

Municipality of Anchorage
Library Advisory Board Agenda
Microsoft Teams Virtual & In-Person Meeting
Loussac Library

September 20, 2023, 5:30 to 7:00 PM

Attendance

_____	Debra Bronson
_____	Dennis Dupras
_____	Alice Qannik Glenn
_____	Doug Weimann
_____	Cristy Willer, Chair

Topic	Leader	Time	Action
Call to Order/Land Acknowledgement	Cristy Willer	5:30	
Roll Call (current reading)	Cristy Willer	5:35	
Approval of Agenda & Minutes	Cristy Willer	5:45	
Mission Moment/Staff Presentation	Jim Curran, Muldoon Branch Director	6:00	
Persons to be Heard	TBA	6:20	
Director's Report	Elizabeth Nicolai	6:35	
Board Comments and Adjourn	Cristy Willer	6:55	

Municipality of Anchorage
Library Advisory Board Draft Minutes
Microsoft Teams Virtual & In-Person Meeting: July 19, 2023
Loussac Library

(Subject to approval at the August 19, 2023 LAB Meeting)

Attendance	
X	Debra Bronson
X	Dennis Dupras
X	Alice Qannik Glenn
X	Doug Weimann
X	Cristy A. Willer, Chair

X = Present, E = Excused, U = Unexcused

Staff present:

Elizabeth Nicolai, Assistant Director

Guests Present:

Mary Rasmuson, Judy Eledge, Sami Graham

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Cristy Willer at 5:45 p.m.

Land Acknowledgment:

Ms. Willer acknowledged that the Board meets on the traditional lands of the Upper Cook Inlet Dena'ina Athabascan people.

Approvals:

- Action: The agenda was approved as written. (Deb/Alice).
- Action: Minutes from the 6/7/23 LAB meeting were approved as written (Alice/Deb).

LAB email conversations 2/15/23-5/13/23

As an official Advisory Board of the Municipality of Anchorage, the Library Advisory Board is subject to the regulations of the Open Meetings Act. As such, conducting Board business in any grouping of more than three Board members is considered a public meeting, whether it be in person or online. Therefore, emails concerning Board business which were exchanged by all members of the Board from February to May, 2023, will be made available to the public. A hard-copy packet of emails exchanged between board members from 2.15.23 to 5.13.23 was distributed to board members and will be posted with these minutes on line.

Mission Moment/Staff Presentation

Ms. Nicolai discussed the recent visit of popular childrens' book author Raina Telgemeier. Ms. Telgemeier gave presentations at Loussac and several branch libraries, to hundreds of delighted children and their parents.

Persons to be Heard

Guests were asked if they wished to speak to the Board, but all declined.

Director's Report

The Director's Reports from June and July were distributed and are on file. Ms. Nicolai also mentioned that the Dimond Express Library is up and running.

Board Comments

- Ms. Nicolai will bring a disidentified summary of incident reports to the next meeting, per Board request.
- The Board requested that LAB meetings be held at branch libraries in August (Mountain View) and September (Muldoon).

Adjourn:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m. (Doug/Dennis).

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) 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)

2d · 🌐

...

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

Education & Skills for Life

Recent Accomplishments

- Summer Discovery (**See attached recap**)
 - Systemwide, **4,513 people participated in Summer Discovery** and 1,317 finished and turned in their logs. 34 Summer Discovery programs drew 1,755 attendees, and 5,524 people attended the 199 programs held during the summer of 2023.
 - Family Survey results indicated that of the families who participated, 64% read more, 72% read together, and **78% said their child is a more confident reader** after participating! When asked what they liked best, one family responded: "The motivation to pursue our interest in new knowledge and hobbies."
 - Systemwide, our Readers to the Rescue reported **273,439 minutes beyond initial Summer Discovery logs** facilitating the Friends of the Library donation of school supplies worth \$1000+ dollars to back-to-school events across the municipality.
- The Gerrish Library held a Deconstruction Program where participants came and disassembled all kinds of electronics to see how they worked. We had a total of 17 participants using community donations of tech.
- Loussac Library hosted an "I'm ready for kindergarten" storytime for 34 people with stories about school, educational games, and a craft.
- Nicole Levinson continued to provide Growing Together kits and programming at several branches. have been divided into packets which will be split between the APL seed libraries next spring. 153 kits have been distributed.

