

## Mitchell Public Library Director Report

### May 17, 2022

#### 1. Staffing

Michele DeVries was hired as our cataloger. She previously worked in the City of Mitchell's Finance Department. Michele's first day at the library is May 16, 2022. We will have extensive training for Michele, including enrolling her in a four-week online basic cataloging course beginning June 7.

As a reminder, Cindy Meinen plans to retire at the end of May. We will have a small department celebration for Cindy at the time.

#### 2. Building Issues/Updates

We have had several trouble alarms from our fire detection and intrusion/motion detection systems. Our fire detection system is monitored by Midwest Alarms from Sioux Falls. Our intrusion/motion detection system is monitored by Golden West from Rapid City. The two systems share two phone land lines. At times we experience telecommunication line troubles which trigger alarms. We are gathering pricing information from other security companies to determine if changing companies would be cost effective. Moving away from Golden West would be to a company in Sioux Falls is most likely if costs are reasonable. Future service calls would be cheaper, just due to travel fees.

As part of our SD Humanities Council ARPA grant project we purchased and installed a new sound system in the Community Room. It appears that the amp isn't working properly, but it will function for an upcoming program later this month. After that we will address getting it replaced or repaired.

#### 3. Multicultural programming

We continue to communicate with the Hispanic dance troupe from Sioux City. We asked them to investigate cheaper transportation options, such as 15-passenger vans. They have not provided us further information. One option we discussed is to inform them that we can pay them their \$500 fee plus \$500 for transportation. That way we would have a firm amount. Once we have a definite total amount determined for the program we will again request funding and begin seeking partners.

#### 4. Library Accreditation

As a follow up to our discussion last month with Brenda Hemmelman, Acting State Librarian, I do plan on seeking accreditation from the State Library this fall. There are three levels of accreditation: essential, enhanced, and exemplary. We meet all the criteria except one for obtaining the essential level of accreditation: documenting that board members have collectively obtained 15 hours of continuing education. To begin this effort I created a spreadsheet to track CE hours and entered the 15 minute discussion the board had with Brenda at the April meeting for each board member in attendance for a total of 1.25 hours. If any of you have attended any training workshops relating to management issues, active shooter training, First Aid/CPR training, etc. please inform me of that so I can record it. If you have documentation for the continuing education that you attended please send me a copy.

5. SDLA Conference 2022

South Dakota Library Association's annual conference will be in person again this year. The conference will be in Brookings September 28-30. Registration will open later this summer. If any board member would like to attend the conference please let me know. Anyone who attends the conference receives 15 CEUs. If two board members attend we would meet the 30 hours of continuing education requirement for the enhanced level of accreditation. I recommend that the board pay the costs of attending this year's SDLA conference for any board members who wish to attend.

6. Summer Library Institute

At the end of April we were able to register Zack North for the last open spot for the summer Library Training Institute scheduled for June 12-17 at Northern State University. The institute will focus on teen programming and services. Even though Zack will remain our Adult Services Librarian, we want to gain ideas that can be used in the future. The State Library pays the registration fees, so we just pay for Zack's housing and food for the week. When you see Zack next ask him if he is looking forward to reliving NSU dorm life.

7. Thursday evening storm

We survived the May 12 late afternoon/early evening storm. Due to the power outage throughout town we closed the library for the rest of the evening. At the time of closing we had no patrons in the building. Since the electric door lock system would not work without power we manually locked the doors.

## **May 17, 2022 Board Meeting Update**

**Jean Patrick, Children's Services Librarian**

In addition to ongoing collection development and reader advisory, my days have been packed as I prepare for the children's Summer Reading Program "Oceans of Possibilities." (See handout for all details.)

### Summer Reading Program

During the week of May 9 alone, I spoke with nearly 1,000 students and educators about the Summer Reading Program and the library. This included the Big Friend, Little Friend event and presentations at L.B. Williams and Longfellow Schools. Also, groups from Ethan Preschool (May 5) and Mitchell Christian School (May 18) visited the library for tours and a custom storytime. I expect to distribute a total of 1,800 handouts to Mitchell area schools and preschools.

I also distributed information at First Friday (May 6) to approximately 50 people.

*NOTE:* As a result of this publicity and these presentations, I've continued to develop relationships with leaders from Big Friend, Little Friend; Girl Scouts; Abbott House, Mitchell Area Headstart Program, & Mitchell Christian Summer Daycare which will likely develop into future programs.

I've also developed a new Ice Cream Rewards Reading Card thanks to the generosity of Main St. Mercantile (previously 2<sup>nd</sup> & Lawler); County Fair Food & Fuel; Dairy Queen; Zestos; and CornerStone, too. This reading

incentive brings kids and families into the library & encourages kids to reach several reading goals.

Storytime, Bilingual Storytime, Outreach Storytime

Thursday Storytime numbers continue to increase in May (20-30 people per session). Saturday Storytime numbers are much lower, but those attending appreciate the Saturday option. I also provide a short online Thursday Storytime for those who cannot attend or for those who like a double-dose of Storytime.

Also, Ada Morales and I offered onsite Bilingual Storytime on April 23 (14 attendees) and May 7 (4 attendees). Although numbers have been low, we hope to see numbers increase in the summer.

First Lutheran and Embe did not come to the library for programs in May. However, they are scheduled for weekly programs at the library in June.

## May 2022 Adult Services Update

Zack North, Adult Services Librarian

### Programming

#### SUMMER READING PROGRAM (SRP)

Schedule:

**May 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Registration for Summer Reading Program begins

**June 1<sup>st</sup>**

Adult Summer Reading Program kits available for pick-up

**June 6<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM**

Fiction Book Club – The Speed of Light by Elissa Dickey

**June 20<sup>th</sup> at Noon**

Mystery Book Club – The No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency

**June 27<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM**

Adult Craft Night

**June 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM at the Corn Palace Plaza**

South Dakota Author Elissa Grossel Dickey

**July 11<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM**

Fiction Book Club – In Another Light

**July 15<sup>th</sup>**

Chef Rob Scott

**July 18<sup>th</sup> at Noon**

Mystery Book Club - TBD

**July 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10:00 AM at the Corn Palace Plaza**

Mentalist Zac Tenneboe

**Unscheduled July Craft Night**

Prize structure will be a little different this year. I want people at every level of participation to be able to earn something. Every five hundred minutes (points) people will be eligible to earn a new prize.

The booklet this year is more of a sticker chart instead of a time log. There will be a time log for people to write in their totals if they so choose to.

The Adult SRP website is up and available at: <https://www.cityofmitchell.org/611/2022-Summer-Reading-Program>

### **BREWING PROGRAM**

This is temporarily being put on the back burner while I figure out some logistics for the event.

### **NOEL HAMIEL**

Presentation on May 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm in the community room. This will be the first big event with the newly installed sound system. Noel is the author of the newly released true-crime book on the Mathis Murders in Mt. Vernon.

### **SKYPE WITH A SCIENTIST**

The scientist that the non-profit matched us with did not fit the Summer Reading Program theme as well as I had hoped. However, the scientist that we were matched with does study prairie climates and how climate change will impact the prairies. Instead of having this event in June I plan on having it through our Facebook page on May 23<sup>rd</sup>.

I'll be doing another application with Skype with a Scientist to see if I can get a match for a future event for SRP.