

Solomon Wright Public Library
Director's Report
July 16th, 2024

Goal for the third quarter: Emily and the volunteer staff will continue to reacquaint the community with library resources and services through patron visits, social media, e-newsletter, and Front Porch Forum. We will continue to connect with community groups, use outreach, and host events to increase the visibility of the library.

Events that we have hosted this spring/summer:

May 4th – Book swap – 8 adults

May 11th – Sunrise playgroup begins on Saturdays, runs weekly – has been growing steadily and is generally 6 – 10 kids

May – Youth Appreciation Month – handed out bags/scoop cards courtesy of ACT Bennington

June 21st – Block Party – around 24 adults, 18 kids, 5 teens (that was just people through the library door – more were outside)

June 28th – Bike Hub Workshop – 5 adults, 1 kid, but Bike Hub seemed happy to be here and 2 bikes were donated, fixed up, and one was given to a library patron who needed one

July 6th – Head Start Chef Tom demos kid friendly snack - 12 kids, many thanks to KC for getting this set up and for help during event

July 10th – Joyce Held talks Pownal history – 8 adults

July 12th – Elizabeth Winthrop Alsop author talk – 22 adults

Outreach events:

May 17th – Farm to School event at Oak Hill

June 15th – Lettie Teague author event at Provisions Williamstown

Future events:

July 17th – Whoo’s That, Southern VT Natural History Museum

July 19th – Block Party / Art Opening

July 27th – Celebrate Pownal Day

September 13th – Community Health Event

September 21st – reception for Historical Society 30th Anniversary after Witches Walk

October – Birthday Party for Solomon Wright

Good News!

New Patrons / Total Monthly Patron Visits in 2024 / Monthly Visits in 2023:

January: 5 / 164 / 111

February: 10 / 187 / 121

March: 11 / 222 / 152

April: 9 / 165 / 156

May: 6 / 197 / 154

June: 8 / 199 / 156

Hours are working well. Our largest demographic currently is retirees.

***Policies still need updating, along with Library mission and strategic goals.**

Other News:

-Certificate of Librarianship – I am halfway through core courses

-Attended the VT Association of Libraries Conference on May 20th

-Ongoing free puzzle swap on cart by door is popular!

-Library is a lunch pick up hub for kids under 18 until August 2nd (run by Abbey Group) – summary of how it goes at next meeting

-Summer Reading – 30 people signed up

-We have a YouTube channel with Joyce’s Pownal History talk, thanks to Bob asking!

Wishlist:

Vinyl sign for outreach events (\$70-\$100)

Signage before railroad tracks? – Julius did start (\$175 to start, \$100 annually)

Small fridge for community room (\$100-\$150)

***Need board help with Celebrate Pownal Day, Saturday 7/27, 10am to around 3:30pm – set up, time there, clean up. We can bring some books to sell/give away from the weeded pile, other ideas?

I will try to have a survey ready for 7/27 to gather info on community needs surrounding the library.