

October, 2020

Dear Friends:

*“The heart of the community... that didn’t skip a beat”
– Looking back on a year of unprecedented challenges*

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The Osterville Village Library is proud of the fact that during a state mandated 12-week shutdown, we continued to serve the heart of the community without skipping a beat. From the day we were ordered to shut down in late March we began to craft a plan to re-open. As a result, in June, on the first day available for libraries to re-admit patrons, we opened our doors with the appropriate safeguards in place. We were the first library on Cape Cod to re-open and even now, remain one of the few to admit patrons to our building. It was not a race, but a call to serve.

During the shutdown, we offered all that we could for our community. From our “One Way Book Giveaway,” to curbside delivery of library materials, we kept the pages turning. For members of the community who needed to print crucial documents, we employed a similar curbside service used for our books. Partnering with the Red Cross, we made sure our medical first responders had adequate blood supply by holding a series of Blood Drives.

For 2020 graduates who missed out on a rite of passage due to the pandemic; we found a way to capture their memories with an outdoor photo shoot. For seniors, we made it possible for AARP to utilize our space in order to provide free tax prep services. And for everyone in the community, we continue to publish a newsletter, chock full of useful information and entertainment.

We would like to share these words of thanks which we have received from our patrons:



From Kathy G. (A proud mom from the neighboring town): “Thank you so much for the special graduation ceremony for the Centerville elementary alumni. What a precious graduation ceremony in these trying times. We can’t thank you enough for your time, use of your gazebo and oh so fun graduation announcements. I’ve watched the ceremony video a hundred times, it always makes me smile. We’ve got some great pictures and we captured the moment for a lifetime”

From Donald Reynolds (District coordinator, AARP Tax Aide Program): “Thank you for hosting the AARP Foundation Tax – Aid Program. Thanks to your gracious hospitality, during the 4 plus weeks of the extended season, we were able to process over 250

returns. Over half reside in the 7 towns of Barnstable, roughly one third from Mashpee, and the balance from Falmouth. Without the facilities at OVL, these clients would have been left with nowhere to go for this free service as their town facilities were unable to accommodate our program”

OVL offered weekly ‘fun kits’ throughout the summer.....

From Susan (A mother of four):“The Children’s room has the best ideas. The grab and go weekly fun kits were a godsend this summer. Thank you!”

From Anne (An appreciative grandmother): “I thought you’d like to see this picture of our little guy with his pool noodle creation. He loves the robot in Stop ‘n’ Shop; so he made his noodle guy look like the robot.”

From Marcy (Professor of nursing & health sciences at Cape Cod Community College): “Thanks for all your incredible efforts in keeping our community updated and engaged during these challenging times.”

From Rachel Arno (Program associate, Jr Tech Inc): “I wanted to send a note to say thank you for hosting Jr.

Tech’s summer workshop series. We know this is a very busy and challenging time for everyone with the various COVID related procedures that need to be in place. You were so accommodating moving our room location when the space allowed. We are so grateful! We truly enjoy the collaboration we have with the Osterville Village Library.”

From Bette R. (Regular patron): “I just wanted to add my applause to the re – opening of this important community center. I was there last Friday and felt perfectly safe, and most important, welcome.”





From Vivian Monteiro (Donor Recruitment, Red Cross): *“Results from the previous blood drive: a total collection so far of 129 pints, which is truly awesome!!! Would it be possible to schedule dates for the remainder of the year?”*

During the time our doors were closed, members of our staff reached out to patrons who we knew to be alone, or especially reliant on library visits as their sole source of interaction. When we received a response, we were relieved to have heard from “Pete” or “Brenda,” and shared the fact that they were indeed doing well. Following up, we offered any assistance we could, and often were told that the mere fact we had inquired as to their wellbeing was profoundly meaningful. Whether providing information, entertainment, or

just a voice at the other end of the phone, our personal lives have been all the more rewarded through our work.

As we look to the months ahead, complete with the challenges our children face given a different shape to the school year, the library stands by to assist with the educational needs of the entire community. Our curated collection of online databases and supplemental materials is accessible to children and adults alike. Add to that, a welcoming safe place to study complete with WiFi, printing and scanning. We even have refreshments. Our staff, as always, is eager to offer guidance.

The heart of our community is alive and well, and in safekeeping at the Osterville Village Library. In fact, it didn’t skip a beat. Whatever comes our way, we know that this common ground we share is a strong foundation for the future.

With your help we can continue to serve the community into the future. For your convenience a donation envelope is included. As always, I would enjoy giving you an update tour to show you how your donation makes a difference.

Thank you!

Cyndy Cotton
Executive Director

P.S. With the end of 2020 in sight, thoughts will soon turn to giving thanks and hopefully spending time with family and friends. May you and yours enjoy the spirit of the season as we all look forward to the New Year.