



Peters Township Library Report – January 2022

Programming

The very popular Preschool-a-Palooza event returned this year for the first time since early 2020. This event welcomes eight local preschools and daycares to the library to provide information to families, promote their organizations, and explain what they have to offer. We had a total of 99 attendees, with many families being new to the library or the Peters Township community. We received great feedback and had a record number of people register for new cards that day.

Another popular Youth Services program in January was Paws for Reading, with 44 patrons attending throughout the morning. Paws for Reading allows children to read to a certified therapy dog. Paws has always been a favorite among both the community and library staff, and it has been so nice to see many little excited readers share a story with a four-legged friend!

The “Stories from the Archives” series continued with a program in January about the early years of the village of McMurray, specifically the McMurray Town Center at the intersection of E. McMurray and Valley Brook Roads. Our program presenters, Margaret and Carrie, discussed how this area developed from a grist mill in the 1800s to a general store, post office, telephone company, and creamery in the 1900s. More than 200 people attended the live Zoom program, many tuning in from outside Pennsylvania! Another 200 people watched the YouTube recording of this program. We love to see how many people enjoy learning about Peters Township history.

Strategic Planning

The library’s strategic planning process began in January, and we’re making a lot of great progress! Surveys and focus groups have been conducted with the staff and board, 850 Peters Township residents responded to a community survey, and there are upcoming focus groups scheduled for our community partners, The Library Foundation, and Council. Our strategic planning consultants are also completing a community needs assessment. It’s been fascinating to see the trends emerging from each step, and we are looking forward to seeing our final high-level goals and workplan!

Building

In January, we had the booth seating in the non-fiction section reupholstered, thanks to Decorator and Upholstery Supply. This section of seating sees a lot of use, and the fabric was dirty, stained, and worn. The new fabric and color scheme for the booths will better match the carpet that will be added in 2023.

We were also excited to add a plaque to the new circulation desk. The funding for the desk was provided by two generous donors in memory of Dirk and Ursula Visser, avid library patrons. This plaque will be a great way to remember the Vissers, as the library was a special place for them for over 50 years.