

Combined October staff reports

Natalie Draper, Library Director

I had the opportunity to serve on the Library Journal Directors' Summit advisory committee and attend the summit in Denver (for free!) as a panelist. This 2-day conference was a wonderful experience, giving me the chance to meet and discuss challenges with other library directors in a very focused way. The beautiful, newly remodeled Denver Public Library hosted, and the speakers were all terrific.

I also had the chance to attend the Minnesota Library Association conference and did not present this year. I did attend a number of sessions on heavy topics: AI (ethics, privacy concerns), disappearing government data, advocacy, book bans, and more.

After we launched the new Social Story, the folks at A Great Day Farm reached out to invite us to table at a fall fest open to the community. This farm is a beautiful place and the folks who run it have gone to great lengths to make it accessible and welcoming to all ages and abilities. We look forward to partnering with them in the future.

I am working with staff on the grant-funded project to address changing demands on the library's spaces and evolving workforce needs. We just installed two new quiet rooms and the larger of the two has been very popular already. The smaller arrived with some damage so we are waiting on parts to put it to use.

We did submit the Jerry Kline prize nomination to Library Journal and are waiting to hear but it has been almost 2 months so we're probably not winning this year.

We are applying for MDE funding to bring the library's elevator up to code and hopefully install looping at the library. The state has very limited funds available this year so if we are awarded it will likely be partial funding.

Amy Nelson, Youth Services Manager

*An **empowered community** is equipped for the changing world.*

I received SELCO scholarship to participate in the virtual Colorado Libraries for Early Literacy (CLEL) conference, held October 16-17. I attended sessions on reaching older preschool and kindergarten age homeschool children through enhanced storytime experiences, sensory storytimes for those with sensory processing disorders, autism, or other neurodivergence which makes attendance at existing storytimes difficult, outreach programming for early literacy, as well as trauma-informed early literacy practice. The keynote session was about racism in children's songs and solutions for educating and transforming practice. This conference is the only one I am aware of that specifically addresses library service, collections, and programming for the youngest members of our communities as well as their caregivers. I always learn something new and relevant.

I'm looking forward to being able to review the other sessions I was not able to attend live!

*A **connected community** has access to the resources they need.*

Initial feedback from the new board game collection in the children's area has been enthusiastic! Games have been circulating well, and patron comments have been positive. We have additional games to put out as instructions are translated into Spanish, so I am looking forward to patrons discovering an increasing collection as we get closer to the end of the year.

*An **invited community** feels at home in their library.*

Behind the scenes, I've been working to compile a document to aid in programming. I've been surveying regional library event calendars to gather information about musicians, artists, STEM, etc. programs run by individuals or organizations that the library has hired. SELCO provides a list each year of programs they have vetted against the Legacy Amendment funding criteria, but that funding and list alone don't fulfill the needs we have. It is a work in progress, but I have found many new-to-me and potentially new-to-NPL options for Youth Services staff to explore in the future.

Emily Lloyd, Youth Services Librarian

*An **invited community** feels at home in their library.*

Over MEA, a program held at the Oasis-- making LEGO Glasses to keep--really hit the mark of one thing we've been hoping to do there: connect with new faces through programs kids and their families can attend while waiting for other services in the building. We had 14 people attend, not a giant amount, but only four had come specifically for the program, having seen it advertised. The rest were kids I approached in the CAC waiting area while wearing my goofy LEGO glasses. I'm seeing this kind of growth in the weekly Oasis Storytimes, too. This past Monday, six people waiting in the CAC area came to storytime, all of whom I'd invited in from the lobby of the CAC.

Tween Thursdays are finding their feet, attended by 5 (lowest) to 17 (highest) tweens each week. I've put more posters about them around the children's area to help this group feel seen by the library. We tried our first "Gaming with Nex Playground" event-- using a gaming system Amy had won through an application process--and you could hear tweens' triumphant joy all over the library (for better or worse).

Katlin Heidgerken-Greene, Collection Development Librarian

*A **connected community** has access to the resources they need.*

- Adult Services Associate Zoe Cheng Pinto (they/them) started work at the library this fall and is currently working 10 hours/week helping with collection maintenance. They have been a huge support to several big projects.
 - First, they are relabeling our mystery collection with series information and numbering. I am also weeding the collection and adding the series info to our call numbers in the catalog at the same time. This makes the books much easier to find in series order both in the catalog and when browsing the shelf, which will help series readers.
 - Second, we completed a large weeding project in the CD books. At this point, most checkouts on our CD books are happening in the first two years after the book is released. So we have reduced the size of this collection to make it a more browsing-focused area that will highlight new and bestselling titles in a smaller footprint. Zoe helped to pull many of the CD books and get them organized after withdrawing. They are being offered to other SELCO libraries who may want them as well as to Northfield area library deposit collections and senior residences working with library outreach staff. Both of these collection moves create better access to in-demand and high-use items.
- To address slowed order fulfillment from Ingram's normal order stream, we have opened an Ingram Express account to receive unprocessed items at near-normal discount more quickly through the end of the year. We are starting to see items show up pre-publication date again on some items ordered this way.
- We are exploring alternative vendors and account setups to complement our Ingram sourcing long-term in the wake of Baker and Taylor's closure and resulting shifts in the market.
- Due to the new item slowdown and large volumes of cataloging/processing at once, On Order records are not being added to all items at the time of order. Most items are currently being added to the catalog upon arrival. Exception to this is items that have NOR waitlists which may be added earlier.
- This month the Oasis adult collection was refreshed with new fiction titles, many in paperback, the majority of titles by diverse authors. Additional hardcover copies of bestsellers were also added to this location. Titles on the paperback spinner are checking out less than the rest of the Oasis adult collections.
- Periodicals collection: Current newspaper and magazine titles will be renewed for 2026 with the exception of a few titles ceasing publication. Our periodicals budget was reduced in the past couple of years and at this point our current titles are circulating well and/or seeing good in-house use so will be retained.
- Tax forms have been ordered for 2026, in line with timing from last year. We will again offer 1040 and 1040 SR forms and instructions in both English and

Spanish. Quantities will be largely the same as for 2025, with slight reductions reflecting the continued shift to online filing away from paper form usage.

Laurie Kodet, Library Services Manager

Minnesota State Park Library Program

- 18 passes issued in July
- 14 passes issued in August
- 4 passes issued in September
- **16 passes issued in October**

Passport Acceptance Services

- In October 102 Passports were issued and 132 photos were taken.
- Year to Date: Accepted 1263 passports and have taken 1463 photos

Positive Interactions

Julie shared that two separate families return children's games and commented on how much they enjoy this option for their families.