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Countdown to Kindergarten presentations, sponsored by the Anchorage School District, will be held at the Loussac Library beginning in September.
- Loussac Library will start Once Upon a Storytime, a once-a-month storytime focused on fairytales and their adaptations.
- Kristie Nelsen is coordinating with the Alaska chapter of Better Investing to host classes on selling stocks in September and using Value Line in October.

Limiting Factors/Concerns

- None at this time.

Bridge to Information and Resources

Recent Accomplishments

- Loussac Library launched Preschool Playtime: a program for families to come play, socialize, and learn together with toys, literacy games, and coloring sheets. We held three sessions and the last one had 75 attendees.

- Mountain View resumed hosting Park Rangers from the National Park Service after a 3-year hiatus. They bring weekly science and safety topics to the teen's afterschool, including lessons on being bear aware, a topic of importance in the neighborhood due to recent bear sightings. Events will continue through the school year.
- Kristie Nelsen (Loussac Adult Services) completed a How-to video on changing notification settings in Libby. The video will appear on our YouTube channel and website.
- Nicole Levinson (Loussac Adult Services) created a book display featuring the musical Hamilton.

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Youth Services is working with Anchorage School District on training for school librarians and teachers to utilize Anchorage Public Library resources.
- Meneka and Teresa are working together to plan the return of Golden Afternoons in September. They have a slew of programming lined up with topics including a movie screening, nutrition, and technology help.
- Nicole will continue to create displays for Broadway shows coming to Anchorage and Broadway Alaska staff will reach out if they have any in person programs opportunities that need a space to be held in.
- Nicole will be arranging a chance to visit Chugiak-Eagle River Library to discuss collection needs in her range.

Limiting Factors/Concerns

- None at this time.

Building Community

Recent Accomplishments

- Loussac Library hosted Pokemon Day, which drew 44 people to build their Pokedex, play the card game, and design their own Pokemon. A repeat event is planned for October.
- Keelin Baughman (Mountain View) visited Grow North Farms to host a weekly storytime for the children of workers. She read to approx. 15 children each week, many who are recent immigrants to Anchorage.
- Amanda partnered with Parks and Rec. in hosting a picnic at East Chester Park on August 17 at the Woodside Playground passing out bookbags filled with school supplies, flyers highlighting helpful back to school resources, and library calendars.

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Gerrish (Girdwood) Library is working on programs for Girl Scouts, an author visit, and a Harry Potter Trivia Night.
- Loussac Youth Services is testing a new event format in September: a free play time on Monday mornings that is geared toward families. We'll put out toys and early literacy games in the Youth Services area for a limited time to serve as a community playdate and introduction to the library.
- Meneka is working with Tent City Press and the Seed Lab at the Anchorage Museum to plan for zine programming in October. Programming this year will take place at all 5 branches and may include some workshops at other community spaces.
- Kristie Nelsen will be visiting a local nursing home in mid-September to sign residents up for library cards.
- Amanda worked with *Baker Publishing Group* to bring two authors for a book talk on September 6th, Tracie Peterson and Kimberley Woodhouse.

Limiting Factors/Concerns

- None at this time.

Internal Goals and Strategies

Recent Accomplishments

- Collection Management Services by the numbers for August:

Task	Number of Items
Collection Maintenance- Updates to existing items	904
Donations- Added to the collection from community donations	10
New Item Processing- Books, movies etc, added to the collection	3343

