

## June Library Director's Report for May 2020

Library Director's Video Report Link <https://animoto.com/play/CyCb0EBFS8rQVpcME28Qdg>

We continued to feature new creative virtual programming and offered 138 programs this month including community partnerships with McMurray Rotary's Afternoon Tunes and McMurray Art League's "Creativity Abounds" Spring Art Show. We also partnered with the PT Parks and Recreation Department, to coordinate a critically needed Vitalant Community Blood Drive with 51 collections that benefitted at least 141 people.



The library expanded its reach and shared Memorial Day tributes of local memorials in the largest virtual Memorial Day celebration in our area. This 2-hour live broadcast from Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall & Museum was featured on local cable channels and live streamed on rememberingtogetherpgh.org. It included a live ceremony, pre-recorded remarks, and tributes, as well as photographs submitted by citizens throughout Western

Pennsylvania. We partnered with the Veterans Breakfast Club for this special Memorial Day event in place

of traditional Memorial Day commemorations. It honored those who died in service to our country while also highlighting the sacrifices of local municipalities and included honor guards at Forest Lawn Gardens and Queen of Heaven Catholic Cemetery here in Peters Township.



*New memorial at our Municipal Building*

As Washington County moved to the "yellow phase" on Friday, May 15, and in compliance with the Office of Commonwealth Libraries, we responded to Governor Wolf's plan to reopen Pennsylvania by launching our carefully planned contactless PTPL Curbside Pickup Service the following week. We kept the safety of our staff and community in mind and after holds/requests were placed online or by phone, we gathered them from our shelves and called our patrons to schedule a pickup time. In one weekend we received 44 pages of holds to pull from online requests. Patrons were assigned a parking spot (with signs crafted by our Public Works Department) every 15 minutes, three days a week. We scheduled 105 pickups to very happy patrons in May and have completed and/or scheduled 308 appointments to date. We accepted library returns and quarantined all materials for 72 hours using large recycling bins borrowed from our Public Works Department. Carrie Weaver kept our community informed of new information with email blasts and website updates.

## NEW Curbside Pickup Service





Our Youth Services team began researching various ways to support a virtual summer reading program this month and with financial support from the Peters Township Library Foundation selected ReaderZone. Starting June 1st, readers of all ages will begin logging their reading using the ReaderZone app and/or website. Readers of all ages (from birth to adult) are invited to join in the fun this summer as they read towards their goals and earn rewards along the way. Links to ReaderZone and details about the process including an adorable puppet show was shared with PT school librarians and students via their Google Classrooms.

Speaking of reading, we created and posted many suggestions for items available on Overdrive to connect to popular binge-tv series such as *Ozark*, *Succession*, and *The Haunting of Hill House*. There were a

whopping 1611 e-books and 1779 e-audiobooks borrowed in May!

Our Information Technology Librarian, Ed Wolf, shared multiple small group Zoom classes totaling 115 participants. Classes included: Devices & Apps; Intro to Word; Intro to Excel; Online Genealogy Basics; and Book Club Technology Sessions. The feedback was wonderful: *"Thank you so much for sending me your information from the Online Genealogy class today. You did an excellent job in your presentation and slides. I am anxious to begin my search and I look forward to attending your other classes."*

*"I just went back in and did the formula on three years of figures and--IT WORKED! And, luckily, the formula totals matched the adding machine totals--but so much quicker. It also eliminates mistakes that I make when using the machine. Thank you!"*

*"Just glanced at your attachments and your notes for Excel look great!! Also, I appreciate the Gale class info. Thanks so much for sending them and for your excellent classes both today and Tues. I'm so glad I decided to sign up; I was a little hesitant because of my age and limited knowledge of both Excel and Zoom. I would definitely do it again!! "*

*"Thanks so much for sharing so many great library resources with us tonight. You rock!"*

The Peters Township Library Board and The Peters Township Library Foundation also met with me for their monthly May meetings via Zoom to offer their guidance and support for the library.

Ms. Sydney continued to share her expertise on virtual escape rooms including her newest Hunger Games Experience using Google Forms by serving as an ALA guest panelist and spoke to more than 1000 participants from across the country and world. Her work was also featured in Oprah's online magazine and on Yahoo News. Youth Services offered virtual events such as STEM Saturdays, Friday Night Frights and even World Turtle Day. Ms. Shannon's dogs, Juno and Zoey, were great virtual listeners as our young readers tuned in to read to them during May's *Paws for Reading*.

We saluted the PTHS #Classof2020 by lighting up the entire library and joined the entire community for PT Light Up Night on May 1<sup>st</sup> at 20:20. We sure do miss seeing our students at the library and wish our seniors the very best with their future plans. #BethelightPT

