

Director's Report August 2024

-A parent told Jenn that before summer reading, her child was testing below her expected reading level. The SRP events and prizes inspired her to read so much that she is now testing above her expected reading level.

-A patron and long-time Hampstead resident praised the library on its ability to get information out to Hampstead residents. Without the papers, there is no easy way to get really local information and the library is filling that gap.

-Adults and kids picking up prizes from summer reading are very happy! We always tell them that the friends and local businesses donate to support the library.

- Sprinkler system was tested in July and in the process, some of the water storage tank for that system was drained. The Fire Dept came and filled it back up for us on Aug 14. We got to introduce a couple new fire fighters to our basement, sprinkler system, and the elevator.
- Elevator passed inspection.
- Summer Reading was a stellar success again:
 - Adults 257 (up from 237 last year)
 - Children Family readers (reader with someone) 130 readers for 832 hours and Independent readers 162 readers read for 1614 hours! These reading hours are more than 1000 hours more than last year. Numbers of participants were down slightly but reading hours increased
 - Teens 49 (51 in 2023) 189 books read
- We are nearly selling out of our discounted copies of the Images of America Hampstead history book.
- Summer concerts in July were a success, despite rain threats. We did not notice any issues with traffic or parking and folks were very happy to have bathroom access.
- New Page Emilia started on Monday 8/12.
- Former Page Emma Hodge will likely return next summer as an intern which will help her complete her MLIS degree .
- Gutters will be installed week of Aug 20. I've consulted with Karen and Cindy from the Garden Club to help figure out how to manage the downspouts integration into the gardens, especially in the front.
- Our annual big book sale and bake sale is starting Friday Aug 23rd and running through Aug 27. The whole meeting room is filled with books to peruse.
- Our library is volunteering to be a Series Keeper library. This stems from the ILL group at the State Library. Its goal is to have libraries commit to keeping an entire series published by an author, so that other libraries can confidently weed their collections, knowing that one library has it.