

**Director's Report**  
**Hamburg Public Library Board of Trustees Meeting**  
**Wednesday, March 27 @ 6:00 PM**  
**To be held at the Hamburg Public Library**

**Staff Anniversaries**

*Hamburg Library*

Senior Page Jayne's work anniversary was celebrated in February. Senior Library Clerk Laura's was celebrated in March.

*Lake Shore Library*

Senior Page Sarah and Librarian Stephanie's anniversaries were celebrated in December.

**Winter Reading Program**

The Hamburg and Lake Shore libraries held a Winter Reading Program for adults from January 2 through March 1. Participants recorded their reading through ReadSquared. For every 10 hours read, they could visit the library to choose a free book from the prize bin. The Friends of the Hamburg Public Library provided a Grand Prize for each branch. This prize consisted of a gardening kit: a tool bag with a variety of gardening tools, hand salve, knee pad, and seeds. Hamburg's winner was Maddy D. and Lake Shore's winner was Christine H. Overall, there were 4409 minutes read at LSH with 8 participants and 37374 minutes at HAM with 51 participants.

**Solar Eclipse coming April 8!**

The Hamburg Public Library has been distributing eclipse glasses since October. The supply of the glasses came from the Buffalo Museum of Science, and Solar Eclipse Activities for Libraries (SEAL). The demand for the glasses has been tremendous, and many patrons commented on how this was the first time visiting since the renovation.

Librarian Ashley was part of the Eclipse Stakeholder meetings in January, February, and March. These meetings were conducted over Zoom and included representatives from the town, village, schools, businesses and emergency response teams. These meetings allowed the library to report on programs and experiences related to the eclipse, and to develop a unified response across Hamburg for April 8. This writer provided a report at the March meeting.

Penn Dixie led two programs at Hamburg, and two programs at Lake Shore in February and March. These programs educated children and adults on the eclipse in an interactive and approachable manner. All programs had exceptional attendance: Hamburg had 17 in the children's program and 43 in the adult program; Lake Shore had 23 and 41 attendees respectively.

## **Scavenger Hunts**

### ***Hamburg Library***

Senior Pages Jayne, Lauren and Sarah create the monthly scavenger hunt. In January, the library had a polar bear scavenger hunt with 349 participants. In February, the library had a dragon hunt with 381 participants.

### ***Lake Shore Library***

A Bird scavenger hunt was held in January with 101 participants. A Mo Willems scavenger hunt was the monthly scavenger hunt in February with 124 participants.

## **Therapy Dogs**

At Hamburg, Kruz returned on March 9, and more than 40 people showed for Kruz's return visit. Kruz heard stories from many children that morning. Meanwhile, Lake Shore has a new therapy dog in training, Maeve! She will be visiting occasionally with regular visits coming after she completes her training.

## **Book a Technology Trainer**

Book a Technology Trainer sessions were held at both libraries in January and February. At Hamburg, the TechKnow Lab visited to provide one-on-one technology training sessions. Over the two dates, 10 people received training on January 5 and February 23. At Lake Shore, sessions were held on February 20 with 2 attendees.

## **Supplies Drive**

The Hamburg and Lake Shore libraries have 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 are cleaning supplies, kitchen items, hygiene products, and laundry soap. Drop off boxes are at each library. Donations will be accepted until May 18. Donations will be dropped off at the Department of Social Services.

## *Hamburg Library*

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

#### **Kid Librarian**

In March, the library began a new initiative for patrons ages 8 to 12. They can sign up to be a Kid Librarian, and work with a staff member to curate a display in the Children's Area. There has been an overwhelming amount of interest! Jackson was the first Kid Librarian. He visited the library on March 2 to create a display on action adventure and survival titles. Allison was the second librarian, who visited on March 12 to create a historical fiction display.



#### **Seed Share Donation**

Students at Union Pleasant and Armor Elementary harvested, sorted and packaged sunflower seeds. They visited the library on February 9 to donate the seeds to the Seed Share. One sunflower yielded an incredible 1,900 seeds!



#### **Dynamic Shelving Project**

A plan was made for revitalizing the Young Adult collection, and to make that area of the library more inviting for teens. Genre-fying the entire collection began in December, after receiving input from the Hamburg Middle and High School librarians. This project is ongoing.

