

Education & Skills for Life

Recent Accomplishments

- The Gerrish Library held a Mushroom Craft program to coincide with the start of the Girdwood Fungus Fair, organized by the Turnagain Arm Mycological Society, 26 people participated.
- Mountain View hosted the Senior Poetry Workshop with local poet Brian Hutton. This program brought in 8 participants, many who are repeat attendees from the last few workshops.
- Loussac Library hosted Countdown to Kindergarten with the Anchorage School District. 54 adults and children attended and worked on skills they will need to attend Kindergarten next year.
- Loussac Library's test of "Free Play Mornings" is going well, drawing just over 30 people each week for a community playdate in the Play and Learn area.
- The inaugural "Once Upon a Storytime" at Loussac Library presented three versions of the Three Little Pigs resulting in puppets to take home for story re-telling.
- Nicole Levinson (Adult Services) completed analysis for the 2023 Growing Together Gardening Program. This year we saw a total of **753 participants** in the to-go portion of the program and **237 in-person participants**, a 24% increase from 2022.
- Meneka Thiru (Adult Services) worked with Somos Amigos to resume Café Entre Amigos. The session drew a larger crowd than usual at 31 participants. The group is trying a more interactive approach by breaking up the program into several interactive activities that allow participants to practice different vocabulary and grammatical skills, and there was a lot of engagement and participation during these activities.

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- AWAIC will be hosting 4 programs in October at Mountain View Library for National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. There will be both kid friendly and adult versions of the events where folks will learn the signs of domestic violence, how to protect their friends, families, and themselves, and learn what resources are available in town for victims.

Limiting Factors/Concerns

- None at this time.

Bridge to Information and Resources

Recent Accomplishments

- Library Card Sign-Up Month was a resounding success with **1,023 new accounts** activated system wide, meeting and exceeding our initial goal of 1,000 cards for the first time since a dedicated marketing campaign was established in 2021. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive around the APL brand duct tape and Zip Kombucha partnership.
- Acting Youth Services Coordinator Lisa Bricker met with Anchorage School District, Library Services Supervisor Lisa Sam to work on library card partnership details, arrange a public library presentation at the

school librarians' conference in November, and provide contact information for each school's librarians so that individual contacts can be made for outreach purposes.

- Kristie Nelsen (Adult Services) visited a local skilled nursing facility and registered 21 residents for new library cards so they can access our digital resources more easily.
- Meneka Thiru (Adult Services) visited Complex Care twice this month. She took books donated from the Friends of the Library to give to residents for reading materials. While she was there, she talked with 20 residents, gave away more than 25 books, resolved a library card issue for a patron and signed up 3 staff members and 2 residents for library cards. Residents seemed very pleased to see APL staff present and several asked when we would be coming back.
- The Mountain View Food Pantry hosted a meet and greet of their new building on Sep 30th. Acting Branch Manager Keelin attended to connect with their staff and hopefully begin a partnership with their program and the library.

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Using grant funds from the Institute of Museum and Library Services and Grow With Google program, APL is purchasing laptops equipped with Office 2021 for patrons that need the full Office Suite of products to accomplish their tasks.

Limiting Factors/Concerns

- Due to continued popularity of Hoopla and the rising cost of this resource, APL has reduced the number of monthly borrows per person from 8 items to 4 starting October 1. This reduction will continue pending additional funding for the resource.

