

**Director's Report**  
**Hamburg Public Library Board of Trustees Meeting**  
**Thursday, June 6 @ 6:00 PM**  
**To be held at the Hamburg Public Library**

**Staff Anniversaries**

The staff celebrated staff anniversaries in April and May. In April we celebrated Mary Ellen's anniversary. She has been with the Hamburg Library since 2017. In May we celebrated Sarah E. and Claudia. Congratulations to them for their years of service!!

**Blood Drives**

Blood drives by the American Red Cross were held at the Hamburg and Lake Shore libraries in April and May.

**Therapy Dog**

On April 13 and May 18 Kruz, our certified therapy dog, visited the Hamburg Library to share a story with 51 in attendance.

**Scavenger Hunts**

Scavenger hunts were held at both libraries during April and May.

*Hamburg*

In March, a Mo Willems scavenger hunt was held with 527 participants. In April, a Solar Eclipse scavenger hunt was held with 475 participants.

*Lake Shore*

In March, a Gemstone scavenger hunt was held with 106 participants. In April, a Famous Children's Books scavenger hunt was held with 84 participants.

**Supplies Drive**

The Hamburg and Lake Shore libraries partnered with Girl Scout Troops 34778 and 32010 to serve as a drop off location for collecting donations of necessities for needy families in Erie County. Some of the items being collected were cleaning supplies,

kitchen items, hygiene products, and laundry soap. Donations were being accepted until May 18. Donations will be dropped off at the Department of Social Services.

On April 1, this writer met with Councilmember Dan Kozub and HPL Board of Trustees President Michelle Parker to discuss various needs of both libraries. The conversation was primarily about the needs of the Lake Shore Branch. Points of discussion included new lighting, doors and windows, and the rehabilitation of the parking lot.

## *Hamburg Library*

### **Programs offered this month include:**

#### **Kid Librarian**

In March, the library began a new initiative for patrons ages 8-12 called Kid Librarian! They can sign up and work with a staff member to curate a display in the Children's Area. Our April Kid Librarians were Remi and Jackson. Remi worked with Librarian Ashley to create a display on arts and crafts. Jackson worked with Library Associate Laurie to create a display on Minecraft, which included stories and how-to guides.



#### **Dynamic Shelving Project**

In April, a Children's Nonfiction Series section was created. This new section highlights popular series titles that would typically be found spread throughout nonfiction, based on call number. The B&ECPL graphics department created shelf inserts to identify the series titles. The creation of this section increased browsability and usability of our collection.



## **Programming with Crown Hill Farm**

Three programs by Missy Singer DuMars were presented during May.

### **Farm Fiber Workshop**

On April 3, Missy demonstrated the yarn-making process in a program for children. The children learned hands-on how wool was transformed, beginning with sheep shearing and ending in a sweater. There were 12 in attendance.

### **Gwen the Hen**

On May 2 Missy visited and read *Gwen the Rescue Hen* by Leslie Crawford with 42 children and adults in attendance. For an extra added attraction, she brought along three hens for the children to interact with.



### **Flower Power with Crown Hill Farm**

On May 10 Missy made her last visit and talked about the enchanted versatility of flowers with 11 adults in attendance.

## **LEGO Club**

LEGO Club was held monthly on Wednesdays and Saturdays in April and May with Senior page Lauren for children 6 to 11 years of age. There were 112 in attendance.

Children use their imaginations when making their creations. Their works are displayed in the Kids Space area during the month.

### **Cookbook Club**

Cookbook Club was held on April 17 and May 15. In April, Librarian Jaime hosted a potluck dinner featuring appetizers from *Martha Stewart's Appetizers*. There were 11 in attendance. In May, Librarian Claudia hosted featuring recipes from *The Weekday Vegetarians* by Jenny Rosenstrach with 9 in attendance.

### **Book a Technology Trainer**

On April 12, 4 library patrons had one-on-one sessions with a technology instructor from the TechKnow Lab.

### **Director's Book Club**

Book Club was held on April 19 and May 17. April's title was *Ethan Frome* by Edith Wharton with 19 in attendance. May's title was *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus with 25 in attendance.

### **Solar Eclipse**

#### **Scavenger Hunt**

April's scavenger hunt was entitled, Solar Eclipse with 475 participants.