- The stage on the Loussac Library lawn was repaired.
- Staffing:
 - Gerrish Library welcomed Stephanie Goens and Gus Brewer as library assistants.
 - Nancy Clark was promoted into the role of Collection Management Services Coordinator.
 - Jon Ebron transferred into being the Collection Development Librarian.
- Adult Services staff received training on identifying and reporting suspected human trafficking from Rochelle Greenley from the Alaska Native Justice Center. The training included identifying the warning signs, methods of recruitment, and how we could help patrons or people we know personally if we believe they may be victims of trafficking.
- Sarah Preskitt, Andi Haley (Adult Services), and Brendan Farrell (Facilities) met with Travis O'Rourke from Capital Projects and Bryce Klug from RIM Architects to discuss shelving needs for the Alaska Collection. Mr. Klug and his colleagues will return with drawings in September.
- Misty Rose Nesvick (Community Relations) led a training for senior staff on how to use Savannah for tracking location-based patron engagement and activity to support data driven decisions around branch services.
- Adult Services staff received training on identifying and reporting suspected human trafficking from Rochelle Greenley from the Alaska Native Justice Center. The training included identifying the warning signs, methods of recruitment, and how we could help patrons or people we know personally if we believe they may be victims of trafficking.
- Sarah Preskitt, Andi Haley, and Brendan Farrell (Facilities) met with Travis O'Rourke from Capital Projects and Bryce Klug from RIM Architects to discuss shelving needs for the Alaska Collection. Mr. Klug and his colleagues will return with drawings in September.

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Library job announcements are to be posted for the Chugiak-Eagle River Branch Manager and the Teen Services Librarian at Loussac to replace Nancy Clark and Jon Ebron.

Limiting Factors/Concerns

- Incidents and vandalism report August 2023:
 - 4 incidents resulting in suspension
 - Vandalism and other damage: Broken bench at Loussac, Graffiti at Loussac, burned out fridge abandoned at Mountain View, Loussac fountain dyed blue

- Two vacant positions in Loussac Youth Services have reduced the number of storytimes we are able to offer.
- The Technical Services Supervisor position is still vacant, limiting the higher-level cataloging and acquisitions tasks that can be done.

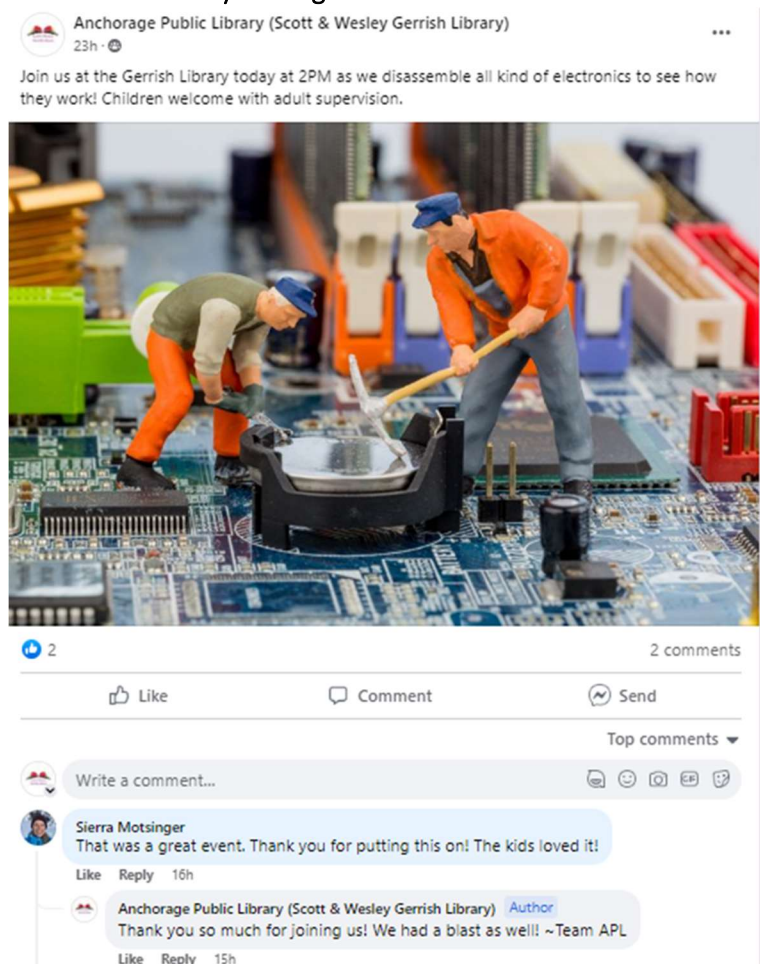
Library Board Updates

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- The Friend of the Library and Anchorage Library Foundation will be co-hosting a table at the library Booch for Books- Book Tasting, September 21, 5:30-7PM.