Building Community

Recent Accomplishments

- Misty Rose Nesvick (Communications), Meneka Thiru and Amanda Andros (both Adult Services) held APL's first "Booch For Books- Book Tasting" event at the Zip Kombucha brewery, where locally made kombucha flavors were paired with a library book and guests rated how well they matched. **70 people** attended the 90-minute event, 11 library cards were made, and 21 items were checked out. The local business was thrilled with the partnership and both attendees and event coordinators look forward to the event happening again next year. **(See Social Media/Photos)**
- Mountain View Library pulled the last of the harvest from the Teaching Garden on Sep 9th, including over 20lb of potatoes. Volunteers from the neighborhood were able to divvy up the spoils and take plenty of fresh veggies home.
- Keelin Baughman (Mountain View), Ariel Mortem, and Meneka Thiru (both Loussac, Adult Services) worked together to host an outreach table at Senshi-Con, a local comic convention. They spoke to over **300 attendees**. Attendees to the convention from out of town were reminded that they were part of the Alaska Library Network about could take a visit to any APL location while in town.
- Samantha Blanquart (Loussac) attended the Anchorage Early Childhood Coalition meeting with community partners to facilitate early literacy outreach and connections.
- Amanda Andros (Adult Services) worked with Baker Publishing Group to host authors Tracie Peterson and Kimberley Woodhouse on September 6 at Loussac. Both authors shared their writing journey and offered a book signing following the discussion.

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Meneka Thiru (Adult Services) 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. More information can be found at bit.ly/APLZines.

Limiting Factors/Concerns

- None at this time.

Internal Goals and Strategies

Recent Accomplishments

- Collection Management Services by the numbers for September:

Task	Number of Items
Collection Maintenance- Updates to existing items	874
Donations- Added to the collection from community donations	20
New Item Processing- Books, movies etc, added to the collection	2,154

- Samantha Blanquart (Loussac) attended the virtual Colorado Libraries for Early Literacy conference to increase skills and get new ideas for local early literacy efforts.
- APL has finished the public computer operating system swap from Windows to Chrome OS – all 5 locations have new public desktops in place now.
- Thanks to a 2023 increase in marketing funds from APL operating budget and a generous grant from the Anchorage Library Foundation, Misty Rose Nesvick (Communications) was able to secure a highly effective Library Card Sign-Up Month campaign that included 5 major radio stations, 3 internet influencers, and promoted social media.

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Five library staff members, Lisa Bricker (Acting Youth Services Coordinator), Andi Haley (Adult Services), Katarina Pavic (Gerrish Branch Manager), Amanda Andros (Adult Services), and Samantha Blanquart (Youth Services), will taking a multi week Library Management Training course from Library Journal in October.
- Misty Rose Nesvick (Communications) will be posting a Marketing Assistant position in October with a goal of onboarding in January 2024 pending applicants and holiday timelines. This position will greatly increase APL's capacity to share messaging with the public, in particular communities served by our branch locations.

Limiting Factors/Concerns

- Behavior and Incident reports:
 - Incidents with a member of the public that resulted in security intervention or a suspension:

Location	Incidents
<i>Loussac Library</i>	3
<i>Mountain View</i>	3
<i>Eagle River</i>	1

<i>Muldoon Library</i>	0
<i>Girdwood Library</i>	0

- Vandalism: Tree uprooted from outside of Mountain View Library
- The Technical Services Supervisor position remains vacant since mid-June due to the specialization required of candidates. Former Technical Services Supervisor Stacy Gordon has been retained on a limited contract to provide essential services.

Library Board Updates

Recent Accomplishments

- Friends of the Library will host their annual meeting Wednesday, October 18 with guest speaker, author Dante Medema.

