



Edison Public Library  
Director's Report

August 8, 2023

Summer is here! July and August are the busiest time of the year for most Libraries, Edison included. Our circulation increase, program offerings are planned, and we are busy opening to closing. This year, the extreme temperatures found many Edison residents returning to their Libraries just simply to keep cool. And for the first time in over 4 years, we now have regular Bookmobile services to our Township.

Michael Wirth and I attended a Veterans event here in Edison sponsored by the VFW and KOVA. We provided information to attendees on our programs and our Brainfuse Vet Now Program. Contacts were made with the Middlesex County Veterans Department, the Assistant Commissioner for NJ Veterans Affairs and staff at the two Veterans hospitals in New Jersey. There are some excellent partnership opportunities for the Library for joint programming for Veterans and their families.

The Director attended the monthly meeting in preparation for our Social Work Intern. The meeting centered on payment semi-annually for the stipend which is funded by the NJ State Library.

The Director attended the monthly meeting of the Executive Board of the New Jersey Library Association where he serves as Treasurer of the organization. This meeting was in-person at Piscataway so it gave me an opportunity to site visit and get some new ideas for our renovations. On the same day, the Director attended

the ALA Committee on Library Services to an Aging Population, which he is a member. One project the Committee is working on is trying to invite the Surgeon General to speak at the conference on his recently released report on “Loneliness and Isolation.” We have also been in discussion with other Libraries in the county about developing rotating location for a “Memory Café,” for those suffering from dementia and Alzheimer’s disease and their families.

Ms. Massey and I met several times with SAGE Arch and once with the Engineers on the North Edison Branch Library Renovation and Expansion Project. After several reviews of the plans they have been turned over to the Engineers to provide costs for each other sections for us to get an idea of potential bides that might be returned. We also me with the company that will be providing “shades” and “blinds” and work with Creative Library Concepts on the floor plans for furniture, stack placement, electrics and wiring.

The Director met with W. Keith McCoy, the President of the Edison Public Library Foundation. He did filings with NJ for tax exempt status so we are all up-to-date with that. We look forward to our kick-off organizational meeting for the Friends of the Library on August 9<sup>th</sup> at 7PM at Clara Barton.

The Director made a presentation on Library services for Edison High School teachers. We will be following this up in ensuring that teachers that do not live in Edison have access to an Edison Library card and to start the promotion that every child in school has a card as well. We will be following up later this month on how to get this started.

The Union contract calls for a joint Library-Union Safety Committee. New members from the Union have just been named so we will call the first meeting Later this month.

Tuesday, August 1<sup>st</sup> was National Night Out and the Library was there along with the Bookmobile. We were a big hit! Library cards were made, books were checked-out and hundreds of pieces of Edison Public Library “swag” were distributed. It’s hard to get a real count of the number of people who wanted to

see the inside of the Bookmobile and the dozens of photos that were taken of it to be sent to friends and family around the corner and across the globe.

To ensure that we continue to have the best books for children on our shelves we will be partnering with JLG Junior Library Guild beginning in the fall and we will be introducing video games to our public next month as well. “Old” “torn” and “disgusting” copies of Summer Reading list books have been replaced. All our vendors have been slower than usual in supplying materials. They all suffer from a lack of staff at their end to pull books from their warehouses and get them processed for us. They are not yet back to pre-Covid staffing levels. Despite all this our circulation of physical materials continues to be strong with over 46,000 items borrowed in July. Think about it. 46,000 are borrowed and 46,000 items have to be returned to the shelves. It’s a monumental task and the staff has done a great job in ensuring our patrons get the books they want!

I mentioned earlier our program offerings have been strong in July and are as strong in August as well. In your packet is a copy of the monthly Calendar of Events for August, including those for Children, Teens, Adults and Makerspace events. As always, I invite Library Board members to attend one of these programs by themselves, or with friends or family. I count 40 in-person programs, 2 virtual programs, 12 Makerspace Events and 8 movie events for adults and families. I challenge any other Library in this area to the quantity, depth and breathe of the offering here at the Edison Public Library. Something for everyone!

Respectfully submitted  
Allan M. Kleiman, MLS  
Library Director