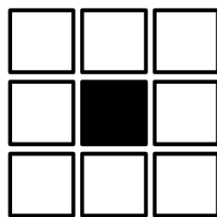


Beginning Wood Burning
September 24



DIRECTOR'S REPORT

September 2024

Beginning Wood Burning
September 24



Library Events/Programming Highlights

- Fall programming and regular storytimes began. We have expanded our Toddler Laptime and Preschool programming to include an additional session for each. This has reduced the crowding in the audience and made the sessions more enjoyable for the participants and the librarians running the programs.
- The first Pizza and Pages program was offered on 9/4 for Teens with 8 in attendance.
- Beginning Wood Burning class was offered 9/24 with 12 adults in attendance.

Staff Highlights

- Amanda H. received a stipend to attend a 2-day conference offered by the Library of Michigan in Lansing. The goal of the conference was to learn about conversations worth having for library leaders, including having strategic conversations using the appreciative inquiry approach to engage all stakeholders.
- We interviewed for the open Librarian I position that we have struggled to fill permanently since March. We offered the position to Carol Talsma, a retired school librarian from Zeeland Public Schools. Carol will start on October 21, 2024.

Zeeland Record Newspaper Digitization Project Update

- Digitization efforts are moving along as expected. We will not hear any more updates until they near completion of the project towards the end of 2024.
- The first part of the project is complete and issues of the Zeeland Expositor from 1893-1896 are viewable online here:

[Zeeland Expositor — Browse by title — Digital Michigan Newspapers Collection \(cmich.edu\)](#)

Issues of the Zeeland Record from 1897-1912 are viewable online here:

[Zeeland Record — Browse by title — Digital Michigan Newspapers Collection \(cmich.edu\)](#)

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**
Nothing specific to report at this time.
 2. **Refresh/update library space to encourage usage and enhance comfort for patrons**
Julie Russell, Librarian II and Children's programmer is working on creating a list of options for purchasing new imaginative play pieces for the Children's area (large play kitchen, play workbench, etc.). We budgeted for these purchases to be made this fiscal year 2024-25.
 3. **Optimize training opportunities for all staff including part-time employees**
 - a. 2 full-time staff members attended the DEI Lunch and Learn program offered by the City on 9/18/24 to learn about Solid Rock Ministries in the Zeeland area.
 - b. 1 full-time staff member attended a seminar on best practices for on-boarding new employees on 9/19/24.

Looking Forward

- Library staff will participate in the Zeeland Festivals activities for the Fall in September and October
- Lakeshore Author Meet & Greet on October 3 will host over a dozen local authors in the Community Center. The public is welcome to come and visit with these writers and purchase their books – this is a drop-in program during Pumpkinfest activities.

HML by the Numbers – September 2024

	September		
	2024	2023	% Change
Visitors	8,848	7,953	11%
Curbside Delivery	12	15	-20%
Digital Downloads	5,619	4,860	16%
Physical Items (Circulation)	25,869	26,566	-3%
Computer Sessions	376	318	18%

Children's Programs:

- 19 programs – 517 participants

Adult Programs:

- 1 program - 4 participants

Outreach Programs:

- N/A