## **Youth Services Meeting**

On March 14, Librarian Ashley and Library Associate Laurie participated in a virtual Youth Services meeting. They received training on creating Teen Book Boxes as presented by Sam Adelman, as well as system updates.

## **Valentines for Elderwood**

Library Associate Laurie developed a Valentine's Day craft for patrons to create for residents at Elderwood. Due to the overwhelming response, this was the first time the library was able to supply valentines for two Elderwood facilities in Hamburg.

## **WWII: Buffalo Women on the Homefront**

During World War II, Buffalo focused its industry and manufacturing on helping with the war effort, and women played an especially important role. Explore Buffalo presented this topic on March 12 in recognition of Woman's History Month. There were 16 in attendance.

## **Make a Butter Lamb**

On March 16, presenter Mary Ann Colopy led two sessions of Make a Butter Lamb. The first session for adults had 17 in attendance. The second session for families had 50 in attendance. Mary Ann shared history of the butter lamb and its symbolism, demonstrated how to create a butter lamb, and assisted the group in their very own creation. Each attendee went home with their creation.



## **Cookbook Club**

Librarian Jaime hosts Cookbook Club each month. There were 6 people who attended the February Cookbook Club, bringing selections from *101 Greatest Soups on the Planet*. The March selection was *Spiced: Unlock the Power of Spices to Transform Your Cooking* with 8 in attendance.

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

Librarian Ashley facilitated the discussion for the Director's Book Club in January and February. On January 19, the group discussed *The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry* by Gabrielle Zevin. On February 16, the group discussed *Lincoln in the Bardo* by George Saunders. Attendance was 12 and 16 respectively. On March 15, this writer paid a surprise visit and led the discussion. This was a page to screen event with book club beginning an hour earlier. March's selection was *Girl with a Pearl Earring* by Tracy Chevalier with the movie following. There were 23 in attendance.

### **LEGO Club**

Senior Page Lauren continues to run two sessions of LEGO Club each month. In January, 47 people attended. In February, there were 54 in attendance between the two sessions. In March, 61 people attended. Creations are kept on display in the children's area for the month.

### **Leaping for Leap Day**

On February 29, Librarian Jaime led "Leaping for Leap Day", a program to celebrate Leap Day with 15 children and caregivers in attendance. They read stories, sang songs and completed a craft about jumping and leaping.

### **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 sessions of storytime 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.

### **Tales at Twilight**

Librarian Ashley conducted "Tales at Twilight" on Monday evenings. An average of 20 children and parents attended each session. The program features sensory play or process art, and some of the crowd favorites included playdough; designing with glue, salt and watercolors; and puffy paint.

## **Class Visits**

On March 14, a Life Skills class from Frontier visited the Hamburg Library for a tour with Librarian Ashley. The students learned how to search in the online catalog, received a tour, and completed a scavenger hunt. There were 15 in attendance.

On March 15, a preschool class from MOPS visited the Hamburg Library for a tour with Librarian Ashley. They designed their own libraries, received a tour and heard a story. There were 14 in attendance.

## **Classroom Collections**

Librarian Ashley continues to build classroom collections for Smarty Pants Child Care, Churchill Child Center and a third grade class at St. John Vianney.

## **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.

## ***Lake Shore Library***

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

#### **Preschool Story Time**

There were 9 story times held in February and March with 112 participants. Themes included Letters/Numbers, Sports, Emotions, Chinese New Year, Dragons, Penguins, Eric Carle, and spring. Kids listen to stories and make a craft.

On January 23, a special storytime was held with community helpers present including Maeve the Reading Dog and a paramedic from Reach Out to 911.

#### **The Cookbook Club**

Cookbook Club met on January 8, February 12, and March 11 with 8, 13, and 11 attendees respectively. January's selections were chosen from *Let's Eat* by Dan Pelosi; February's were chosen from *The Noom Kitchen* by Adeena Sussman; and March's from *5 Ingredients Mediterranean* by Jamie Oliver. Everyone ALWAYS has a good time!

#### **Adult Craft Night**

Adult Craft Night was held on January 22, February 5, and March 18 with 16, 17, and 14 attendees respectively. In January the group created decorated frames and in February

they created embroidered bookmarks. In March, attendees decorated wooden earrings. This program is held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month.



