Director’s Report January 2021

We are continuing with our current operational plan which combines remote work and limited staff in the building. We are offering contactless services 46 hour a week which is only 9 less that what are full hours would be. The services are offered with the safety of our staff and patrons as a top priority. We are working diligently for our patrons getting them the materials they need even if they can’t be in the building. The case numbers of COVID reached 59 for a few days right after the new year. The number continues to go down and we will continue monitoring it and start offering appointments when it drops significantly.

Curbside continues to be quite popular. We subscribed to the online version of Consumer Reports since this is a very popular magazine that many people would come into the building to use. We continue with printing/faxing/copying services via email or drop-off. We are doing notary services and other things as they come up.

We also purchased access to Brainfuse through the state library purchasing cooperative. Brainfuse HelpNow offers patrons free homework help for students’ K through College and includes live tutoring, writing lab, skills building, and academic & standardized test prep. Brainfuse also includes help for adults with career resources, resume writing assistance, and live tutoring. It has something for everyone including things like Google search tips, how to share files and citizen test prep.

Make and Take crafts continue to be popular with the patrons. Jennifer MacLeod is now asking people to call when they pick them up and ask for how many they need since we noticed some people taking many of the kits at one time. Janet Arden is preparing more Make and Take crafts for the winter. They continue to be very popular and there are some online programs scheduled also.

The sensor that manages the outside lights needed to be replaced. And at the same time, we had the electrician repair the lights in the back parking lot. He replaced all the bulbs with LEDs so they should be good for some time. One bulb was burned out and two of them had been ruined by the heat from the bulbs so there was a lot of damage that needed repair.

The budget for 2020 is being closed out and there will be funds left to return to the town. Final numbers are not yet available.

The town has received a grant to update its Emergency Operations Plan. They have hired a consultant to work on this. The first two Zoom meeting scheduled for January 25th and February 1st. Rosemary Krol will be attending. I have reviewed the previous plan which was created in 2009 but I couldn’t find anything in it related to the library.

Rosemary Krol, Library Director