

Director's Report: August 2020

1. Gratitude

- Thanks to Kate and Betty for covering shifts this month when I took time off for surgery!
- Thanks to all for your participation in strategic planning!
- Thanks for making the grounds more enjoyable to our patrons—the tent and picnic table are greatly appreciated!
- Thanks to Betty for her successful virtual crafts program!
- The library received donations from In Stitches, Carol Purington, and Yenna Yi. Amy Herzig sewed and donated bags for Summer Reading Club. Paula Harrison and Betty have both sewn and donated masks for us to make available to patrons.
- The front gardens look especially vibrant—thanks to the Friends and Holly Hayes (Spatcher Farms)!

2. Administration/building and grounds

- Our preservation assessment grant is underway! Stephanie Garafalo, a Preservation Specialist with Northeast Document Conservation Center met with Kate and Chelsea via Zoom, and then visited the library to assess our collections and building. Her report will be completed within the next eight weeks.
- GML was awarded the LSTA Dig In! Grant, aka “Grow it, Colrain!” for gardening, programs, and collections related thereto! Chelsea will be scheduling a planning meeting; please advise if you're interested in taking part!
- Mike Slowinski paid a site visit and will submit a bid to repair the crumbling concrete in the front sidewalk and behind the building.
- Chelsea has ordered a two-sided “Open” feather flag from Silverscreen Designs in Greenfield, per patrons' suggestions, to signal to passers-by when the library is open. (Kate and Chelsea will need to put it out at the start of each shift.) The cost is just under \$300.
- It's that wonderful time of year when we submit our annual statistics to MBLC! These will be ready for your review and enjoyment next month.

3. Youth services

- The Summer Reading Club ends August 15th! Winners of the raffle and art contest will be announced the following week, and bags from Amy Herzig will go to every participant, plus gift certificates for all the winners! See the example entry on the next page.
- The library received a \$500 CFCE grant for Family Literacy activities! Chelsea will connect with Kate and Betty regarding children's programming.



Summer Reading 2020:

IMAGINE YOUR STORY!

Draw your story here and return this postcard by mail or in the book drop at 12 Main Road by August 15 to enter the Summer Reading art contest!

Name: Annie Gaughe Age: 22



4. Public services

- The Friday Poem has developed some loyal followers, including Carol Purington, who suggests that this program be expanded, and advertised more prominently in the Clarion.
- Our subscription to Mango! is up for renewal. Chelsea requests feedback and discussion as to whether we should renew for another year for \$712.95.
- Chelsea established a standing order with Blackstone audio to receive five new audiobooks (bestsellers) on CD per month, pre-processed, at a fixed cost of \$235/month, or \$2,820/year, and savings of \$3,480/year. This will be a good time savings, since items will arrive ready to circulate, and will keep our audiobook collection fresh throughout the year!