



2 Lawmar Lane Burnt Hills, New York 12027

April 2, 2024

Sara Dallas
Southern Adirondack Library System
22 Whitney Place
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

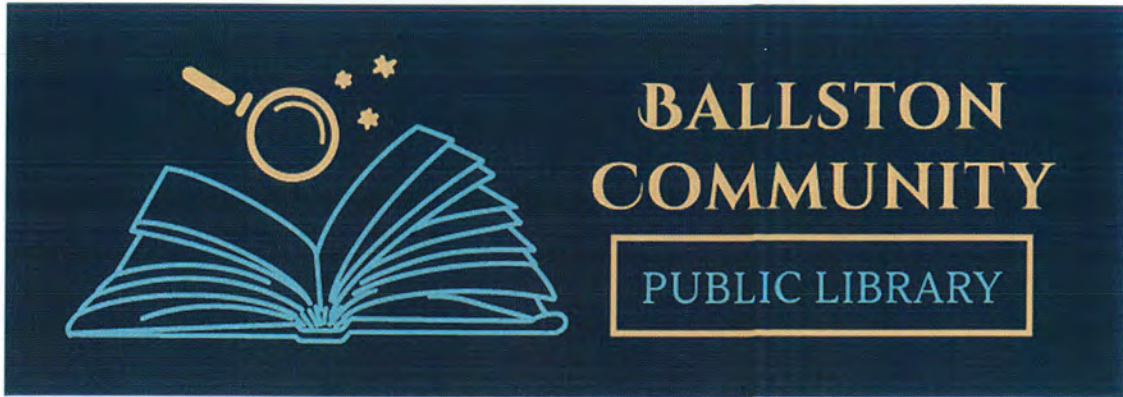
Ms. Dallas:

On behalf of the Ballston Community Public Library, I would like to nominate our Teen Book Box for Program of the Year. The teen demographic is notoriously difficult for libraries to snare for programming. Over the years, we have had some limited successes, but it is still the hardest population to reliably have attend programs.

In an effort to reach teens where they are, our Head of Youth Services, Alyssa Harvey, transformed an idea she had heard at a conference into something that would work for our Library patrons. In the vein of subscription boxes, Ms Harvey put together themed book boxes every other month in 2023. Each box contained books, and theme related items for teens to keep. Themes ranged from True Crime on a Dime, to The Show Must Go On, to Frozen Fables. The boxes had the tagline of "the book club where we never meet!".

Reviews for the Book Boxes have been fantastic, with many parents requesting that we do something similar for other age groups. There were a total of 60 boxes handed out last year, with registration filling up fast every time it was offered. It has been the most successful teen book club we have had in recent years by far!

The main goal is always to encourage reading, literacy, and getting books in the hands of our patrons. This program met the teens where they were the most comfortable, on



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their own. With how over committed some teens are with school, sports, and other extra curriculars, this is a low-pressure way for the teens to enjoy reading, get some cool swag, and not feel like they have more homework.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Jenn Richard".

Jenn Richard, Interim Director
Rebecca A. Verhayden, Former Director
Ballston Community Public Library