Next Steps/Coming Soon

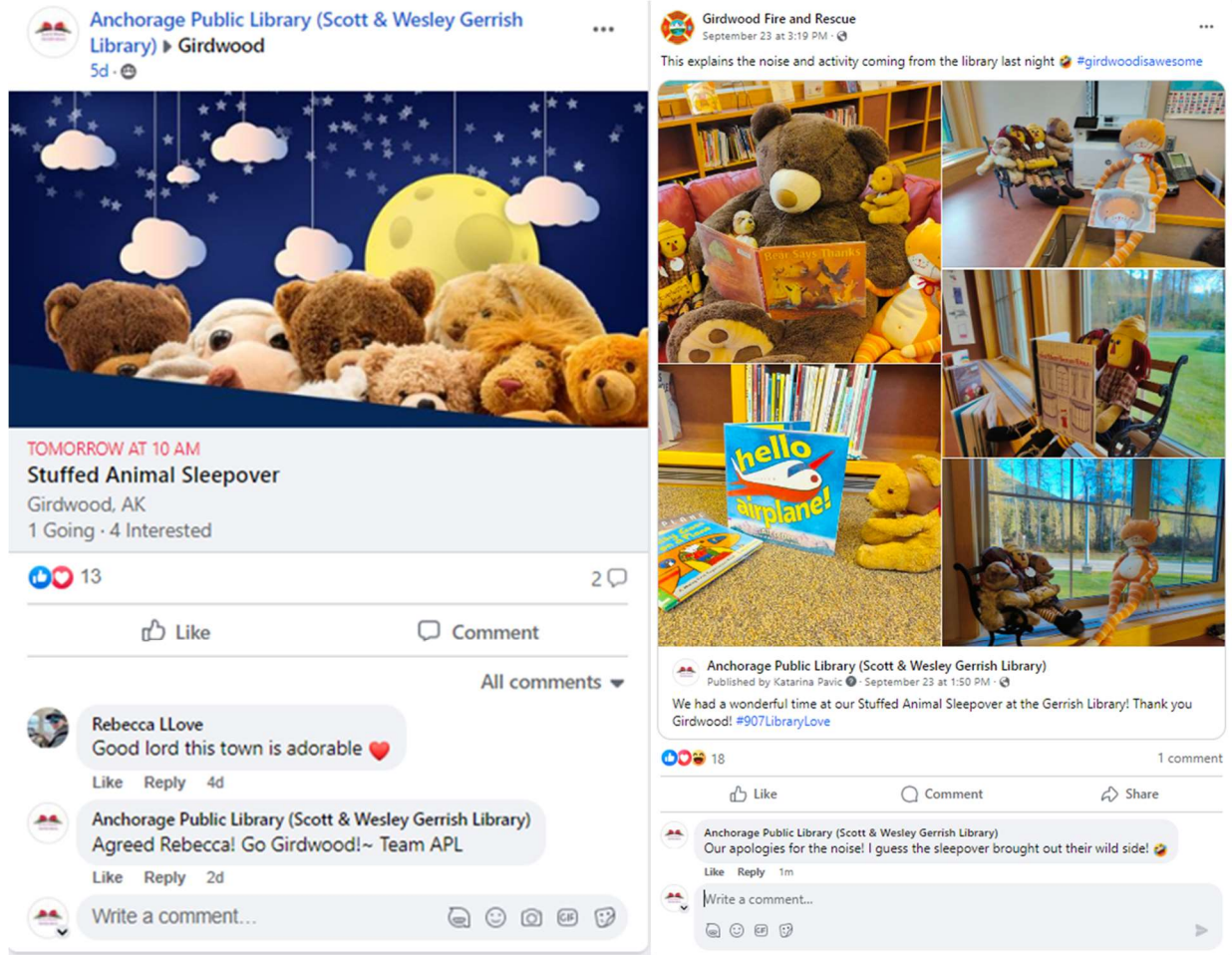
- The Fall Friends of the Library Book Sale is November 3-5.

Limiting Factors/Concerns

- Four seats were vacant on the Library Advisory Board as of 9/30/2023. Three more members have terms that end on 10/14/2023, but by code they should receive automatic 120 day extensions. Five members of the nine member board are required to be present at every meeting for a quorum.

Social Media/Photos

The Gerrish Library has had a great response from the community about our Stuffed Animal Sleepover program.



Keelin Baughman (Mountain View) at Senshi-Con (See Building Community – Recent Accomplishments for more information)



Loussac had 226 responses on the interactive wall asking "What's your favorite thing about autumn?" Adult assistance is evident in some, but one child came to the desk to inform staff that SHE is Autumn.

