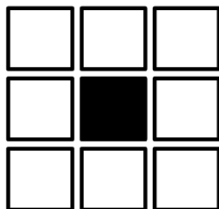


Quilt Show
March 2024



Howard Miller Public Library

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

March 2024

Fabric Collage Program
3/26/24



Library Events/Programming Highlights

- The Library celebrated Quilt Month in March and displayed 20 quilts done by local quilters. We asked patrons to vote on their favorite quilt and Haven Salisbury's submission won. Haven is 8 years old.
- The Library offered 2 different craft programs, one for adults and one for teens, led by local artist Vickie Morgan. Vickie demonstrated how to create a fabric collage from remnants of material.
- Julie Russell, Librarian II and Children's specialist, completed a storytime program series partnering with Zeeland Rec and offered a poolside Swim and Stories for 3 sessions in March. This outreach effort helps the Library achieve its strategic goal of **strengthening community engagement through robust core services**.
- Julie Russell also hosted a special Preschool Storytime and partnered with Resthaven to have a group of seniors join the session and interact with the kids on March 28th.
- Jessica Volkers, Programming Specialist, coordinated a 4 hour Read-A-Thon. 35 patrons participated and read a total of just over 1,000 hours 😊.
- Jessica Volkers also hosted 12 Pre-K through 1st grade class fieldtrips to visit and tour the library.
- Passed out 500 free solar eclipse glasses and 100 craft kits for kids.

Staff Highlights

- Amanda Hanson presented the finalized Library budget for FY 2024-25 to City Council on March 26th.
- Professional development webinars were completed by the following personnel: Susan Downing, Librarian II; Sara Van Lente, Librarian II; Leann Parker, Technology and Business Lead; Patty Holtrust, Librarian I; and Julie Russell, Librarian II. This training attendance helps the Library achieve its strategic goal of **prioritizing organizational culture and training for all staff**.
- Sara Van Lente, Librarian II, and Leann Parker, Technology and Business Office Lead, worked together to create a new Library of Things item: Memory Kits. These will be available for checkout by the public as of April 1st. These kits are designed to help engage patrons with dementia and/or Alzheimer's disease and their caregivers.

Zeeland Record Newspaper Digitization Project Update

- City attorney Jim Donkersloot is reviewing the contracts for work from Central Michigan University to perform the microfilming and digitization of the Zeeland Record. Once he approves

the contract language Mayor Klynstra will be asked to sign the contracts. Work is scheduled to begin on the project in the Fall of 2024.

City of Zeeland 2024 Strategic Action Plan – Library Operational Goals Updates

- Progress working towards the operational goals for the Library to be completed within 2024 include:
 1. **Increase community partnerships and collaborations**
 - a. New programming partnerships with Zeeland Rec and Resthaven
 2. **Refresh/update library space to encourage usage and enhance comfort for patrons**
 - a. Replaced the butterfly climbing playmat in the Children's area



3. **Optimize training opportunities for all staff including part-time employees**
 - a. 5 staff were able to participate in online professional development webinars in March.

Looking Forward

- Spring Break activities all week-long April 1-5 including a visit from the Outdoor Discovery Center and their birds of prey.

HML by the Numbers – March 2024

	March		
	2024	2023	% Change
Visitors	10,008	9,638	4%
Curbside Delivery	20	23	-13%
Digital Downloads	5,865	5,083	15%
Physical Items (Circulation)	29,772	30,028	-1%
Computer Sessions	386	320	21%

Children's Programs:

- 23 programs – 651 participants
- 3 passive programs with 191 participants (Leap Day Kit, Quilt Coloring Sheet, Read-A-Thon)

Adult Programs:

- 2 program - 979 participants (voting/visiting quilts)

Outreach Programs:

- 1 program – 4 participants