



Howard Miller Public Library

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

April 2023



Library Events/Programming Highlights

- The Library hosted Alex Thomas and Friends for an all-ages puppet show during Spring Break. 187 friends attended this show.
- Weekly Preschool Storytime ended for the Spring season on April 27th with a guest story reader from LMCU, Mr. Brad DeRoo.
- The Beginner Adult Yoga program was held on April 18th and 3 patrons attended. 25 adults attended the OAISD Monday Movie program.

Staff Highlights

- Amanda H. and Jessica Volkers worked with several community partners in the Zeeland School District to support the StoryWalk® program and activities which occurred on Saturday April 15th from 1-5pm in downtown Zeeland. The StoryWalk® will remain installed on Main Street until May 13th.
- Amanda Hanson communicated with Amanda Standerfer of Fast Forward Libraries LLC to engage their consulting services for the upcoming strategic planning activities beginning in May 2023. The staff selected to participate on the Strategic Planning Team to help guide the process include Lynel Danckaert, Susan Downing, Leann Parker, and Amanda Hanson and the Library Advisory Board will be represented by Terry Allen.
- Amanda Hanson attended several meetings including 1 for the Lakeland Library Cooperative and 1 for the Michigan Public Library Directors' Group. She also met with representatives from the Community Foundation to gain insight into the fundraising process for the Howard Miller Library Endowment Fund.
- Staff felt truly appreciated and enjoyed a pizza and sides luncheon courtesy of the LAB members on Thursday April 27th.
- Librarian I staff member Dustin Danckaert graduated from Grand Valley State University with a teaching degree. Dustin will take on the Seasonal Library Intern/Librarian I position for 40 hours/week from May 30 – August 11.
- Abby Machiela will return as the part-time Seasonal Library Aide for 28.5 hours/week from May 30 – August 11.

Other

- Amanda H. is researching different vendors to restart the digitization process of the Zeeland Record to determine the cost involved to digitize the paper from 2007-present and find a new host site for the complete data set. This project is a continuation of earlier digitization efforts which resulted in the Library providing digital access to the publication for the years of 1893 through 2006. The current host site no longer provides digitization services and will not accept newly digitized records to the existing data set. Therefore, a new host site is needed to see the continuation of the digitization process and provide access to the Zeeland Record in its entirety.

Looking Forward

- Amanda Standerfer will begin planning sessions with HML staff in May and host a strategic planning session retreat with all Library staff (LAB members welcome) on Monday October 9th during the annual Staff Development Day (the Library will be closed that day to customers to facilitate this meeting and training).

HML by the Numbers – April 2023

	April		
	2023	2022	% Change
Visitors	7,665	7,278	5%
Curbside Delivery	17	22	-23%
Digital Downloads	4,467	4,046	10%
Physical Items (Circulation)	26,285	27,201	-3%
Computer Sessions	266	251	6%

Children's Programs:

- April: 8 programs – 794 participants

Adult Programs:

- April: 2 programs - 28 participants