

Salem Township Library

Monthly Report

July 2026

From the Director

by Lisa Vande Bunte

On July 1, the library started its new fiscal year. With this new fiscal year comes our library's Annual Report. It has been published on our website and Facebook. Please check it out to learn more about life at the library and where we are headed in the coming year.

We had our gutters cleaned and looked at for possible repairs. A few places were tightened up and we may need to add an extra downspout in a couple areas. We will be keeping an eye to determine if there's a need.

We officially welcomed Jill Essenburg as our newest employee. She is our new Cataloging and Collection specialist. Some of the main work she will be doing is cataloging our new books, keeping our collection organized in our library software, and running one of our adult book clubs.

Due to a shortage of staff, the library will be closed on Tuesdays, beginning Tuesday, August 18. Hiring for any open positions will begin once the Library Board has approved job descriptions.

The library board and I are working on a Library Continuity & Emergency Staffing Policy as well as a FOIA policy. Once approved, access to our FOIA policy will be located on our website.

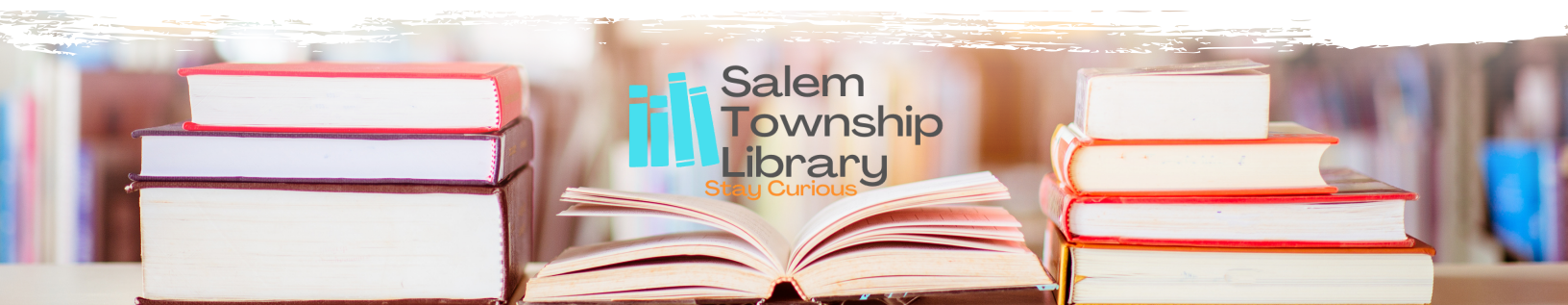
Library Spotlights

by Jennifer Brown

July was a very busy month here at the library with Summer Reading in full swing. The kids enjoyed all of our programs and were busy reading and collecting coupons and entries into our end of program drawings. Finishers received a book and prize from the prize cupboard.

We had a color run race around the park. The kids loved getting covered in colored powder. The dinosaur scavenger hunt was both inside and outside around the park. It was a hot day so popsicles at the end was super fun. Candy Land and Art Prize were both held at the Township Hall. Many members of the community came out to enjoy different stations and treats and vote for their favorite art piece in different age categories. Our final July event was a foam party with a snow cone truck. It is a fan favorite that we have done the last few years. We had one little boy say that it was the best day ever!

Check out our pictures of all these fun events on our Facebook Page. It's so fun to see the kids and community engaging in these events. Prize winners for summer reading were so excited. Some of the Prizes were passes to Allegan Event Center, Frederick Meijer Garden, The Lost City and the Critter Barn. Our Grand Prize winner won a pass to Urban Air. Adults won passes to the GRAM or a Meijer gift card. Fun was had by all!



Activity

1,996 Patron Visits

937 Program Attendees

35 New Patrons

290 Items Added to Collection

Checkouts

9,066 Physical Items

1,685 Digital Items

26 Hotspots

116 STEAM Kits and LOT Items

Trending at the Library

- Theo of Golden by Allen Levi
- The Calamity Club by Katheryn Stockett
- Hotspots
- Hallmark Movies Binge Pass on Hoopla

Mark your calendar

- **September:**
 - Annual book sale begins. Date is TBD.
- **September 3:**
 - Play-Doh Fun @ 11am

Check our Recurring Programs below for seasonal programs starting up again this fall.

Recurring Programs

- **Story Time** @ 11am; Every Wednesday (September-May)
- **Lego Club** @ 11am; Second Saturday of each month (September-May)
- **Play n' Learn** @ 11am; Second Thursday of each month at the Township Hall
- **Board Game Afternoons** @ 1pm; Third Wednesday of each month (September-May)
- **Adult Book Clubs:**
 - AM Group meets @ 8:30am the last Monday of each month
 - PM Group meets @ 7pm the First Monday of each month

