April 7, 2026

Springfield Library 1st Quarter Manager's Report

Prepared by Kelly Anne Wright

I want to start by saying the first few months here at Springfield has been quite the learning experience and I am thankful to the Board and other staff for their guidance and support in my transition to the role of Library Manager.

A few things of note:

We had a very successful program "Run with Dogs" organized by Joann, with 31 patrons in attendance. Having a program scheduled simultaneous to the community kitchen luncheon could have posed issues, but I found it a positive to have multiple events happening. Parking was the main concern. There were not any major interruptions.

Attendance in general has been on the rise. I have stopped tallying Tuesday vs. Thursday evenings, as I am no longer in need of free Tuesday evenings. That said, I did find that Thursday was the busier of the two, so I plan to try out some programming to capitalize on that fact. My first advertised program will be an informal "Throwback Thursday Game Night." We will be playing Pictionary and I will provide refreshments. This night is scheduled for April 16th, and I have advertised online as well as in print at local establishments, i.e. Tom & Kelly's and the Post office.

I also reached out to a woman on Facebook, Paula Carius, who asked in the local "Friends of Springfield" group if there were any local residents interested in starting a peer support group for seniors who live alone. I met with Paula at the library and we decided to try an informational session on April 30th to see if anyone is interested. I also informed her about the Office for the Aging offerings.

Last month, I attended the Summer Reading kickoff at the Sidney Memorial Library. There were a lot of valuable ideas for the theme this year, "Unearth the Story". I plan to incorporate some passive/self-led programming to the library, which in essence is themed scavenger hunts and/or take and make kits. More on this later as we gear up for summer reading. A few other ideas we had at our staff meeting were literary journals, an autobiography writing workshop, dinosaur dig (Fourth of July) and making your own magnetic poetry. Jonathon has reached out to the Capital District mineral club for a potential geology program. The Otsego County libraries have also come together to host a visit from "The Powerhouse", an energy efficient tiny home. I do not have details for that yet. We have no updates on the summer camp at this time.

I am meeting with Steve Bachman tomorrow, April 9th at the library for an orientation, at his request.

The annual report portal is now open. I have begun entering the data. It is due on April 15th.

There is an outreach mini grant available from 4CLS, and if I have time, do plan to apply. The maximum grant is $2000.

We have received the official letter for the construction grant and budget approval from the state. I have put both letterheads in the binder. Seems as though the check should be mailed shortly. Ironically, we lost a ceiling tile & lighting fixture last week after the rainstorm. Joann notified Jack and had Dale from the garage cap the wires.

I have been doing some purging and organization of cabinets and closets. Additionally, I have (with the consent of the staff) removed quite a bit of signage from the library. I plan to scrape the tape from the door and rehang the sign in the hallway, as well as give the tables some tightening. I am picking up donated chairs from Waterville library this week.

I have been approached by Regina Oakes on multiple occasions concerning gym usage. Can someone please update my role in this matter?

Jack asked me to review the policies and I have read through and printed, but have not yet edited (if needed.)

Facebook engagement is WAY UP. Views are up 2K% in last 90 days, general engagement 100% with roughly 45 new followers.