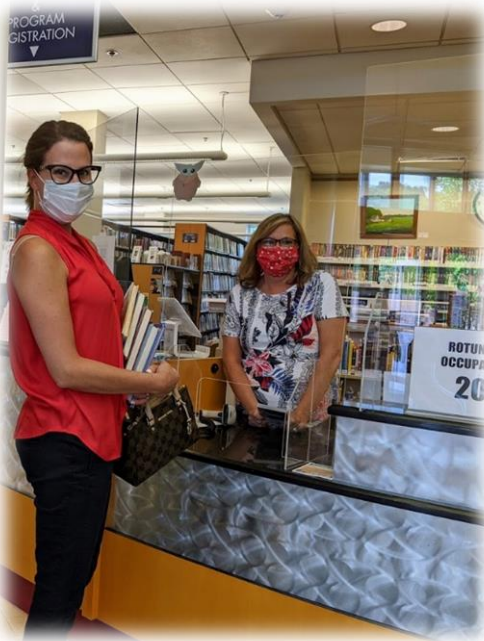


PTPL July Library Director's Report for June 2020

Library Director's Video Link <https://animoto.com/play/bMErklI9j27xitLWE4PqFg>



Governor Wolf moved Washington County to the Green Phase on Friday, June 5, 2020 and we waited for further guidance from the Office of Commonwealth Libraries to adopt a phased-in approach for in-person library services. With that guidance in mind, furloughed library employees returned to the library this month in small teams and we worked to prepare the building to abide by federal, state, and local health guidelines. Our incredible staff adjusted to these new guidelines and worked hard behind the scenes to prepare for our first phase of reopening to the public. The Library Board met on June 9 to review and approved our PTPL Framework for Reopening and we were ready on June 11 to open our lobby for Hold Pickups at the Library Services Desk. A staff greeter was positioned near the front door to welcome visitors and answer questions. This first phase allowed patrons the opportunity to pick up their reserved items without having to schedule an appointment. Our Curbside Pickup Service continued but when

patrons heard that they could come into the lobby for their pickups without an appointment most people jumped at the opportunity. Return bins were placed outdoors to allow for quick drop-offs and materials were quarantined for 72 hours.



On June 22 we began our new summer hours and on June 29, we transitioned to our 2nd phase where we offered limited services on both floors of the library. Carrie Weaver kept our public informed by emailing our 8647 subscribers our safety guidelines and updating our website, Sue Miller coordinated our *IN Peters Township* magazine content, Youth Services prepared a video for families to watch on their Youth Services Facebook Page and photos were posted to social media to prepare the public for various changes in service and logistics. Four computers were available for one 45-minute appointment per day and study rooms were available for 1-hour

sessions subject to availability. In addition to our evening cleaning service, we increased our custodian's daily hours and cleaned high-touch areas frequently. We posted occupancy signs throughout the building, encouraged our visitors to respect social distancing and strongly encouraged all visitors who were able to wear a mask. Additional masks and bandanas were also available at the Greeter Desk where we kept track of building occupancy with a digital counter. We continued with virtual



programming, craft kits, tax-forms, and many families were eager to pick up their Summer Reading "Imagine Your Story" goodie bags. Our Reader Zone summer reading app registered over 400 participants who logged: **Adults** – 97 participants read 190 books; **Grades 7 to 12** – 38 participants read for 18,165 minutes; **Grades 3 to 6** - 106 participants read for 50, 578 minutes; **Kdg to Grade 2** – 135 participants read for 36,015 minutes; and **Birth to Preschool** - 80 participants listened to or read 1,984 books. Special prizes and incentives are also part of the fun. Thank you to The Peters Township Library Foundation for their financial support in this effort.

Our staff received recognition from the Washington County Library System Board for outstanding virtual programming and service throughout the COVID-19 quarantine. Peters Township Library and Ms. Sydney's Digital Escape Room were also highlighted in the June 2020 print edition of *American Libraries*, the magazine of the American Library Association, in an article entitled, "Pandemic Forces Programs to Move Online" featured libraries across the country that adapted quickly to the crisis with creative online programming. Kudos again to our Ms. Sydney!



Ed and Janis Lybarger, longtime residents, and generous library supporters, are moving and scheduled a morning visit this month with Margaret Deitzer and our archivist, Carolyn Friedrich, to review boxes of personal donations of Peters Township history. Ed's mother, Alberta Lybarger, was president of the Peters Township Women's Club and one of the founding members of the Peters Township Library in 1957.



Margaret Deitzer

I announced my upcoming summer retirement plans to the PT Council, PTPL Staff, PT Library Board and The Peters Township Library Foundation on June 22. It was my intention to share this decision earlier in the spring but when the pandemic hit in early March, I put those plans on the back burner and focused my attention instead on working through the



Ed Lybarger sharing memories with Carolyn Friedrich, Maura Kelly and Ed Wolf. Mr. Lybarger also offered a generous donation to The Peters Township Library Foundation to digitize his collection for our PT Local History archives.

PA Red, Yellow and Green Phases. I am pleased to report that we have successfully re-opened our doors to



the public keeping the health and safety of our staff and community as our priority. The Township has advertised my position and is in the process of receiving applications. It has truly been an honor to serve as your library director for the past five years where I learned something new every day. I began working here in July 2015 after retiring one month earlier from 36 years of service in the Peters Township School District. It has been a rewarding and eventful five-year journey, but it is time to retire (for the second time) to spend more time on the needs of my family. I want to thank you all for your support as we worked together to open

books, doors and minds. I will miss our dedicated staff and volunteers, hundreds of library visitors and the joys that come from working in this wonderful community where I was born and raised, bought a home and settled down with my husband to raise our own family and now to retire. Wishing you and the Peters Township Public Library continued success in the years ahead!