### **Adult Book Club**

Book Club was held on January 29 with 11 attendees. The group discussed *The Family Upstairs* by Lisa Jewell. Book Club was held on February 26 with 8 attendees. February's title was *They Called Us Enemy* by George Takei. Book Club is held the fourth Monday of the month.

### **LEGO Club**

Lego Club was held on January 27 and February 24 with 12 and 9 attendees respectively. This is a free-style program where children use their imaginations to create. LEGO Club is held on the fourth Saturday of the month.

### **Class Visits**

Students from Bright Path made their regular visits in February and March with a total of 42. They visit every other week on Thursday mornings where they listen to a story and checkout books. Outreach visits resumed on Fridays beginning March 22.

On March 5, a class of 21 students from Cloverbank Elementary visited and checked out books.

### **911 Program**

On February 27, Reach Out to 911 visited and did a presentation on when and how to call 911 geared toward children with 5 participants. Included was a 911 simulator so kids could learn what to expect when calling 911.

## **Passive Activities**

On February 20, the library's first "Playmore" session was held. This is self-directed where toys and activities are put out for kids to play with. This is to encourage regular Tuesday visits when there is no scheduled storytime. This first session had 12 attendees.

A wipe board was put out for patrons to answer questions weekly. Some questions included: What's your favorite book, favorite animal? In January there were 23 participants and in February there were 21 participants.

In February a passive postcard craft was held with 16 participants. Kids got to create their own postcards using supplies provided.

Beginning in February the library began receiving postcards from all over the world through the Postcrossing Program. Patron Diane Pawelski posted that the library has a "Postcards to Kermit" program and have been receiving them almost daily. This program has been in place for years, but this website has generated much more interest. Postcards received are tacked to maps in the children's area.



## **Outreach**

### **Storytime at Smarty Pants Child Care**

Librarian Ashley continues to visit Smarty Pants Child Care each month to provide a storytime for the Preschool and Kinder-Ready classes.

### **Career Exploration Presentation**

On March 1, Librarian Ashley visited Hamburg Middle School to give a presentation on Librarianship to the 8<sup>th</sup> grade Career Exploration class. This class has invited visitors from a variety of careers to share information about the profession and how to get started.



## **Literacy Night at Charlotte Avenue Elementary**

Librarian Jaime and Page Emily attended Charlotte Avenue Elementary School's Literacy Night on March 8. They promoted library services and children enjoyed a Flying Hoopster craft. They saw 150 people at the table.

## **Parent Engagement Night**

On March 20, Librarian Stephanie and Senior Page Sarah H. participated in Parent Engagement Night held from 6pm to 8pm at Big Tree Elementary. The event was sponsored by both Big Tree and Blasdell Elementary. There were food trucks, a magic show, and reading dogs. Stephanie and Sarah spoke to parents about library programs and had a sand art craft for the kids. In all, they interacted with 120 parents and children.



## **Family Reading Night**

Librarian Jaime and Page Emily attended the Hamburg Central Schools' District-wide Family Reading Night held at Hamburg Middle School on March 22. Participating organizations were asked to come up with a theme and activity. Jaime's theme was "3-2-1 Blastoff!" where kids got to make a rocket/spaceship. Channel 2 Meteorologist Patrick Hammer was the guest speaker. There was live music, refreshments, free books and eclipse glasses giveaways. Jaime and Emily saw 386 parents and children.



Respectfully submitted, Brian Hoth, Director

## Hamburg Public Library - February 2024 Report

### Circulation Statistics

	February 2024	February 2023	% Change
Hamburg	17,767	17,467	1.7%
Lake Shore	5,693	5,779	-1.5%

### Patron Door Counts

	February 2024	February 2023	% Change
Hamburg	8,110	6,934	17.0%
Lake Shore	3,654	2,729	33.9%

### Computer Sessions

	February 2024	February 2023	% Change
Hamburg	866	797	8.7%
Lake Shore	188	209	-10.0%

### WiFi Sessions

	February 2024	February 2023	% Change
Hamburg	1,766	1,415	28.4%
Lake Shore	555	301	84.4%

