

## Education & Skills for Life

### Recent Accomplishments

- Following Muldoon Library's Bear Aware program with AK Fish & Game on Saturday, Red Coffey (Youth Librarian, Muldoon) held a Thursday DIY Bear Bell program. It was a *wild* success with 23 attendees
- Kim Cameron (Youth Librarian, Mountain View) partnered with Anchorage School District's Migrant Education Program to host Music Together, engaging 40 pre-K students and their families.
- Keelin Baughman (Teen Services Librarian, Loussac) completed an outreach event at Dimond High School, speaking with teens about how the library can support their career and educational goals.
- Kelsey Skrobis (Youth Services Librarian, Loussac) facilitated a Preschool Art program for 14 participants, where children wove paper to make patterns, practicing fine motor control and pattern skills.
- The PAWSitive Reading Program launched at Chugiak-Eagle River Library in partnership with dogs and handlers accredited through Pet Partners. The first event was a meet & greet (25 attendees), following events were the individual opportunities to read to a dog (based on sign-ups, 20 attendees for session one and 18 attendees for session two). Four more dates have been added to the calendar for May and June.
- "Weeds & Wildflowers" program with Alaska Botanical Gardens took place on April 30 at the Chugiak-Eagle River Library with 7 attendees.
- Misty Rose Nesvick (Communications Coordinator), Jim Curran (Muldoon Branch Manager), and Joe Ortega (Marketing Assistant) represented APL at the Mayor's Spring Job Fair. They spoke with 20 attendees including teens looking at future careers as well as networking with other vendors to promote library services.

### Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Youth staff systemwide will be visiting schools across Anchorage to promote Reading Rendezvous and Summer Discovery.
- Mark Worden from Go Hike Alaska will be offering an educational adventure talk on May 16 at the Chugiak-Eagle River Library.
- Nicole Levinson (Reference and Programming Librarian, Loussac) made the final arrangements for the 2024 Growing Together gardening program series, including creating and finalizing a programming guide for staff members with details about the program function and procedures. With assistance from Meghan Malone (Reference and Programming Librarian, Loussac), supplies for the first round of programs in May were packed and sent to the Muldoon branch for the first program on May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### Limiting Factors/Concerns

- None at this time.

## Bridge to Information and Resources

### Recent Accomplishments

- Kelsey Skrobis and Lisa Bricker (Youth Services Librarians, Loussac) gave a tour for approximately 60 5th and 6th graders from Inlet View Elementary and their caregivers, giving a presentation on how to utilize our catalog, website, and databases.
- Keelin Baughman (Teen Services Librarian, Loussac) gave a presentation at McLaughlin Youth Center for their Transitional Program, teens who are nearing release. Presentation covered how to get a library card, how to use the catalog, how to look for events to connect with peers, and how to do some basic searches in the catalog/in databases.
- Sue Sommers (Youth Services Librarian, Chugiak-Eagle River) and Nicole Levinson (Acting Branch Manager, Chugiak-Eagle River) attended the first annual “Spring into Summer” Chugiak-Eagle River Chamber of Commerce Expo on Saturday April 20, which featured 46 scheduled booths/food trucks, and had 425 visitors, according to the Chamber of Commerce organizers.
- Katarina Pavic (Gerrish Library Branch Manager, Gerrish) promoted the Reading Rendezvous and Summer Discovery at the Girdwood School for all classes K-8 to a total of 185 students.

### Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Meghan Malone (Reference Librarian, Loussac) will give opening remarks at the Anchorage Genealogical Society Spring Seminar on May 4th and set up an unmanned table to highlight the resources of the library.

### Limiting Factors/Concerns

- Short staffing due to illness and previously scheduled programming has led to an increase in unstaffed hours at the Media Desk at Loussac.

## Building Community

### Recent Accomplishments

- The Gerrish Library held a week-long Haiku Poetry Contest to celebrate Poetry Month and had 8 participants.
- The Gerrish Library hosted an Author Visit with Natasha von Imhof to talk about her first novel, *Double Shot of Living*, and had 12 participants.
- Mountain View Library’s monthly Community Drumming Circle, led by Gail Jackson, restarted after a 2-month hiatus with 23 participants.
- Kelsey Skrobis (Youth Services Librarian, Loussac) offered an in-service day drop-in program in April titled “Awesome Origami”. Children and their families used both preprinted templates and origami books for inspiration while the library supplied the paper. 57 people participated throughout the day.
- Lisa Bricker (Youth Services Librarian, Loussac) and other Loussac Youth Services staff ran the annual Dino Day program for 755 attendees.
- Keelin Baughman (Teen Services Librarian, Loussac) was approached by local teens who requested a new event for magicians to work together and practice their skills with each other. The first meeting was very successful with 6 attendees.

- Chugiak-Eagle River Library hosted the 11<sup>th</sup> Airborne Division Woodwind Quintet on April 3, and filled the program room to capacity with 68 attendees. This program was extra special for the group because the military band that they are part of is no longer being funded. Their last public show is in May on base.
- Dish! Cookbook Club hosted by Amanda Andros (Reference Librarian / ILL Supervisor, Loussac), had a successful first potluck on April 3rd. The group watched a short video about the importance of nutrition, especially as we age. Patrons shared healthy foods, discussed their selected cookbooks, and talked about easy healthy substitutions. Each member walked away with a reuseable stainless-steel travel cutlery kit.

