



A Whole Lotta Sugar in My Library Lemonade

Obstacles turned Opportunities

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Hello from Spooner, WI



Recipe for opportunity

- 1) Lemons (obstacles)
- 2) Making Lemonade (obstacle ➤ opportunity)
- 3) A Whole Lotta Sugar (outcome)

Sweet Lemonade



Photo Credit: pixabay

Lemon #1: Book Donations



Book drop is for library books only.

Making Lemonade

Obstacles:

1. Pandemic
2. Staffing
3. Quantity of books

Opportunity

Raise \$ for care packages.



Creativity, sunshine, and teamwork.

Care Package Distribution



Lemon #2: Other People's Ideas



Do I look like I have time for
ANOTHER idea?

Making Lemonade

Obstacle:

1. Lack of Time
2. Money

Opportunity

Revamp our kits, increase circulation,
and offer something unique.



Say “why not” and watch your team
shine.



Lemon #3: Repetitive Feedback



This could get messy.

Making Lemonade

Obstacle:

1. Myself
2. Reality of job duties in a small library.

Opportunity

Find the “why” and creatively make a schedule that will change everything.



Realizing this is something I can change.

Uninterrupted Time



Uninterrupted Time Schedule

Effective January 2021

Uninterrupted – Not expected to be interrupted
Desk Duty – Empty bin, answer questions
2nd – Backup for Desk Duty person
 When filling in for someone you

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
8:00-9:00	Joanne Uninterrupted Angie Desk Duty	Joanne Uninterrupted Shar Desk Duty	Joanne Uninterrupted Angie Desk Duty	Katy Uninterrupted Shar Desk Duty
9:00-10:00	Joanne Uninterrupted Shar Desk Duty Eva 2 nd	Jill Uninterrupted Shar Desk Duty Joanne 2 nd	Joanne Uninterrupted Shar Desk Duty Jill 2 nd	Jill Uninterrupted Shar Desk Duty Katy 2 nd
10:00-11:00	Eva Uninterrupted Joanne Desk Duty Shar 2 nd	Jill Uninterrupted Joanne Desk Duty Shar 2 nd	Jill Uninterrupted Joanne Desk Duty Shar 2 nd	Jill Uninterrupted Katy Desk Duty Shar 2 nd
11:00-12:00	Shar Uninterrupted Joanne Desk Duty Eva 2 nd	Shar Uninterrupted Jill Desk Duty Joanne 2 nd	Shar Uninterrupted Jill Desk Duty Joanne 2 nd	Shar Uninterrupted Jill Desk Duty Katy 2 nd
12:00-1:00	Lunches	Lunches	Lunches	Lunches
1:00-2:00	Shar Uninterrupted Eva Desk Duty Joanne 2 nd	Shar Uninterrupted Eva Desk Duty Jill 2 nd	Shar Uninterrupted Joanne Desk Duty Jill 2 nd	Shar Uninterrupted Eva Uninterrupted Katy Desk Duty Jill 2 nd
2:00-3:00	Eva Uninterrupted Shar Desk Duty Joanne 2 nd	Eva Uninterrupted Shar Desk Duty Jill 2 nd	Jill Uninterrupted Shar Desk Duty Joanne 2 nd	Eva Uninterrupted Jill Uninterrupted Shar Desk Duty Katy 2 nd
3:00-4:00	Eva Desk Duty Shar 2 nd	Eva Desk Duty Jill 2 nd	Shar Uninterrupted Eva Desk Duty Jill 2 nd	Katy Uninterrupted Eva Desk Duty Jill 2 nd

Lemon #4: Cleaning House



How do I keep track of all those pieces?

