



**Newport Public Library
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Library Director's Report
November, 2018

From the Library Director:

Something bittersweet; more sweet than bitter: This is my last official Library Advisory Board Report. I've been writing board reports for almost 27 years and this is it. Since I began working in public libraries in 1986, I have never considered any other line of work. Being a library director has been a joy. Being a library director has been a rollercoaster ride with ups, downs, successes and failures. I've worked with great people and great boards and wouldn't have traded it for anything. I'm not leaving anything on the table, and am ready to call it a day. Thank you all for bearing with me over the years.

Now for the regular news:

On April 22, the Library Director met with Rasmus Thøgersen, a library director from Nebraska. Mr. Thøgersen flew out to Newport to research the community and the library because he was considering applying for the open library director position. After speaking with the Library Director and touring the community, Mr. Thøgersen stated that he would be applying for the position.

The library was closed on October 26, so staff could attend a day-long in-service training at Lincoln City's Driftwood Public Library. Staff from Tillamook County Library also attended the training. The three libraries make up the Oceanbooks Library Consortium.

On October 29, the Library Director picked up the eighteen Rick Bartow sketches from the Visual Arts Center. The sketches have been on display at the VAC since August. The next step in the process is to send the artwork on tour to various public libraries around the state. The first library slated to receive the collection is Oregon City Public Library.

On November 1, the Library Director "interviewed" Derrick Tokos for the City's Newport Today, radio show. The subject of the program was vacation rental dwellings and the upcoming public hearings that will be held by the Planning Commission.

From Youth Services:

The Children's Services Department will soon have a full complement of staff! (We are four in all when fully staffed.) After a lengthy interviewing process we have a finalist. Background checks and reference checks are just about complete. We anticipate having her in place by the end of the month. We will then be fast-tracking training for all service desks here at the library and will schedule monthly visits with a number of outreach sites throughout Newport.

Our current in-house programming numbers are very good. We conducted 23 in-house programs in October and had 5 outreach programs in the community. We averaged 18 people at our each of our Preschool Storytimes in October and 15 per program for Toddlertime programs. Our monthly teen programming has been on hold while we conducted our search for the full-time Children's Services staff person.

Children's Services Staff met with other staff from the Lincoln County Library District last week to plan for our 2019 Summer Reading Program performers. We came up with a proposed roster of performers from throughout the Pacific Northwest and are now pursuing contracts with them and will go from there after they are confirmed. We anticipate having 8 weeks of performances.

From Outreach:

The Library's Adult Homebound Outreach Program gives its participants, who are often near the end of their lives, a window to the outside world through handpicked library items and friendly visits. Patrons look forward to seeing the librarians, who aren't there to ask medical questions or bathe them or clean their homes, but are instead there to provide materials that foster lifelong learning and entertainment, delivered with a kind face and an interested ear. The librarians become part of patrons' lives, and vice versa, so it can be hard when patrons pass away. At the end of October, two longtime outreach participants died, and will be missed very much. Their families made it clear how much the library service positively impacted the last years of their loved ones' lives. As one bereaved family member put it, "[The librarian] became a part of our family too."

From Adult Services:

In October, staff attended an Oceanbooks In-Service Training at the Driftwood Public Library. Two Newport adult services staff run reports each month to gather statistics for the Oceanbooks libraries, and they gave a presentation on how the statistics are calculated.

Staff at reference often are asked to help library users print their email and download documents, because email interfaces are constantly changing. Patrons are grateful to be able to print their documents here, which are sometimes airline boarding passes, legal documents, or rental leases. We also frequently scan their completed forms and forward them to the patron so they can email the filled-in form back to the sender. Our printer broke down in October and was unavailable for 3 or 4 days. That brought home how much people rely on us for basic services.

Ted Smith