## Next Steps/Coming Soon

- The Gerrish Library is looking forward to hosting David Brame in June, the illustrator of teen graphic novel *Safe Passage*, and author of *Pluto Cove*, Arran Forbes, in September.
- Summer Discovery kicks off with our annual Reading Rendezvous event on May 18, followed by weekly summer programs in June and July plus our reading log challenge.
- Amanda Andros (Reference Librarian / ILL Supervisor, Loussac) is working on hosting Alaskan author Michael Englehard at the Loussac Library on Tuesday, June 4th from 5:00 – 7:00.
- Kristie Nelsen (Virtual Services Librarian, Loussac) is coordinating with the Anchorage Symphony for their season finale concert. Loussac will put up a display of books inspired by the musical selections, and Kristie will host a table in the lobby of the Performing Arts Center prior to the concert with books for checkout and information about library offerings including medici.tv, a new performing arts streaming service available on hoopla.

## Limiting Factors/Concerns

- Kristie Nelsen (Virtual Services Librarian, Loussac) had planned a nursing home outreach visit, but the visit was cancelled due to illness. It will be rescheduled for a later date.

## Internal Goals and Strategies

### Recent Accomplishments

- Collection Management Services by the numbers April:

Task	Number of Items
Collection Maintenance- Updates to existing items	2,087
Donations- Added to the collection from community donations	72
New Item Processing- Books, movies etc, added to the collection	2,262

- Staff training not including mandatory safety training:

Type of Training	Number of Hours
In person trainings	86 hours
Live webinars and online courses	11 hours
Recorded webinars and online courses	97 hours

- On April 18, all library locations closed for Staff Day. All Anchorage Public Library staff had a full day of training and beginning work on the new strategic plan. The training sessions included: Anchorage Public Library history, a tour of the archives and vault, how storytime supports early literacy, Four Doors Readers Advisory theory, using Hoopla and Libby, and introductions to the works of individual departments like Collection Development, Technical Services, and Interlibrary Loan. The strategic plan work will inform the committee that begins working on the plan this summer. (See Photo)
- During staff day Sophie Mizak-Goozmer (Library Assistant II) was honored as the longest tenured employee in the Municipality of Anchorage, celebrating 49 years of service between departments including Anchorage Health Department and APL. (See Photo)
- Elizabeth Nicolai (Assistant Director), Ariel Mortem (Technical Services Supervisor) and Emily Paige (Collection Management Coordinator) attended the Public Library Association conference in Columbus, Ohio from April 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> and brought home a variety of new ideas and training knowledge for library services.
- Loussac Youth Services has hired a new Early Literacy Outreach Librarian who will begin in May.
- Nicole Levinson (Reference and Programming Librarian, Loussac) will be filling in as Branch Manager at Chugiak-Eagle River Branch starting April 30th and continuing until the position is filled.
- Loussac Adult Services welcomed Sandy Lukes as our new Community Engagement Librarian on April 29. Welcome Sandy!
- Nancy Clark (Collection Management Services Coordinator) retired as of May 1 after 31 years of service at APL. The Assembly honored her service at their meeting on April 23. The new CMS Coordinator, Emily Paige, started in that position on April 29. (See Photo)

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

- The first full order with Baker & Taylor will (mostly likely) be submitted in May. Selectors are scheduling training sessions scheduled to start the first full week of May.

### **Limiting Factors/Concerns**

- Loussac Youth Services has a vacant Saturday part-time position, which will affect the number of programs and services offered during summer break until the position is filled.

## **Library Board Updates**

### **Recent Accomplishments**

- Friends of the Library held their annual Beyond The Stacks fundraising dinner on Friday April 13.

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

- The semi-annual Friends of the Library Book Sale is May 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup>.

### **Limiting Factors/Concerns**

- The Library Advisory Board can only hold informational meetings until enough members are appointed and confirmed so as to have a quorum.

## Social Media/Photos

**Anchorage Public Library (Z. J. Loussac Library)**  
 April 22 at 2:17 PM · 🌐

During our recent Staff Day we were thrilled to celebrate our own Sophie! She holds the record for being the longest tenured employee at the Municipality of Anchorage. She is in her 49th year with us, serving as a library assistant here at the Loussac Library.

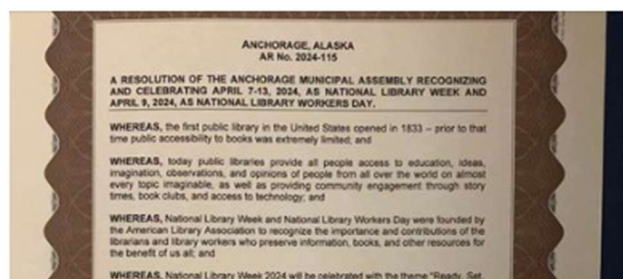
You may recognize Sophie from the circulation desk, searching through the stacks to pull items for library holds, or delivering a curbside pick up. Quynh Sophie for your many years of service.

#907LibraryLove

Courtesy of Mayor Dave Bronson



Thank you to the Anchorage Assembly and the Mayor for recognizing National Library Week April 7-13 2024 and Library Workers Day April 9. #907LibraryLove



**Anchorage Public Library is at Anchorage Public Library.**  
 ★ Favorites · April 25 at 10:18 AM · Anchorage · 🌐

Please join us in sending #907Library to Nancy Clark in honor of her retirement. In her 30+ years with APL she has served as a reference librarian, branch manager (Samson-Diamond and Chugiak-Eagle River), and most recently as Collection Management Services Coordinator.

This week she was honored with an Assembly Resolution celebrating her career as a self-proclaimed "accidental public librarian."

Thank you for your dedication Nancy. May your books be spicy, your ball games ... See more



Staff Day  
2024