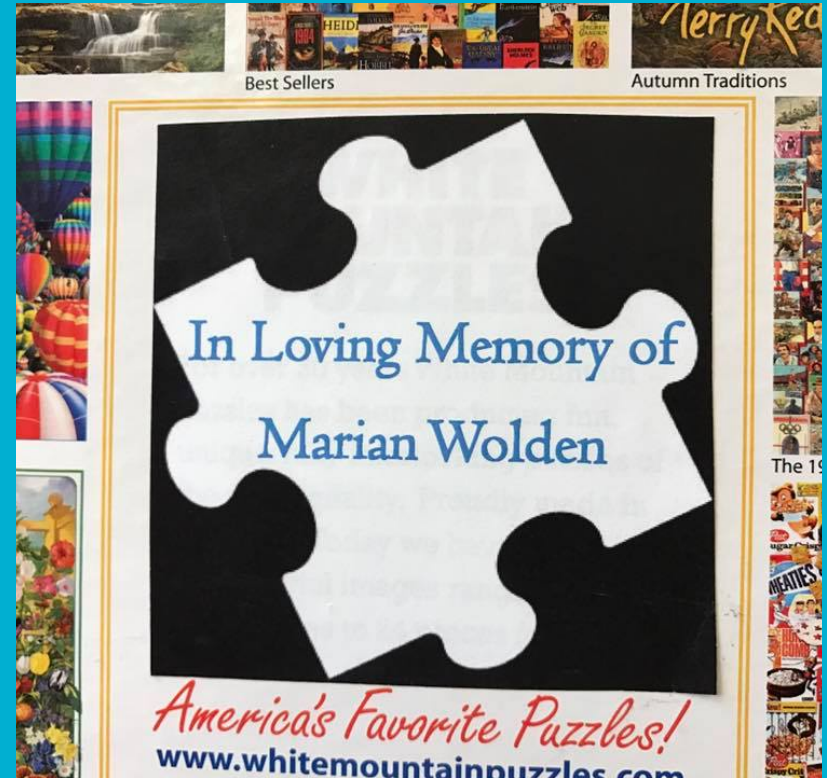
Making Lemonade

Obstacle:

1. Space
2. Logistics (missing pieces) etc.

Opportunity

Start a puzzle collection at no cost while memorializing a beloved Board Member.



So many puzzles.

Puzzle Collection



Lemon #5: Patron Ideas



This is our program space.

Making Lemonade

Obstacle:

1. Space
2. Noise

Opportunity

Free opportunity for patrons to learn an instrument.



Empowering the community.

Learn & Play Ukulele



Questions

Lemon #6: InterNOT



Photo Credit: Pixabay

Realizing we rely on the internet
too much.

Making Lemonade

Obstacle:

1. No access to catalog, email, and more.
2. Unsure of when it would happen.

Opportunity

We can use this as an opportunity to serve patrons outside of the library.



Photo Credit: Pixabay

Thinking outside of the box.

Verizon Hotspot



Lemon #7: Empty Library

STOP! PLEASE READ!

**THE LIBRARY IS NOT OPEN AT THIS
TIME DUE TO THE GOVERNMENT
MANDATED STAY AT HOME
POLICY.**

**At this time we do not know when we
will be able to open.**

**All items currently checked out have
been renewed by our system. Nothing
will be due until we reopen, so please
hang onto them.**

**TO REACH US BY EMAIL:
SPOONERLIBRARYDIRECTOR@GMAIL.COM**

This was a pretty sour lemon.

Making Lemonade

Obstacle:

1. Library closed for everything except direct COVID response.

Opportunity

An empty library. A community in need.

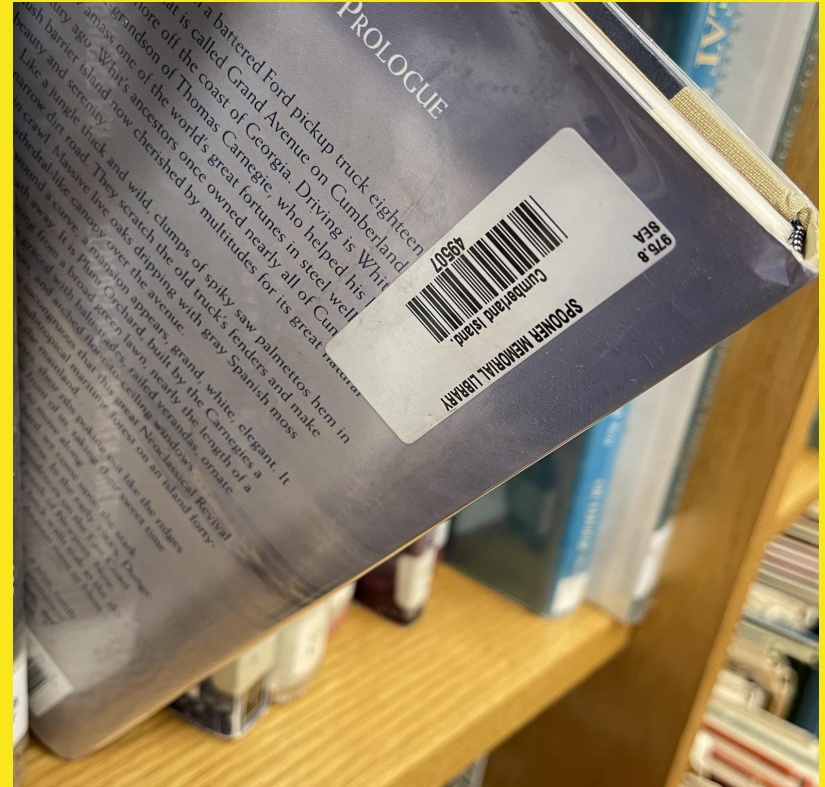


Putting community first.

Library Response to COVID



Lemon #8: Short Barcode Drama



It's a matter of principle... right?

