November 2022 Highlights
White Branch and SNCC Libraries
Renate Dunsmore

**Branch Statistics**
Our branch’s total number of monthly visitors continues to increase and is up 2% compared to October and up 18% compared to November 2021.

The demand on staff time for reference help and job search assistance also continues to rise. Job search support increased 17% compared to October and reference interactions are up 20% from last month. Again, many of these patron dealings involve lengthy interactions that exceed 5 minutes. Such protracted interactions are up 33% compared to last month.

**Building and Grounds**
The window that was vandalized last June has finally been repaired. The work was delayed because the library’s windows are custom made and the company that created them has gone out of business. It was a challenge getting another company to duplicate and install them, but it’s completed and fits perfectly with the existing windows.

**Community Outreach/Collaborations**
Ann served as a panelist at the Digital Inclusion Summit titled *Building the Digital Bridge: Digital Inclusion Efforts in Central New York*, which was held at Baldwinsville Library. She presented the results of her research about where people in Cayuga, Cortland, Madison, Oswego and Onondaga counties can access free Wi-Fi. She will ultimately turn this data, as well as low-cost device information, into a database that can be used by the public.

White Branch served as a polling site for the 2022 midterm elections. We had 340 visitors that day.

Tamice has regular interactions with two school groups - Girls, Inc. an afterschool program that visits weekly, and 5th graders from Franklin School who have scheduled bi-monthly visits. The students received library cards, picked out reading materials and played board games with each other. During the last site visit from Girls Inc., Tamice engaged the students in an older student version of a story time and paper craft. The students and counselors enjoyed it so much they asked her to repeat it at each visit.

**Libraries Change Lives**
A patron who came for job search assistance was talking to Sean about the challenges of getting by in this country. He had come to the United States as a refugee from Nepal, and told Sean about how he escaped violence there, but that his family did not. Some of his family members had been killed by the time he made it out of the country. While waiting for his sister to join him in the US, she was also killed. This patron confided in Sean that he really had no one in his life anymore. While they talked, he was very pleased to refer to Sean as "brother," explaining that although his actual brothers were gone, he finds connection with those he can. Sometimes a connection is one of the best things that the library can provide.

Ann helped a young woman submit her FAFSA application for financial aid and later learned that the patron had received notice of financial support at OCC. If parents lack the ability to provide guidance for applying for FAFSA, some young patrons turn to the library for assistance.

**Library Programs and Events**
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We discovered that whenever we put out the chess set, invariably people sit down and start playing, so we’ve decided to not limit it to a weekly session. Both adults and children come in to play, sometimes with each other and sometimes to play against Sean.

Our November events all had a dinosaur theme and Tamice had a program on each of the days that there was no school. The kids made a Dino perler bead craft, watched the Jurassic Park movie, and had a dinosaur Paint & Sip with hot chocolate.

SNCC
Komal began SNCC’s Tech for Seniors program with an aim to lessen the digital divide. This is the third month that she has taught a session. She uploaded the documents and instruction sheets that she created for these sessions to the library’s TEAM page. There were 2 students at this month’s session about using the library’s databases.

Jeanine’s weekly knitting group has two regular knitting participants and two drop-ins who don’t knit, but who like to sit in on the group discussions.

SNCC’s Book Club discussed The Five People You Meet in Heaven by Mitch Albom. There were 2 very passionate and very opinionated participants.

Tamice continues her weekly off-site story times at SNCC’s Hawley Youth Organization kindergarten readiness program. She had three sessions in this month with a total audience of 43 people.