

## Education & Skills for Life

### Recent Accomplishments

- Summer Discovery had a final registration number of **4,513 registered readers** including **1,941 elementary school youth**, the group that will be the most impacted according to research. Our registration numbers are **up 24%** from 2022. While some finisher will continue to come in through August, you had to turn in your log by July 31st to receive a grand prize entry and **1,317 readers** completed the log. In addition to their Summer Discovery logs, staff and patrons read an additional **273,439** minutes for Readers to the Rescue. This Summer extension provides a donation of school supplies to children in need as readers hit citywide goals.
- Red Coffey (Muldoon) traveled to ANMC Kindercare for multiple storytimes with 85 children.
- Keelin Baughman (Mountain View) began a weekly storytime outreach to families participating in the Grow North Farm program at the Anchorage Community Land Trust (ACLT) engaging **50 children** from the refugee community.
- Mission2Mars science programs, held for Anchorage School District summer programs at Lake Otis Elementary, serving over **100 children**, facilitated by Samantha Blanquart (Youth Services, Loussac).
- Teen Life Skills July programs featuring Intro to CPR and First Aid and Emergency Preparedness were well-attended serving **48 teens** at all locations.
- Lee Post, local comic artist, commanded enthusiastic crowds at all 5 APL locations. bringing out everyone's creative side. **101 children**
- Author, Debbie S. Miller, read her new book *Glaciers Are Alive* and gave a presentation about Glaciers and writing process in this partner event with the Prince William Sound Stewardship Foundation. The book was dedicated to one of Girdwood's' young residents. 15 total attendees at the Gerrish (Girdwood) Library.
- Nicole Levinson (Adult Services) worked with Patrick Ryan at the Alaska Botanical Garden to offer two walking nature lectures: one at Cheney Lake and another at the Eagle River Nature Center. Participants expressed interest in future walks, particularly some with a focus on foraging

### Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Nicole Levinson (Adult Services) is working on a possible program model for a winter season mushroom foraging workshop series based on participant feedback at this summer's gardening programs.
- Meneka Thiru (Adult Services) and Teresa Churchel (Mountain View) are working together to plan the return of Golden Afternoons, programing for seniors, in September.

### Limiting Factors/Concerns

- Adult programming at Eagle River continues to be impacted by the Youth Services Librarian acting as Branch Manager while the Branch Manager acts as Collection Management Coordinator.

## Bridge to Information and Resources

### Recent Accomplishments

- Back by popular demand, Adult Services has been giving away free art prints to patrons who participate in a self-guided tour of the Sydney Laurence and Eustace Ziegler paintings in the Galleria. These prints, a variety of Sydney Laurence's paintings and watercolors, were once sold in the Friends of the Library Gift Shop when it was housed on the 2nd floor of Loussac Library. The Friends of the Library generously agreed to donate these prints to this campaign that helps connect local patrons and out of town visitors with the Alaska Collection at Loussac. A recent story on Alaska Public Media ([bit.ly/APLStateOfArtJuly23](https://bit.ly/APLStateOfArtJuly23)) quadrupled hourly visits into double digits for days after the story aired. Adult Services staff have handed out approximately **550** prints so far. Prints are available through September 3.
- Samantha Blanquart (Loussac, Youth Services) attended three parent enrollment events at Clare Swan Early Head Start to register families for library cards and provide information about library services.

### Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Library Card Sign-Up Month will feature a new promotion to increase new library card signups- APL branded duct tape! Any new library card sign up in the month of September will get a free roll of duct tape, With a library card and duct tape you can fix 99.9% of your problems.
- Loussac Library will host an "I'm Ready for Kindergarten" storytime in August and begin "Countdown to Kindergarten" events in September. Chugiak-Eagle River Library will also host a "Ready for Kindergarten" Storytime.
- Meneka Thiru (Adult Services) is working with Catholic Social Services to see how library staff might be able to provide resources for clients of the Complex Care program.
- Chugiak-Eagle River Library will host a Homeschool Start-up Celebration program to introduce homeschooling families to traditional and digital resources at the library.

### Limiting Factors/Concerns

- None at this time.

## Building Community

### Recent Accomplishments

- The Gerrish Library set up an outreach table during Girdwood's Forest Fair in front of the library on Fri. 07/07 and Sat. 07/08. We had rock painting, bubbles, bookmark painting and sidewalk chalk set up. We promoted library services, handed out library promotional materials, signed up people for the Summer Discovery program and registered some folks for library cards. 40 people visited our booth.
- Rayette Sterling, Keelin Baughman, and Teresa Churchel (Mountain View Library) with the help of Meneka Thiru ( Loussac Library, Adult Services) supported the Mountain View Street Fair engaging with over **500 attendees** and handed out hundreds of school supplies to neighborhood youth. Some of the supplies provided were from the Readers to the Rescue Library program, an extension of the Summer Discovery.
- Mountain View Library hosted the Mountain View Community Council Neighborhood Brunch. Twenty-two neighbors shared concerns as well as priorities for updating the Mountain View Neighborhood Plan.
- Loussac Library Adult and Adult & Teen Dungeons and Dragons programs hosted by Jon Ebron and Meneka Thiru continue to be very popular; future events will be scheduled to maintain momentum.
- Loussac's passive program wall asked "What is the best part of summer in Alaska?" and received **185 responses**, one of which was "Taking my grands to library"!
- Sarah Preskitt (Adult Services) coordinated with Alaska Public Media and StoryCorps to host StoryCorps' Military Voices Initiative the last week of July at Loussac Library. The project is working to collect oral histories from active duty military, veterans, and military families, and participants had the option to release their recordings for public access through the Library of Congress.

