



If the light's on, we're home...

STILLWATER PUBLIC LIBRARY

Monday through Friday 9:00am - 7:00pm
Saturday 9:00am - 2:00pm

518.664.6255 (p)
518.664.6826 (f)
STLIB@SALS.EDU

712 Hudson Avenue
Stillwater, NY 12170

March 27, 2025

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

Dear SALS Board;

I am writing to nominate the Stillwater Public Library Food Truck Days as program of the year. This program began as a thought bubble in 2021 as we went to vote on our new facility. We needed a way to celebrate the building with our entire community, not just our supporters. In my family, the way to bring people together is food and I figured that would be the best solution.

Except. We are not a restaurant, we only have three pizza delivery places, and none of us can cook that much food. Enter the soon-to-be-everywhere food truck idea!

Every Wednesday from May to October we hosted a single food truck in our parking lot. This feat took all three full-timers to make it work. Alexandria poured over Facebook groups and served as point of contact for each truck. Alexandria and Michele watched the main desk, answered calls asking for the day's menu, managed the crowds using our restroom, and general mayhem (with much grace I may add). I handled the promotions, triple checked certifications, handled the weekly problems, and gathered feedback.

From the upper level I could consistently see crowds of people chatting with each other. Phones were rare while picnic blankets and strollers were not. A 91-year-old resident's bucket list included eating at a food truck. She sat at a table under our tree with her family eating from a food truck in 90° weather. She could not have been happier and made sure we knew it. In the end we hosted 24 times and saw approximately 2500 people from May to October. Not Annual Report countable, but still amazing!

Food Truck events aren't anything new to libraries. The new thing here is getting anti-library people to open their eyes and see that we bring people together. It's getting them to join us inside the building to see we belong to everyone and making them smile, or at least not frown, when they say "library".

Thank you for considering this nomination. Everyone on staff has done an exceptional job.

Sincerely,

Sara Kipp



(Please don't mind the incorrect web address on the donated canopy...)