#### **Passive Activities**

Various passive activities related to the eclipse were put out for children during the first half of April. Over 90 children participated.

#### **Story Walk**

An eclipse-related story walk was held throughout the village from March 23 through April 13. The book selected was *A Few Beautiful Minutes* by Kate Allen Fox, and was suggested by Heather Jackson of Merit Badge Books. The Hamburg Library participated, as always, and was the last stop. Children received a craft and their parents received a specially created poster.

## **Backyard Astronomy**

A post-solar eclipse program was held on April 20 with 13 in attendance. Paul Moretti, an astronomer from Penn Dixie, led a family friendly program on astronomy basics with a discussion on ways to view and what can be seen in the night sky.

## **Recycling Eclipse Glasses**

The Library System partnered with Astronomers without Borders to provide gently used eclipse glasses. Since 2008, Astronomers without Borders has been collecting solar glasses used for viewing annular and total solar eclipses across the globe and sending them to communities across Africa, Asia, and North and South America that do not have access to these glasses that would allow individuals to safely watch an eclipse.

Collection points were at both the Hamburg and Lake Shore libraries. The HPL partnered with the Town of Hamburg Recreation and Senior Center and picked up glasses they collected. The glasses were sent to the Central Library. The last day for drop off was April 22.

## **Trees Are Our Friends**

On April 27 Marg Rust from ReTree Hamburg discussed the different parts of a tree, how they grow, and why they are important. This program was for children grades 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> with 7 in attendance. The children were given their own tree. This was in celebration of Arbor Day.

## **Hamburg Guitar Quartet**

On May 14, the Hamburg Guitar Quartet returned to the Hamburg Library for a concert with 42 attending that evening. This program continues to be popular each year!

## **Family Storytime**

Library Associate Laurie did her weekly storytime on Wednesdays in the Children's Area with 60-90 children and parents attending each week.

## **Baby Bounce**

Library Associate Laurie conducted two lapsit sessions for those under the age of 2 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month with 60-80 children and their caregivers attending.

## **Class Visits**

Class visits with 5 kindergarten classes totaling 122 students, teachers, and parents from Union Pleasant Elementary were again scheduled in May. Miss Laurie and this writer gave the students a tour and read the book, *The Book with No Pictures*. Afterwards they did a My Library coloring sheet where they drew what they imagined their library to be like.

## **Classroom Collections**

This writer built classroom collections for Smarty Pants Child Care, Churchill Child Center and a third grade class at St. John Vianney. This writer and newly appointed Librarian Trainee Sarah H. delivered collections to Smarty Pants Daycare in May.

## **Take and Make Crafts**

Library Associate Laurie continued to provide 100 take and make crafts, available at the desk on the first of each month. Take and makes will end after June.

## *Lake Shore Library*

## **Music Garden**

On April 30, Friends President and Hamburg Garden Club member Donna Ludwig and this writer mulched the Music Garden to get it ready for the season. The brick indicating the Friends of the Hamburg Public Library donated the landscaping was placed along with solar lighting and weather vane. A birdbath was also added.



## **Programs offered this month include:**

### **Preschool Story Time**

Four story times were held in April and May with 101 participants. Themes included: Castles, Rain, Mother's Day, and National Smile Month.

In celebration of "National Smile Month", on May 14, the library partnered with Aszkler Orthodontics. Dr. Rob Aszkler read their self-published book, *All the Best Faces Wear Braces*. Children in attendance were given a copy of the book and chapstick.

### **The Cookbook Club**

On April 22 participants chose recipes from *One Pot Magic* by Good Housekeeping with 12 attendees. On May 13 recipes were chosen from *Indulge* by Valerie Bertinelli with 10 attendees.

### **Adult Craft Night**

Adult Craft Night was held on March 18 and April 15 with 14 and 16 participants respectively. In March the group decorated earrings and in April the created Fairy Doors.



### **Adult Book Club**

On March 25 the group discussed *Stone Blind* by Natalie Haynes with 6 participants. On April 29 the group discussed *Good Omens* by Neil Gaiman and Terry Pratchett and was led by Library Clerk Alyssa Johnson with 8 participants.

### **Book a Technology Trainer**

On April 3, a Book a Technology Trainer session was held with 3 attendees.