- Sue Sommers (Chugiak-Eagle River) with help from Keelin Baughman (Mountain View) had a booth at the annual Eagle River Bear Paw Festival Teddy Bear Picnic. Over **500 kids and adults** stopped by to play a rhyming game to earn a library sticker or pencil.

### Next Steps/Coming Soon

- The Gerrish Library is reaching out to The UAF Cooperative Extension to hold a workshop or presentation in September.
- Misty Rose Nesvick (Community Relations) and Meneka Thiru (Adult Services) are coordinating “Booch For Books” with locally owned and Alaska made Zip Kombucha. For the month of September, library cardholders can save 10% off purchases at the Zip Brewery tap room. A limited-edition library branded Kombucha flavor “To Chai For” will also be available with proceeds from the sale of the flavor going to support the Library. A “Book Tasting” event will be held on September 21 from 5:30-7:00, where customers can compare books and kombucha flavors with opportunities to learn more about the Friends of the Library, Anchorage Library Foundation, and library services.
- Amanda Andros (Adult Services) will represent the Library at a community picnic hosted by Parks and Recreation at Eastchester Park on August 17. The event is designed to bring awareness to plans for the park, collecting suggestions from residents, and bringing awareness to community resources including library materials and events.

### Limiting Factors/Concerns

- The Mobile Library vehicle is still delayed preventing us from using it for outreach. The collection dedicated to the Mobile Library has been made available for general circulation and will be re-evaluated once a vehicle is purchased.

## Internal Goals and Strategies

### Recent Accomplishments

- Collection Management Services by the numbers: July 2023

Task	Total
Collection Maintenance – Updates to existing items	1363
Donations – Added to the collection from community donations	42
New Item Processing – Books, movies, magazines, etc, added to the collection	3,689

- Miranda Forner has joined us as our Time Administrator making all administrative positions full for the first time since 2021.
- Misty Rose Nesvick (Community Relations) led a training for branch managers on how to use Savannah for tracking location-based patron engagement and activity to support data driven decisions around branch services.
- Misty Rose Nesvick (Community Relations) participated in a drill for the city Emergency Operations Center. She is a member of the Initial Response Team that may be activated by the Office of Emergency Management in the event of a wildland fire, earthquake, or other emergency.
- Collection Management Services has distributed materials selection responsibilities to several Branch and Adult Services librarians. This should produce a strong collection, staff with more collection development experience, and provide a selection process with backups in place.

- Meghan Malone joined Adult Services from Rumford, Maine on July 3, bringing Adult Services to full staffing. Welcome Meghan!
- Elizabeth Nicolai officially began as Assistant Director on July 3.

### **Next Steps/Coming Soon**

- Misty Rose Nesvick (Community Relations) is coordinating advertising campaigns for Library Card Sign-Up Month (September) and an Institute of Museum and Library Services CARES grant for Northstar Digital Literacy, including radio, print (Senior Voice, Sol De Medianoche), People Mover interior ads, local influencers, and social media.

### **Limiting Factors/Concerns**

- The Technical Services Supervisor position remains vacant, creating challenges to getting materials out for public use.
- Taylor Keister, Collection Development Librarian, resigned as of July 28 which will slow the selection of new materials.
- Incidents and vandalism report for July 2023:
  - 2 incidents resulting in suspension
  - Vandalism and other damage: 1 broken window, 1 mattress left on the lawn, 1 graffiti removal, 3 calls for extra cleaning on exterior (Mountain View library), 1 call for extra cleaning on exterior (Loussac Library)
- Increasing numbers of people are camping around the building at Mountain View. This is contributing to an increase in trash, human waste, and vandalism around the exterior of the building, resulting in a less welcoming environment for library patrons.

### **Library Board Updates**

None at this time.

### **Social Media/Photos**

L) Facebook comment for Muldoon Library virtual storytime.

R) Facebook post for Mountain View Library teaching garden



Anchorage Public Library (Mountain View Library)

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The plants in the teaching garden are thriving! There's potatoes, strawberries, lettuce, and more. Join us on August 16th for our next garden program on how to harvest seeds.

See insights and ads

Boost post

Give Stars to Anchorage Public Library. Edit

55 views



Like



Comment



Share

👍❤️ 9

Most relevant ▾



Carol Harris

I am old (and have no children) and enjoy listening and participating in these story times. A good book is a good book and all the hand motions in the songs help my arthritis. My mother read with us a lot and we all became bookworms. However, I don't recall story times at the libraries in the towns we lived in. This is a treat for me and the little ones watching. Thank you