**2024 Financial Report  
Hamburg Public Library**

**M&T Business Account - Checking**

Date		Transaction	Deposit	Payment	Balance
1/25/2024	4669	ECWA (Hamburg water bill 10/1/23 - 1/1/24)		470.77	2,304.45
1/25/2024	4670	Cintas Corp. (Door mats Hamburg and Lake Shore January)		142.76	2,161.69
1/25/2024		Deposit (Transfer from Savings to Checking for bills)	612.76		2,774.45
2/8/2024		M & T Bank service charge		7.50	2,766.95
2/9/2024		Deposit (Transfer from Savings to Checking for bills)	134.13		2,901.08
2/9/2024	4671	Robert Adler - ACT membership dues		20.00	2,881.08
2/9/2024	4672	Guis Lumber (Hamburg and Lake Shore maintenance)		81.13	2,799.95
2/9/2024	4673	ECWA (Hamburg water bill 12/31/23-1/31/24)		33.00	2,766.95
2/22/2024		Deposit (Transfer from Savings to Checking for bills)	143.53		2,910.48
2/22/2024	4674	Cintas Corp. (Door mats Hamburg and Lake Shore February)		142.76	2,767.72
3/7/2024		Deposit (Transfer from Savings to Checking for bills)	87.15		2,854.87
3/7/2024	4675	ECWA (monthly water bill Hamburg)		33.00	2,821.87

3/7/2024	4676	Guis Lumber (Maintenance Hamburg)		54.15	2,767.72
3/14/2024		Deposit (Transfer from Savings to Checking for bills)	106.52		2,874.24
3/14/2024	4677	Stephanie Molnar (February Mileage)		15.14	2,859.10
3/14/2024	4678	Laura Cunningham (February Mileage)		20.00	2,839.10
3/14/2024	4679	Cintas Corp (Door mats Hamburg and Lake Shore 2/29/2024)		71.38	2,767.72

**Final Balance: \$2,767.72**

### M&T Business Account - Savings

Date		Transaction	Deposit	Payment	Balance
1/25/2024		Deposit (Hamburg fine & printing revenue)	120.05		3,368.29
1/25/2024		Withdrawal (Transfer from Savings to Checking for bills)		612.76	2,755.53
1/31/2024		M & T Interest	0.05		2,755.58
2/9/2024		Deposit (Hamburg fine & printing revenue)	181.64		2,937.22
2/9/2024		Withdrawal (Transfer from Savings to Checking for bills)		134.13	2,803.09
2/15/2024		Deposit (Hamburg fine & printing revenue)	149.90		2,952.99
2/15/2024		Deposit (Lake Shore January fine &	107.59		3,060.58

		printing revenue)			
2/22/2024		Deposit (Hamburg fine & printing revenue)	91.45		3,152.03
2/22/2024		Withdrawal (Transfer from Savings to Checking for bills)		143.53	3,008.50
2/26/2024		Deposit (System Appropriation Funds from Erie County)	4,500.00		7,508.50
2/29/2024		M & T Interest	0.05		7,508.55
3/7/2024		Deposit (Hamburg fine & printing revenue)	162.00		7,670.55
3/7/2024		Deposit (Lake Shore February fine & printing revenue)	128.35		7,798.90
3/7/2025		Withdrawal (Transfer from Savings to Checking for bills)		87.15	7,711.75
3/14/2024		Deposit (Hamburg fine & printing revenue)	171.84		7,883.59
3/14/2024		Withdrawal (Transfer from Savings to Checking for bills)		106.52	7,777.07
3/21/2024		Deposit (Hamburg fine & printing revenue)	220.60		7,997.67

***Final Balance: \$7,997.67***

## Northwest Private Account - Checking

Date		Transaction	Deposit	Payment	Balance
1/31/2024		Northwest paper statement fee		5.00	2344.38
2/9/2024		Deposit (Transfer from Savings to Checking for bills)	206.28		2550.66
2/2/2024	online	Amazon Corp (Cold Packs and Disc and Book Repairs Supplies)		41.84	2508.82
2/8/2024	online	Amazon Corp (Prizes for Winter Reading)		85.50	2423.32
2/9/2024	3492	Ashley Cassidy (Reimbursement for Scavenger Hunt Prizes)		78.94	2344.38
2/15/2024		Deposit (Transfer from Savings to Checking for bills)	280.51		2624.89
2/5/2024	online	Amazon (Book Repair Supplies)		48.51	2576.38
2/15/2024	3493	Travelers (Liability Insurance)		232.00	2344.38
2/26/2024	3494	B&ECPL (Trustee Meeting attendance)		15.00	2329.38
2/26/2024	online	Amazon Corp (Supplies for crafting)		52.05	2277.33
2/29/2024	3495	DEMCO Inc. (Young Adult dynamic Shelving Label Supplies)		159.33	2118.00
2/29/2024	3496	Fowlers (Fundraising Candy)		288.00	1830.00
2/29/2024		Deposit (Transfer from Savings to Checking for bills)	514.43		2344.43
2/29/2024		Northwest paper statement fee February		5.00	2339.43
2/29/2024	online	Amazon (Lake Shore Easter Egg Hunt		81.32	2258.11

