

August Library Director's Report for July 2020

Library Director's Video Report Link <https://animoto.com/play/hgDDeh7EolZNbS3MvsOppw>

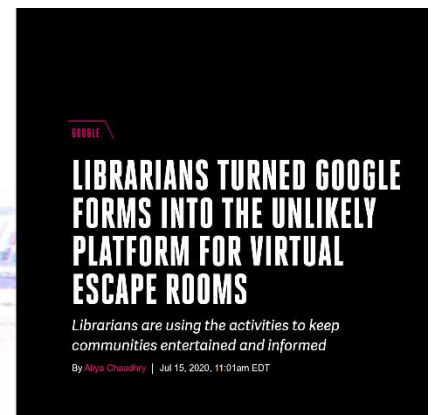


July marked our first full month offering library services on both floors to the public. Visits to the library (7000) doubled their previous June 2020 figures, as have the number of “unique” (1280) borrowers. Our figures are significantly lower than this time last year but we know that our visitors are smiling beneath their masks and are happy to be back inside the library to browse our materials, use the computers, pick up craft kits, research and ask important questions. In fact, we answered a total of 944 reference questions this month. Governor Wolf issued a statewide mandatory mask order and we are pleased to report that our visitors have been cooperative and respectful. We do provide extra masks and bandanas at our Greeter Desk for anyone who may have forgotten a face covering.

We submitted our 2021 library budget this month which included plans, goals and objectives to increase our virtual programming, enhance in-person programming and outreach, expand community partnerships, ensure a well-functioning Local History Room, update library policies and plan for staff development to support areas of need, interest and new trends. Special projects planned for next year also include painting the walls on our first floor and installing new first floor carpeting.

It's hard to believe that Harry Potter celebrated his 40th birthday on July 31st but we have been celebrating Harry Potter since March with Ms. Sydney's Hogwarts Escape Room. Ms. Sydney was featured this month in digital tech news for her use of Google Forms and continues to help librarians and teachers around the world to reach beyond their classroom and library walls. Over 600,000 people have completed Ms. Sydney's Hogwarts Digital Escape Room which is now available in 9 languages.

THE VERGE



A purple banner for "Imagine Your Story Reader Zone". The text reads "WE HAVE READING PRIZES!!". Below the text are three images showing various books and prizes. The first image shows a stack of books, the second shows a collection of books and a small blue bottle, and the third shows a collection of books and a green cap. The banner also includes the text "Have you reached your HALFWAY reading goal in the PTPL Summer Reading Program? If you have, come in and pick up your prize during library hours!".

We are also pleased to note that our physical circulation (13,000 items) for July was higher than ALL circulation (physical and digital) combined last month in June (11,854). Our Summer Reader Zone reading campaign for all ages reached its halfway point and our eager readers are enjoying their

prize incentives. PTPL Digital circulation reached 5690 and we recently highlighted our digital resources in the pages of *IN Community* magazine. Website traffic (19,776 pageviews) continues to be higher than this time last year where we are now hosting new services such as Make a Recommendation, Get a Recommendation, Express K Pickups and Book Bundles.

Lunch Break Fairy Tales



Featuring
"Jack and the Beanstalk"
July 27, 28, 29, and 30
at 12 Noon

on the PTPL Youth Service Facebook
page or library YouTube channel

Register to pick up
your FREE fairy tale kit
for this week's story

Our virtual Youth Services Lunch Break Fairy Tales and corresponding kits have been a great success with lots of positive family feedback. Additional activities include: puzzles, early learning sheets, fine motor matching, plant your own beanstalk and build your own magical world. STEM Saturdays and STEM Kits included fun with pop rock science, raised salt art, scooter bots and even building explosive volcanoes.

The number of items placed on hold (2678) AND the number of items we actually pulled for holds (2540) from our library remain significantly higher than pre-Covid levels, those numbers are now starting to decrease as more patrons are coming to the library in person. We do still continue to offer Curbside Pickup by appointment. There are also plans for patrons to place holds and receive delivery of materials from all WAGGIN libraries beginning in September.

July was a bittersweet month as we said good bye to four library staff members who have diligently served the library and who will be greatly missed. We wish them all the very best in their new endeavors!



Shari Schneirov



Deb Coen



Maggie Griz and Madyson Glesky - student pages and PTHS grads who will attend PITT in the fall.

I was completely surprised on my last day, July 20, to find out that it was Myra Oleynik Day. Special thanks to the PT Council for this unexpected proclamation and to Paul Lauer and Monica Merrell for their kind words, gifts of appreciation and visit from the Kona Ice Truck. It was a special treat to share this retirement day with our Township employees and PT Library Board. I was also very touched by the sweet serenade of "My Favorite Library Things" sung by my wonderful and talented PTPL Staff. This was a day I'll never forget and I thank you all for your kindness, sweet notes, special gifts and 5 years of wonderful memories!



Sue Miller, our Assistant Director, is currently serving as Interim PTPL Library Director during the transition process.

