

3/3/21

Regarding HB-6439

From Karla Boeddinghaus Umland, Assistant Director, Stonington Free Library

The time for cuts at the Connecticut State Library is over.

Connecticut libraries rely on services provided by the Connecticut Library Consortium (CLC) and the Connecticut State Library (CSL). The attached graphic shows how libraries act as a lifeline to the community by providing information and educational resources for all ages.

SFL
STONINGTON FREE LIBRARY
Community Testimonials

"I also wanted to send my hearty praise for your communications work during the pandemic! Belinda, your letter from earlier this month was so elegant and so reassuring. I've always been impressed by your institution, and your team...and am now proud to be your neighbor! Thanks for everything you do in this community. If there's anything you need, let me know. I'm right up the road."

"The prizes were so motivating for my children. Camp was not an option this year, so we made it part of their daily routine to read every day, and take a 'field trip' to the library every week to pick up what they earned."

"Dear Mrs. Frey, Thank you for running such an excellent summer reading program this year! The program really kept my children motivated to read all summer long! You were always always so helpful and patient which made the entire program run so well, even during these challenging times."

"I hope you feel very proud of all you and SFL have accomplished in this benighted year. The new space looks wonderful and the ongoing library services have truly helped me survive the isolation."

"Ms. Frey, Thank you so much for finding an incredible way to host this year's summer reading program. As you know, my boys have been participating in your amazing summer reading programs for years - they are a highlight of every summer for us. This year, I was doubtful that you all would be able to pull off a summer reading program -- but I have never been so happy to be wrong! I know offering this will be challenging, but I also know that, for my sons, it will be the only activity from "before" that they will be participating in this summer. It is like a big hug from a friend."

"What a really terrific presentation this evening on Frederick Douglass, and much more. Many congratulations and thanks for such an informative, thought provoking and frankly troubling reminder of our history. In our own back yard, literally. It was a very revealing and important reminder to look again at what you think you know. Thank you so much, and I hope it leads to continuing sessions to review the past and its implications for the present. That was a stellar session. And new readings to help us on."

"Thank you so much for your hard work running the summer reading programs for both kids and adults. My toddler and I were pleasantly surprised to find we had won prizes! We had fun reading this summer and can't wait to do it again next year!"

"My children LOVE earning 'dollars' and getting to choose how they spend at the 'store' - it makes SFL's reading program even more exciting for them, and I was so excited and grateful that this was still the case this year, just virtually!! I know this was much more challenging for the team to implement, and I am incredibly grateful to their dedication and commitment."

"Even during this uncertain time you organized such an awesome program taking lots of troubles. Hats off to all the staff."

"I really liked that the pandemic did not stop the program and the librarians got creative with how it could still go on."

Library Statistics

*Unless noted statistics based on FY 2020 (July 1, 2019-June 30, 2020)



Our digital library usage has increased 270% during the pandemic.

*Compares 3/14/19-2/29/20 to 3/14/20-2/28/21



6,734 people attended 322 programs



36,087 library website visits



3,372 active cardholders
Stonington 47%/Pawcatuck 29%
Mystic 14%/Other 10%
All library services other than check outs available to non-cardholders.



46,139 physical and digital checkouts