

The Ainsworth Public Library

The library has been actively working to provide services to our community. We continue to be a hub for the community, morphing into whatever is needed in the moment to make the challenging times of Covid-19 easier. We had to close to visitors in March because of Covid-19 and the square footage of the library. This did not stop us from reaching out to the community. In March and April we provided masks, hard to find items like toilet paper, paper towels, and non-perishable foods on our porch for free to those in need in the community. From March-May, we provided online programming, including a weekly storytime, online programs with WES, and a monthly adult bookgroup. In May, we began to offer Curbside services for patrons to request books, DVD's, audios and even magazines and puzzles as well as copy services, faxing and scanning. Starting in October we began to provide craft take home kits for youth and adults. These kits included pumpkins to carve, holiday decorations to make, free books at the holidays, a wooden birdhouse kit and many other offerings. Our curbside services have been very successful, we service about 80-90 patrons a month. Currently, because of the library's square footage, and the Governor's Orders, we are only able to offer curbside services. Patrons request items, we safely bag them and they come to the door to pick them up. We are keeping our fingers crossed that we can open again once the vaccine has been distributed and the Governor's Orders offer more opportunities, we estimate that to be mid-spring.

While we have been closed to the public, we have stayed busy working on projects behind the scenes at the library. In March repairs were made to the youth section walls and flooring. In April, new bins were made for the youth section to make it easier for children to look at books. May and June allowed us to do a full inventory of the library as well as have the entire inside of the library painted. We are excited that the library looks so wonderful and we can't wait for people to be allowed inside to view it.

Because the library was closed, we have been able to apply and procure grant funding for various library projects. In total, we have received around \$10,000 in grant money and items since the new fiscal year. The grants have allowed us to purchase required items for safe Covid procedures (sneeze guards, filter, hand sanitizing stations, hand sanitizer, gloves, touchless trash cans), 3 new laptops, (2 will be available to the public), 2 new tablets, (1 will be available to the public), \$3,000 of new books for youth and adults, a wi-fi extender, a zoom subscription, author visits to the school (Clif Grant), books for the school library (Clif grant), and sponsored online library programming.

Our Trustees continue to work on the parking project so that when the library is open, there can be safe parking places and at least one space that will include accommodations for handicap. March is the planning meeting for the Trustees and when a new Trustee joins. Since the library is growing in usage, (We have over 1,000 active patrons.) the Trustees will begin working on a five year plan for the library this year. All Trustee meetings are open to the public. The meetings take place the second Friday of the month at 10am. If you would like to join us, please contact the library. We love suggestions, positive feedback and concerns.

On behalf of the library, we would like to thank the Selectboard and voters for their support in helping to keep the library such an integral part of the community. Please visit our website www.Ainsworthpubliclibrary.org or look for us on Facebook for pictures, library information and upcoming events.

Thank you and stay safe!

~ Sarah Snow Ainsworth Public Library Director