Social Media/Photos

The Gerrish Library had a great turn out for its Deconstruction Program and response from the community.

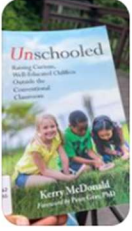


From a homeschooling Facebook group a patron shared:



Brandy

☑ Nature Song has pods for kiddos and momas to get together and free play in the woods. Also look at the book unschooling and read all that Peter Gray has written. At this age it's all about play. Good luck.



Like Reply 1d



Brandy

Also Lousaac library has a newsletter for home schooling as well as a bunch of activities. Let them pick out a bunch of books to check out and read. Download the Libby app on your phone to checkout audio books through the library.

<https://www.anchoragelibrary.org/.../student-resource.../>



ANCHORAGELIBRARY.ORG
Student Resource Center



Love Reply 1d Edited



SUMMER DISCOVERY 2023

SUMMER OVERVIEW

4,513 participants

1,317 finishers

507 new youth library cards created

31,651 youth materials circulated

PROGRAMMING

34 Summer Discovery programs:

1,755 attendees

71 storytimes:

2,322 attendees

94 other youth programs:

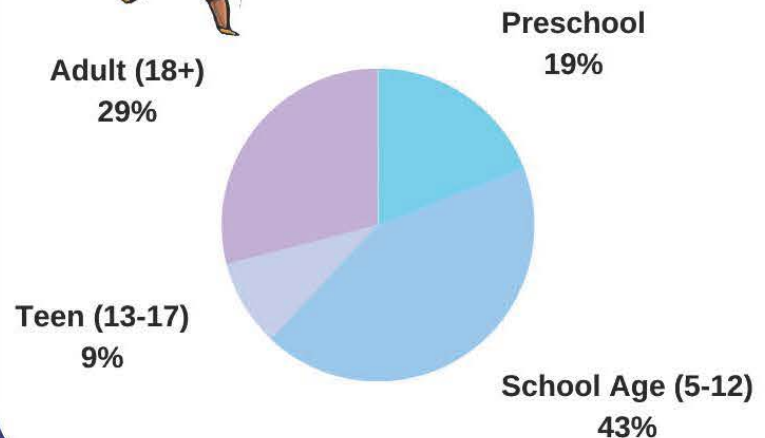
1,447 attendees

Total summer event attendance:

5,524



PARTICIPANT DEMOGRAPHICS



VOLUNTEERS

36 teenagers
volunteered
for a total of
364 hours.



READERS TO THE RESCUE

273,439 extra minutes logged

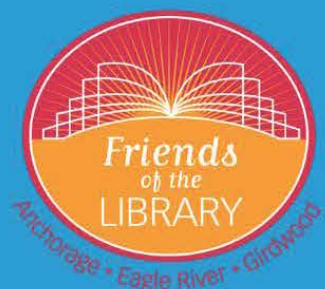
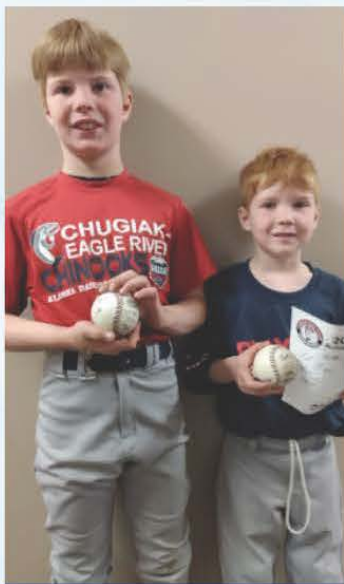
\$1,000+ worth of school supplies donated



PATRONS' FAVORITE THING ABOUT SUMMER DISCOVERY:

"That we spent more time together. Watching my daughter writing and seeing how her imagination flourished."

"Reading more together as a family and encouragement for my kids to read more on their own." "Getting to do it together! All ages. Also getting to count other discovery activities, including writing."



Summer Discovery made possible thanks to a donation of **\$30,000** from the Friends of the Library.

Do you love the Library? Do you want to help make the Library a better place? Become a Friend of the Library!
www.librarychampion.com

