



Director's Report

DATE: July 20, 2020

This is the summer of COVID-19. In preparation for reopening our branch libraries, we installed plexiglass shields on all circulation desks. Some of the shields were purchased, some were made. All branches received sanitizer, germicidal cleaning solution, buckets, disposable gloves, floor signs, spray bottles, and masks. Headquarter staff stepped up and helped with assembling plexiglass shields, creating signs, and anything else that was needed. Bookkeeper, Stacey McKeown and I made all of the 50 facemasks that we provided for staff. All branches reopened to the public on June 9 with restrictions. All branches have restricted hours to the public to allow for the extra cleaning, facemasks are required, everyone must sanitize their hands when entering the building, time is limited to 30 minutes per day per patron, and library capacity is determined by the branch manager. By the time of the board meeting, patron time will be extended to one hour per day. Library programming is still suspended and meeting rooms are off limits.

Summer Reading was a big concern for us this summer because of suspended programming. The Arkansas State Library purchased READsquared for all public libraries. READsquared is an online reading program solution that can help libraries brand their reading programs and increase registration and participation of individuals, families, and groups through activities, book lists, challenges, and more. However after meeting with the branch managers at the end of May and we decided there was not enough time to set up the program and there was no way to individualize it to each branch. We collectively decided to create a Summer Reading packet for all children signing up for the Summer Reading Program. Headquarters staff, Monticello Manager, Elizabeth Newman and I worked quickly creating the Summer Reading Adventure Packet. The Arkansas Correctional Facility at Wrightsville printed 500 booklets for us and they were at the branches ready to hand out by June 9. Branches are holding live events through Facebook Live each week.

We installed a temporary Storywalk around the Monticello Branch Library walking path. We are on our 3rd story for the summer. The response to the Storywalk has been wonderful. Warren also used a Storywalk during the Warren Pink Tomato Festival.

Meetings & Workshops Attended – All Zoom meetings

- Arkansas Digital Library Consortium
- Arkansas Leadership Institute, All-In
- Branch Manager Meeting – bi-weekly
- Arkansas Library Association, Bylaws Committee
- Association for Small & Rural Libraries, Conference Committee