



2022
YEAR IN
REVIEW



UNALASKA PUBLIC
LIBRARY

"For me the library is an escape from the chaos of the real world. It's a place where myself and many others can come and just take time to relax and enjoy a book. It's a place where myself and others can go to after a long day at school or work and enjoy the peace and quiet."

-UCSD Student and
Unalaska Library Patron



"My family and I have come to love the Unalaska library. Thursday Story Time has become a staple in our family and all of the different reading programs and activities have really instilled a love of books and reading in my children. We are so excited for the improvements to the kids room, and the overall upgrades to the new library and are looking forward to the Grand Reopening."

-Unalaska Library Patron

"The City of Unalaska Library is an invaluable community resource. Over the course of the 32 years plus that I have lived here, it has always been a reliable source of information and entertainment. The book catalog is impressive and always up to date, the DVD selections cover a wide range of subjects and languages, and there are a wide variety of magazines available. The staff is friendly and knowledgeable and the environment is warm, peaceful, and comforting. The Friends of the Library used book room is my favorite area, and is always worth a look. I rarely go home empty-handed."

-Unalaska Library Patron

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MEMORANDUM TO COUNCIL

To: Unalaska Mayor and City Council Members
From: M. Lynn Crane, Chair, Unalaska Public Library Advisory Committee
Date: February 28, 2023
Re: Library Advisory Committee Annual Report to the Mayor and Council, 2022

The Unalaska Public Library had a year of anticipation and upheaval as we embarked on a major expansion and renovation project, moved to a temporary location, and saw the departure of several long-time staff members. During these transitions, the Unalaska Public Library continued to provide valuable services and resources to the community. I am pleased to submit this report on Unalaska Public Library and Library Advisory Committee activities to the Mayor and Council. It covers the calendar year from January – December of 2022.

In 2020 and 2021, library services and usage changed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. As we emerged from those challenging times, we had another unusual year in 2022, with our library set up in a temporary Burma Road Chapel location from April – December and our main library building under construction.

As always, library staff worked hard in 2022 to accomplish the library's mission to **educate, enrich, and inspire community members by connecting them to the world and each other** within the limitations of our temporary location, onboarding new staff, and participating in plans and logistics for an ongoing capital project. During this time, staff provided library services such as story time, passport application processing, document notarization, internet access, and access to a limited collection of books and media.

While staff have taken every measure possible to maintain a high level of service to meet the community's needs, our library patrons and staff are eager to move back into the larger public space with increased programming and access to the full library collection in 2023.

The following statistics provide a snapshot of core library services and usage.

	2022	2022 Daily Average ¹	2021	2020
Users through the door	14,513	43	12,173	15,366
Items checked out	27,062	80	38,730	43,634
Computer & Wifi Sessions	27,956	82	25,199	28,161
eBook Downloads	739	-	2,148	2,016
Active Registered Users ²	2,996	-		

1. Closed 26 days, including holidays, March 14 – 31 for packing and moving, and December 21 for weather
2. Card used to check out in the past 60 months

Internet Access for Library Patrons

With the introduction of high-speed internet access to Unalaska, this community will see many changes in the upcoming year, and these changes will certainly affect the library and its use. Although internet speeds will increase, costs will likely remain high, and many patrons will continue to rely on free internet access at the public library, as they do throughout the country. Over the past two years, we have seen patrons move towards using their own devices in our facility rather than library computers. The layout of our expanded library reflects this projected usage, with increased seating and quiet study space and fewer sit-down computer stations.

The library is currently near the end of a 5-year contract with TelAlaska/Fastwyre, which will end on June 30, 2023. Starting in July 2023, the library will be under a new internet contract, and we anticipate providing high-speed internet to our patrons when that contract begins.

Expansion and Renovation of the Library Facility

The Committee thanks the Mayor and Council for recognizing the need for an expanded and renovated library facility and setting this project in motion over five years ago. The City of Unalaska initiated the project because the community has expressed a need for improvements in children’s and teen spaces, meeting and study spaces, community event and learning spaces, and more room for seating and library materials.

The expansion adds a large community room that holds up to 88 people for classes, presentations, and programs, plus a new teen room and expanded children’s room, two quiet study rooms, and a renovation and refresh of furniture and fixtures in the remaining public areas in the building. The expansion will increase the building’s footprint by approximately 35%. Construction is nearly complete, and we are planning to move in in March and reopen in April 2023.

The Advisory Committee played an active part in the planning and public input portion of the Library Building Improvement Project, meeting multiple times with the project architects and providing input on topics like furniture and finishes, public art, and self-checkout, as well as giving general input on the direction and scale of the project. The Advisory Committee also appointed an Art Committee to solicit, evaluate, and select art installations for the project.

Committee Work

In 2022, the Committee met nine times, and a subcommittee met once to discuss fundraising as a requirement for a capital project grant received from the Rasmuson Foundation. The Committee received information and gave advice to the City Librarian and the Director of Parks, Culture, and Recreation on the following discussion topics in 2022:

- Library Building Improvement Project
- Library Business Plan
- Library Annual and Long-Term Goals
- Rasmuson Foundation Grant for Library Expansion – Fundraising Committee
- City of Unalaska Fee Schedule – Library Section
- Summer Reading Program
- Library Policies Review & Input: Library Rules of Conduct, Circulation of Library Materials, Collection Development

Library Advisory Committee Members

Term Expires:

M. Lynn Crane, Chair	02/2024
Karen Macke, Vice Chair	02/2024
Debbie Hanson-Zueger	02/2023
Virginia Hatfield	02/2025
Cat Hazen	02/2024
Estkarlen Magdaong	02/2025
Cyri Thompson	02/2025

In summary, members of the Public Library Advisory Committee report that the library has had a challenging and exciting year, and that the Unalaska community continues to use and value the library's resources, services, and programs. We look forward to discussing this report and answering any questions from Council members or City Administration on February 28, 2023.