

Kilgore Memorial Library
Director's Report
Prepared for the May 21, 2020
York City Council meeting

1. In response to the Coronavirus pandemic Kilgore Memorial Library closed its doors to the public at 5:00 pm, Tuesday, March 17, 2020. This historic event is unprecedented and there are no best practices to follow. In an effort to keep the public safe and at home, we elected to not offer curbside pickup or any other regular library services. On May 13 the library is still closed to the public. There are three full-time staff left working in individual offices or one at a time in other parts of the building. A phased reopening plan has been developed by the staff and we are waiting for a green light from the local health department and Mayor to put phase one in place. Patrons call every day asking if we are open, it is the hardest part of all of the COVID-19 issues we are dealing with.
2. The Little Free Library project is going well. Library staff replenish the boxes several times a day. Donations continue to be dropped in the book return. One patron who could not donate books donated \$20 to help the project. We have found several thank you notes and painted rocks left by grateful readers.
3. Our online programming, Doodles with Courtney and Online Storytime with Mrs. B!, continue to be very popular. John Baker, from York College fame, has joined his wife Carol and together they have gathered a great group of followers who interact with them during the live sessions and hundreds of viewers have watched each episode. They have share that this project reminds them of when John produced a children's program for a local station in North Dakota years ago.
4. Thanks to the support of the company we have our library management system through, we are now offering an online application that will temporarily give new patrons access to our online library services. Once the library is open these new accounts may be converted to a full library account if the patrons makes the request and completes the full access application process. Visit our web site at <https://libraries.ne.gov/york/> for details.
5. Our collection management staff member has been making great progress on the adult fiction collection. She has been working through every collection in the building to update records in the card catalog and provide new, uniform, spine labels on every item. This has been an ongoing project for several years and it will take several more years to complete.
6. We have been working to redesign our Summer Reading programming. The new format will not offer any group events through June. Right now the Brown Bag Storytime sessions will be virtual and moved to July and the summer intern we have through a grant from the Nebraska Library Commission will be remotely conducting online escape rooms designed for upper elementary and middle school age participants. At this time we are still planning to have our closing event in conjunction with Balloon Days on July 18. We have planned an outdoor dance party with local DJ, Connor Mogul, and ice cream sundaes provided by the Friends of the Library.

Respectfully submitted by,



Debora Robertson
Director, Kilgore Memorial Library