## **Hamburg Women's Friendship Club**

On May 2, Librarian Stephanie was the guest speaker at the Hamburg Women's Friendship Club at the Hamburg Senior Center. She was asked to speak by their Vice President, Maura Krause. She spoke on her time working for the Helen Keller Archive with the American Foundation for the Blind. There were 25 attendees.



## **LEGO Club**

LEGO Club was held on March 30 and April 17 with a total of 18 participants. Children make their own creations.

## **Class Visits**

Bright Path made their monthly visits on April 4 and May 9 with 12 students respectively. Librarian Stephanie reads them a story and gives them a prize.

## **Passive Activities**

On April 2, 9, 16, and 23 "Playmore" sessions were held. This program runs on weeks when there is no preschool story time held. Toys and activities are put out for kids to play with. This is to encourage regular Tuesday visits. There were 24 total attendees.

## **Spring Garden Maintenance**

On April 17, Master Gardener Lyn Chimera present on Spring Garden Maintenance with 10 attendees.

## **Easter Egg Hunt**

On March 23 two Easter egg hunts were held; one at 10am and one at 2pm. Our 10am session had 35 attendees and our 2pm session had 52 attendees. Children decorated bags for their Easter eggs, made crafts, had snacks, and went on an egg hunt around the library. Fifty Easter Baskets were donated by Aszkler Orthodontics.





### **Spiritualism in WNY**

On May 6, Explore Buffalo gave a lecture on Spiritualism in WNY with 6 attendees. The lecture on the history of the Spiritualist movement in WNY, with focus on Lily Dale. This is the first of three lectures this year from Explore Buffalo.

### **Alzheimer's Association of WNY**

On May 15, the Alzheimer's Association of WNY gave a talk on the 10 Warning Signs of Alzheimer's. Attendees learned about the changes in memory and behavior that could be a warning sign of Alzheimer's. There were 2 attendees.

### **Raffles**

A raffle was held of a bag of prizes donated by the Central Library for patrons to suggest a purchase of a title to add to the collection. The winner was Amy H. and her suggestion of *How to Breathe While Suffocating* by Bruce Brackett was purchased for the library. Two runner-ups were chosen and their books were also ordered. There were 15 entrants.

A second raffle was held for an advanced copy of a graphic novel. Entrants were encouraged to comment on the Facebook post with the title of their favorite graphic novel. Monique M. was the winner. There were 3 entrants.

### **Postcards to Kermit**

The library continues to receive postcards from all over the world for our Postcards to Kermit program with an average of about 10/week.

### **Summer Reading**

Solicitation letters were sent to local business for donations to our Summer Reading Program. Some donations have already arrived.

## **Outreach**

### **Hamburg Library**

On April 6, this writer attended an outreach event called, Nourishing Roots: Wellness for Kids at the Hamburg Memorial Youth Center. The event was sponsored by Assemblymember Jon Rivera. Children got to pot their very own plant. This writer provided information on library programs, planting and promoted the Library's Seed Share. An activity and giveaways were on hand including Eclipse glasses. Pictured with this writer is Village Trustee Holly Park.



### **Storytime at Smarty Pants Childcare**

On April 11, Librarian Ashley visited Smarty Pants Childcare to conduct a storytime with the Preschool and Kinder-Ready classes. They read stories and sang songs related to superheroes.

### **Storytime at Just for Kids**

Library Associate Laurie visited Just for Kids on April 22. She read stories and sang songs. There were 20 in attendance.

### **Lake Shore Library**

#### **Storytime at Bright Path**

In March, April, and May, Librarian Stephanie visited Bright Path to read to 5 classes of children ages 1 to 5. Stephanie visits on Fridays every other week. She read to a total of 228 children during those months.

Respectfully submitted,  
Brian Hoth, Director

## Hamburg Public Library - May 2024 Report

### Circulation Statistics

	April 2024	April 2023	% Change
Hamburg	20,426	18,589	9.9%
Lakeshore	5,897	6,459	-8.7%

### Patron Door Counts

	April 2024	April 2023	% Change
Hamburg	8,926	7,058	26.5%
Lakeshore	3,480	3,292	5.7%

### Computer Sessions

	April 2024	April 2023	% Change
Hamburg	933	855	9.1%
Lakeshore	194	241	-19.5%

### WiFi Sessions

	April 2024	April 2023	% Change
Hamburg	1,861	1,489	25.0%
Lakeshore	559	473	18.2%

\*\* The free eclipse glasses available at the library most likely added to the door count in early April.

