City Picnic where she spent several hours assisting city employees and their families in creating tie dye t-shirts. She had valuable insight that helped make the tie dye station run more smoothly during the event. Sue hosted a Noon Time Nature program for Bobbi while she was on vacation.

Sue and the rest of the Safety Committee have been busy updating the library's safety manual. This manual includes information on how to handle weather related emergencies including tornadoes as well as including information about active shooters. This has been a topic of concern at the library especially with the recent shootings in Northern Colorado. The committee invited a Safety expert to tour the library and provide feedback in each department regarding safety concerns.

The subs continue to manage their weekly hours and remain below the 30 hour average.

LTI – Shane Adamson

We have identified a few projects needed to be completed for the Library. Duplicating our DNS and DHCP servers to limit down time and slow down times. The City will surplus some servers and we will use those to accomplish our needs. In addition our proxy filter needs updating and configuration. We are in talks with the City to be included in their wireless network that is operated in all other City Buildings.

We are continuing to provide the Chilson Recreation center an avenue to complete their short informational video. The project timeline has grown considerably only due to lack of available shooting times. We are hoping to leverage this partnership into sharing the cost of some software needed to make a virtual tour of the Library.

We have installed a second 3D printer. A Taz mini generously donated by Oleph Objects, who makes the Taz printers. Even without advertising, people have started to use the new 3D printer. This printer is located inside iCreate and can, after the first demonstration, be used by the patron without staff intervention. We have had some issues with the Main Taz 3D printer, but Lulzbot has been very proactive in helping resolve our issues.

We have accepted a donation of a Masson Carrell. It is a 4x3 table with a 9 foot post attached to it. The post holds a camera which we have purchased. The camera, along with attached polarized lens allows users to take digital pictures of flat art that can still be in its frame and no glare will be in the picture.

Technical Services – Shane Adamson

Before we are able to track the progress of a new item after implementing a few new procedures we have to get rid of the large backlog in cataloging items. Shane and Tyera have offered 4 hours a week through the summer to help process items. Their impact has been effective and they have already modified/improved some of the repetitive tasks. Just goes to show you how a fresh pair of eyes can evaluate your current processes. Adult Fiction and some parts of the Children's collection are caught up and we now turn our attention to audio CDs and DVDs.

The monthly statistics will look a little lower than in previous years. We are adjusting how we keep statistics and how that should be reported. For instance, in the past when we processed Overdrive MARC records we counted each item in that process as a cataloged item. The process to do Overdrive MARC records is extremely streamlined. All the records are done at one time and only takes the same amount of time of doing 1 item. We have decided to count importing Overdrive and Safari records (that come in a batch) as 1 item cataloged and not count each individual item in our cataloging statistics. This will help with the overinflated number we have been reporting in the past.

Teenseen – Beth Gudmestad

We've had a great start to the summer! Over 500 teens have registered for this summer's reading program, Unmask. Overall, 3,000 library guests have logged 465,798 minutes of reading. This total includes children, teens, and adults. This summer's on-line platform, READsquared, has received plenty of praise from people of all ages. Amber has answered over 100 digital reference questions via the platform. She's provided specific information about the SRP as well as general library information regarding checking out items and digital resources.

In June, 166 teens participated in 15 programs. On June 1st, the teens celebrated with their own SRP Kick-Off Party. They enjoyed watching Mentalist Magician, Erica Sodos, perform as well as receiving temporary tattoos, and eating Superhero/Villain food. Throughout the month, teens participated in a variety of fun workshops and programs, including learning how to juggle, drawing comics, and creating "Evil" Minions. In addition to these programs, Summer created oobleck, a gooey mess made of cornstarch and water, with the teens and then used a sub-woofer to make the oobleck dance. Hannah had teens make personalized masks out of papier-mâché. The teens returned the next day to decorate their masks. Summer's dad, a local artist, volunteered to teach our teens how to draw super heroes. Several of the teens who participated showed a real talent for drawing. Maribeth used polymer clay to create minions. Several staff members wished that they could have participated in this program --including me!

Teens who are participating in the SRP are excited about the prizes they can select from this year. This summer we added coupons from The Summit, Fresh Cut Fruits, and the Colorado Rapids. Our goal was to have choices for them other than fast food. It seems to have paid off as we've had to replenish The Summit passes several times.

Amber met with Thompson School District's chief administrative officer, Margaret Crespo, to discuss future collaboration between the library and the school district. They decided that a Loveland Public Library card will be a recommended school supply for all TSD students. This gives all students the opportunity to access

databases, checkout materials, and participate in cool programming at the library. In addition to every student receiving a library card, it was decided at the conclusion of the meeting to target three areas during the 2015-2016 school year:

- Marketing library programs and services to district families
- Coordinating outreach of library staff to local schools including early childhood, elementary, secondary, and alternative
- Sharing professional development opportunities

Hannah, our aide in the teen department, has accepted a job in Colorado Springs starting in August. We're sad to see her leave, but know she will do a great job teaching Kindergarten at a Waldorf School. Her last day with our department will be July 24th. I have filled out a requisition for her position and hope to have someone new start on August 10, 2015 in the teenseen.