

What was Done in 2021?

There was an effort to get back to “normal” this year. After our 3-month closing in 2020 it was nice to be able to open our doors for our regular hours this year. Just because we were open doesn’t mean that all of our regular programming has returned. We were able to hold our board meetings at the library, children’s programming and crafters also started meeting again. We have also had some tutoring sessions going on along with other outside groups using the library for their meetings. Patrons have been returning but most come to get their books and head back out the door.

One big event at the library was the adoption of Miss Mollie Page. She is our short haired domestic cat that we were able to get at the SPCA. She has adapted quite well and seems very pleased that patrons come into the library. She usually runs to the door when she hears someone come in since she is sure they are just here to see her. She is much more visible than Miss Read was.

Our summer programming took place again this year. It was nice to be able to allow the children to come back inside the library rather than doing everything virtually. The disappointing thing was that our numbers were very low. We did have a good showing at our closing program with magician Cris Johnson. Several families have continued to utilize our books and library.

We were able to start a Dungeons and Dragons Club this year. We actually just provide the space and the group does their own thing. They seem to really enjoy their time together. There are 7 in the group and they meet every other week.

We also have a group of Girl Scouts now meeting at the library bi-weekly. It is nice to be able to open the building back up for the community to use.

Two “new refurbished” computers were supplied by CCLS. They are much faster than the ones we had so we are in the process of replacing more. We also bought a brand new laptop for the library manager.

We didn’t undertake any large projects this year but have been talking of several that still need to be completed in the future. Some are sooner than later.

Since most meetings have been held virtually we have been able to “attend” many webinars. Some have been very interesting and helpful. Others have not been overly beneficial but still included something we could use. It is nice that we are able to utilize these webinars from all over the country. There were usually only a handful of conferences we could attend because we had to travel to them. Now we can see so many more in front of our own computer screen.

The Trustee Board has been meeting monthly and continue to discuss ways that the library can continue to flourish and be available for the community. We said goodbye to Jean Smith as our treasurer and welcomed Heather Wray. Thom Torrey resigned from his position and Jean was willing to stay on the board in his place.

In December we received word that Chuck Bretzin, our long time library director, had passed away. Chuck had a real love for the library and for the history of Portville. He will be missed.