**2024 Financial Report  
Hamburg Public Library**

**M&T Business Account – Checking**

Date		Transaction	Deposit	Payment	Balance
4/4/2024		Deposit (Transfer from Savings to Checking for bills)	792.76		3,552.93
4/4/2024	4680	Stephanie Molnar (Lake Shore Programming reimbursement)		106.91	3,446.02
4/4/2024	4681	Waste Management (Lake Shore Refuse)		685.85	2,760.17
4/8/2024		M & T Bank (monthly service charge April)		7.53	2,752.64
4/11/2024		Deposit (Transfer from Savings to Checking for bills)	441.86		3,194.50
4/11/2024	4682	Lessons from Nature (Hamburg Gardening program)		100.00	3,094.50
4/11/2024	4683	Laura W. Cunningham (March Mileage)		20.00	3,074.50
4/11/2024	4684	ECWA (Hamburg Water Bill 2/29 -3/31/24)		33.00	3,041.50
4/11/2024	4685	Guis Lumber (Maintenance Hamburg & Lake Shore March)		146.10	2,895.40
4/11/2024	4686	Cintas Corp (Door mats Hamburg and Lake Shore March)		142.76	2,752.64
4/18/2024		Deposit (Transfer from Savings to Checking for bills)	158.78		2,911.42
4/18/2024	4687	Hamburg Natural History Society (Hamburg Backyard Astronomy Program)		158.78	2,752.64
4/25/2024		Deposit (Transfer from Savings to Checking for bills)	505.92		3,258.56

4/25/2024	4688	ECWA (Hamburg quarterly water bill 1/1/24 – 4/1/2024)		505.92	2,752.64
5/2/2024	4689	Guis Lumber (Maintenance Hamburg & Lake Shore April)		323.85	2,428.79
5/2/2024		Deposit (Transfer from Savings to Checking for bills)	323.85		2,752.64
5/9/2024		Deposit (Transfer from Savings to Checking for bills)	175.76		2,928.40
5/9/2024	4690	Cintas (Door mats Hamburg and Lake Shore April)		142.76	2,785.64
5/9/2024	4691	ECWA (Hamburg Water Bill 3/31 - 4/30/24)		33.00	2,752.64
5/9/2024	4692	Laura W. Cunningham (April mileage)		16.00	2,736.64
5/9/2024		Deposit (Transfer from Savings to Checking for bills)	16.00		2,752.64

**Final Balance: \$2,752.64**

### M&T Business Account – Savings

Date		Transaction	Deposit	Payment	Balance
3/29/2024		M & T March Interest	0.14		7,997.81
4/2/2024		Deposit (Lake Shore fine & printing revenue March)	92.40		8,090.21
4/4/2024		Deposit (Hamburg fine & printing revenue)	128.75		8,218.96
4/4/2024		Withdrawal (Transfer from Savings to Checking for bills)		792.76	7,426.20
4/11/2024		Withdrawal (Transfer from Savings to Checking for bills)		441.86	6,984.34

4/18/2024		Deposit (Hamburg fine & printing revenue)	283.94		7,268.28
4/18/2024		Withdrawal (Transfer from Savings to Checking for bills)		158.78	7,109.50
4/25/2024		Withdrawal (Transfer from Savings to Checking for bills)		505.92	6,603.58
4/30/2024		M & T April Interest	0.11		6,603.69
5/2/2024		Deposit (Hamburg fine & printing revenue)	271.70		6,875.39
5/2/2024		Withdrawal (Transfer from Savings to Checking for bills)		323.85	6,551.54
5/7/2024		Deposit (Lake Shore fine & printing revenue April)	149.65		6,701.19
5/9/2024		Withdrawal (Transfer from Savings to Checking for bills)		175.76	6,525.43
5/16/2024		Deposit (Hamburg fine & printing revenue)	167.30		6,692.73
5/16/2024		Withdrawal (Transfer from Savings to Checking for bills)		16.00	6,676.73

