

John and Judy Gay Library Public Services Board Report

February 2018

Numbers and staffing

Sometimes we look back at our stats and are amazed at the numbers. This January, for example, we checked out 92,254 items (not including digital checkouts). We registered 514 new borrowers. This fiscal year our circulation is up 8% over last year's circulation at this time, and that includes some of our traditionally slower months.

We reluctantly said goodbye to some part-time staff members who left us to take a full-time position elsewhere or a professional position that was in their field of study, or to work on their college studies. We gained back a previous employee who decided that she could both work and attend college, and we will be hiring two new part-time library assistants shortly in addition to a part-time library technician.

Adult programming

The last time I presented a JJGL report, we were on the verge of beginning some new adult programming. The knitting and crocheting class continues to be popular. Library staff presented the first Adult Spelling Bee in October at Tupps Brewery. This was a very fun event with prizes, sound bites, and lots of crowd interaction and cheering. We learned that our Cinema Club did not have much appeal in our meeting room although the interactive Labyrinth movie viewing did have six people attend. Our scheduled time for Computer Assistance also did not draw the public's attention on a consistent basis. Our staff continues to assist patrons on the public computers anytime we are open instead.

Our one-time fall Novel Write-In has prompted a new Writer's Lab on three Sunday afternoons this spring where local authors can share ideas related to the business and marketing aspect of publishing. Other new programs debuting this spring are a Trivia Night at Tupps Brewery which I'm sure will be at least as popular as the Spelling Bee, a Guide to Digitizing your Personal Collections, Home Brewing for Beginners and a program on Honeybees and Beekeeping. We also plan to start an Adult Coding Club in March.

Community services

JJGL will be offering paper copies of the basic tax forms and instructions as soon as we receive them. We also can print forms (at our usual .15 per copy rate) for the public. The AARP tax volunteers are at JJGL on Mondays, with the exception of three Mondays when the meeting room will be set up for elections. JJGL will host early voting and voting on Election Day starting on February 20. Library staff is excited at the prospect of a new

zone for the candidates that will designate a grassy area for the electioneering signs and people. This will make our parking lot a safer place for everyone.

Construction plans

I learn new vocabulary every time we meet with the architects. So far, I have learned that a hammerhead is a necessary thing, a dog house is a bad thing, and residential mutttons are something we might not need. Currently, the Parks Department is mulling over our ideas for the road on park land that will connect the library to the Parks Road, providing a second emergency exit, additional parking, perhaps something for the skateboarders, and vehicular-scale artwork nearby. This all forces a revision of their Master Plan, and we are thankful for their collaboration and sharing of funding. The enlarged JJGL will feature some exciting new programming areas, and those are evolving each time we meet.

Lisa Bailey

Branch Manager, John and Judy Gay Library

2.15.18