

Solomon Wright Public Library, Director's Report

August 10, 2026

Goal for the second quarter: planning for rest of 2026, work on policies, grants

Good News/Miscellaneous:

- Great turnout for second block party of summer - around 75 total!!
- Summer reading was a success
- Satellite coral reef is on display!
- We can now accept credit cards and Paypal for book sales, totes, copies, etc.

Events that we hosted/will host July through September:

Summer reading programming all through July (Linda's report has the full list)

Sunrise playgroups, Wednesday mornings in July

July Block Party

Summer readers celebration

August Mindful Moments Café

Teen Craft Night

August Block Party

Yoga classes

Meditation classes

Mending circle

What I'm Working On/Updates/Upcoming:

- Programming for the rest of 2026, including town wide event Tour de Pownal, where library will be a stop
- Grants – working on an application to support adult programming
- Policies – recently updated for Library of Things, put into practice for Yoto checkout
- Streamlining processes, updating volunteers

- Maintenance – Weeding and purchasing for collections, cleaning out cabinets, shelves, etc., maintaining supplies, keeping areas updated/clean/use to use

Youth Services Report from Linda -

Thematic Displays with books & materials: Dinosaurs & Fossils, Butterflies; New Books

Summer Program, “Unearth a Story”: Summer Reading Program Registration continued throughout July.

Hello Summer! Stories & Play: For Families with children birth-6. Siblings welcomed! July 8, 15, 22, 29. Fun indoors & outside. Storytime & play with Linda & Kristina. Co-sponsored by the SWPL & Sunrise Family Resource Center.

Unearth a Story: For Families

- July 15. Author & educator, Lory Reed shared her special books with us. Music & balloon dinos, too!
- July 22. Storyteller, Beth Tegart told us stories from the folktale traditions filled with unexpected endings & humor.

Unearth Your Curiosity: For School-agers

- July 10. Local archaeology buff, Mary Natalizia shared her arrowhead & rock collection with us. A chance to learn about the Native Americans who came before us.
- July 17. Colors of the Earth with artist, Ann Kremers. Ann led a watercolor workshop using earthtones.
- July 24. Learn About Fossils with paleontologist, Phoebe Cohen. Professor Cohen led an exploration of fossils from the Williams College collection.
- July 31. Eat local! We created some delicious dishes with veggies & herbs from the SWPL’s garden beds & local gardens.
- July 31. Touch a Truck BLOCK PARTY: Early evening block party co-hosted by Solomon Wright Public Library & Faith Church.

Dinomite Summer Readers Party: For Families

- August 5. We Celebrated our reading achievements with fun activities, rewards for reading & yummy snacks.

Unearth More FUN at the SWPL! Art & Activities in the Kid's Space Weekly Challenges:

- “Where in Pownal is Dinosaur Bob?” Dinosaur Bob is exploring a different part of Pownal each week. Guess where he is & receive a small prize.
- Dinomite Building Challenges: Build a different structure each week for a group of dinosaurs. We'll photograph the dino habitat & add it to our Dino Wall of Wonders!
- Monarch Caterpillar Nursery: We are observing caterpillars go through life cycle stages in a butterfly cage.

Outreach: Pownal Elementary Summer Program, Pownal Head Start, Oak Hill Children's Center: Registered children at all 3 sites for the summer reading program.

Grants:

*VT Humanities: Humanities Camp: \$3,750 received for Checkmates Chess Program for kids in 4th grade & up. 3-day chess program taught by Trevor Plizga, chess coach in August; weekly chess classes and tournament in September.

*VT Humanities: Vermont Early Literacy Initiative: \$750 for early literacy programming & collection.

Social Media & Publicity: All events & programs posted on Facebook & Front Porch Forum. Bennington Banner article by Jeff McRae about Mary Nat's arrowhead program.