**Final Balance: \$6,676.73**

## Northwest Private Account – Checking

Date		Transaction	Deposit	Payment	Balance
3/28/2024		Deposit (Transfer from Savings to Checking for bills)	768.42		3133.51
3/28/2024	3498	WG Arthur Company (2 Adirondack Chairs for Lake Shore Music Garden Half cost)		329.00	2804.51
3/28/2024	3499	Brian Hoth (Reimbursement for Deposit on 2 Adirondack Chairs)		329.00	2475.51
3/28/2024	3500	Ashley Cassidy (Reimbursement for scavenger hunt prizes)		110.42	2365.09
3/29/2024		Northwest paper statement fee March		5.00	2360.09
4/2/2024	3501	Picture Your Walls (Custom Framing for 12 Thelma Winter Prints)		507.36	1852.73
4/4/2024		Deposit (Transfer from Savings to Checking for bills)	1669.86		3522.59
4/4/2024	3502	Rel Comm Inc. (Phone system repair)		1135.00	2387.59
4/4/2024	3503	Home life Inc. (renewal of Practical Homeschooling Magazine)		27.50	2360.09
4/25/2024		Deposit (Transfer from Savings to Checking for bills)	200.00		2560.09
4/24/2024	3504	Village of Hamburg Foundation (2024 Summer Concert Sponsorship)		200.00	2360.09
4/24/2024	online	Amazon (Summer Program Supplies + program needs)		50.55	2309.54
4/30/2024		Northwest paper statement fee April		5.00	2304.54
5/2/2024		Deposit (Transfer from Savings to Checking for bills)	50.55		2355.09

5/9/2024		Deposit (Transfer from Savings to Checking for bills)	466.99		2822.08
5/9/2024	online	Amazon (3 Garden Hose reels)		357.00	2465.08
5/9/2024	3505	Brian Hoth (Reimbursement for Bird Bath – Lake Shore Music Garden)		109.99	2355.09
5/14/2024	3506	Margaret Meissner (Hamburg Guitar Quartet Evening Program)		200.00	2155.09
5/16/2024	3507	Brian Hoth (Reimbursement for ZOOM membership renewal)		149.90	2005.19
5/16/2024		Deposit (Transfer from Savings to Checking for bills)	349.90		2355.09

**Final Balance: \$2,355.09**

### Northwest Private Account – Savings

Date		Transaction	Deposit	Payment	Balance
3/28/2024		Deposit (Hamburg Book Sale + Donation Box)	145.00		35679.97
3/28/2024		Withdrawal (Transfer from Savings to Checking for bills)		768.42	34911.55
3/29/2024		Northwest Interest - March	0.30		34911.85
3/29/2024		Northwest paper statement fee March		5.00	34906.85
4/2/2024		Deposit (Lake Shore Eastern Copier Feb & March)	80.00		34986.85
4/2/2024		Deposit (Lake Shore Book sale & Donations)	219.57		35206.42
4/4/2024		Deposit (Hamburg Book Sale + Donation Box)	119.50		35325.92



4/4/2024		Withdrawal (Transfer from Savings to Checking for bills)		1,669.86	33656.06
4/18/2024		Deposit (Hamburg Eastern Copier)	124.00		33780.06
4/18/2024		Deposit (Hamburg Book Sale + Donation Box)	191.75		33971.81
4/25/2024		Withdrawal (Transfer from Savings to Checking for bills)		200.00	33771.81
4/25/2024		Deposit (Hamburg Donation Box)	25.50		33797.31
4/30/2024		Northwest interest - April	0.28		33797.59
4/30/2024		Northwest paper statement fee April		5.00	33792.59
5/2/2024		Deposit (Hamburg Book Sale)	163.20		33955.79
5/2/2024		Withdrawal (Transfer from Savings to Checking for bills)		50.55	33905.24
5/7/2024		Deposit (Lake Shore Eastern Copier April)	22.35		33927.59
5/7/2024		Deposit (Hamburg Book Sale + Donation Box)	118.48		34046.07
5/9/2024		Withdrawal (Transfer from Savings to Checking for bills)		466.99	33579.08
5/16/2024		Withdrawal (Transfer from Savings to Checking for bills)		349.90	33229.18

**Final Balance: \$33,229.18**

Transactions were fairly routine over this period. Custom framing was completed this month for Thelma Winter prints, which were donated. The Hamburg Library now has a corner art exhibit of her works in the lower level hall. Chairs and a birdbath were added to the music garden at Lake Shore.

Proceeds from Book Sale, Candy Sale and mugs: 3/20/2024 -5/15/2024 = \$735.20