		Supplies)			
3/4/2024	online	Amazon (coffee cups for a children's craft)		57.20	2200.91
3/5/2024	online	Amazon (New Cash box & Coin envelopes for the Seed Share)		68.12	2132.79
3/5/2024	online	Amazon (Supplies for repairing books)		97.02	2035.77
3/7/2024		Deposit (Transfer from Savings to Checking for bills)	303.66		2339.43
3/13/2024	online	Amazon (Paint supply and Plastic Bags)		65.97	2273.46
3/14/2024		Deposit (Transfer from Savings to Checking for bills)	65.97		2339.43
3/21/2024		Deposit	148.36		2487.79
3/21/2024	3497	Brick Markers USA		148.36	2339.43

**Final Balance: \$2,339.43**

### Northwest Private Account - Savings

Date		Transaction	Deposit	Payment	Balance
1/31/2024		Northwest interest January	0.27		32053.25
1/31/2024		Northwest paper statement fee		5.00	32048.25
2/1/2024		Deposit (Hamburg Book Sale + Donation Box)	164.50		32212.75
2/9/2024		Deposit (Town of Hamburg Contribution)	3000.00		35212.75

2/9/2024		Deposit (Donation Box)	20.00		35232.75
2/9/2024		Withdrawal (Transfer from Savings to Checking for bills)		206.28	35026.47
2/15/2024		Deposit (Donation)	1000.00		36026.47
2/15/2024		Deposit (Donation Box)	15.00		36041.47
2/15/2024		Withdrawal (Transfer from Savings to Checking for bills)		280.51	35760.96
2/15/2024		Deposit (Lake Shore Book Sale January)	182.95		35943.91
2/15/2024		Deposit (Lake Shore Eastern copier January)	45.05		35988.96
2/22/2024		Deposit (Hamburg Eastern copier January)	113.50		36102.46
2/22/2024		Deposit (Hamburg Book Sale + Donation Box)	171.75		36274.21
2/29/2024		Withdrawal (Transfer from Savings to Checking for bills)		514.43	35759.78
2/29/2024		Deposit (Donation from Friends of the Library for Winter Reading Prizes)	80.00		35839.78
2/29/2024		Northwest Interest February	0.28		35840.06
2/29/2024		Northwest paper statement February		5.00	35835.06
3/7/2024		Deposit (Hamburg Book Sale + Donation Box)	137.75		35972.81
3/7/2024		Deposit Lake Shore Book Sale February	173.50		36146.31
3/7/2024		Withdrawal (Transfer from Savings to Checking for bills)		303.66	35842.65
3/9/2024		Sales Tax Payment for fundraising		448.53	35394.12



3/14/2024		Deposit (Hamburg Book Sale)	165.75		35559.87
3/14/2024		Withdrawal (Transfer from Savings to Checking for bills)		65.97	35493.9
3/21/2024		Deposit HAM Eastern	146.00		35639.9
3/21/2024		Deposit HAM	21.00		35660.9
3/21/2024		Withdrawal		148.36	35512.54

***Final Balance: \$35,512.54***

Purchases were made in February from Amazon for programming needs and the youth dynamic shelving project and book repair needs area.

We received our annual \$3000 contribution from the Town of Hamburg after signing the Town Agreement along with several donations.

The System Appropriation Check was received and deposited, which helps to cover operating expenses for 2024.

Prizes for the winter reading program were funded through a generous donation from the Friends of the Hamburg Public Library.

Proceeds from Book Sale, Candy Sale and mugs: 1/18/2023 - 3/19/2023 = \$1,011.75