Making Lemonade

Obstacle:

1. Principle
2. Time
3. Money

Opportunity

A rare occasion to handle all our older books.



A chance to revamp non-fiction.

Shelf Makeover



Lemon #9: Everything Keeps Breaking



Actual footage of me fixing the
library toilet.

Making Lemonade

Obstacle:

1. Money
2. Asking for money

Opportunity

An opportunity to be more efficient and strengthen City relationships.

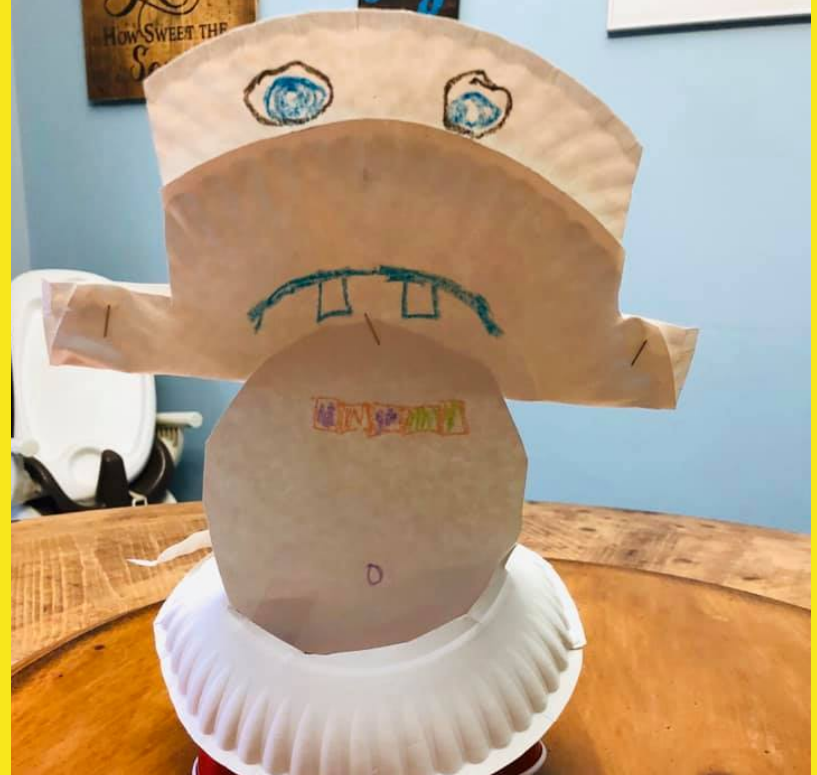


A new toilet means less wasted water.

Fixed and Looking Bright



Lemon #10: Mental Health Crises



Life is hard. A pandemic makes it harder.

Making Lemonade

Obstacle:

1. The pandemic has heightened mental health struggles of my team.

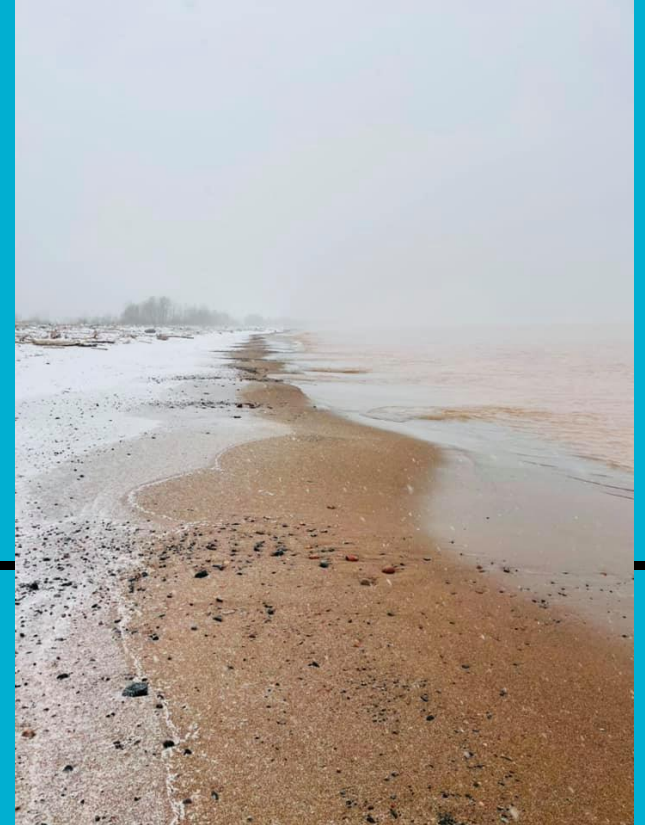
Opportunity

We can make mental health something that is normal to talk about at work.



Some emotions are easier than others.

Mental Health Check-ins



Slow the “No”



Photo Credit: Pixabay



You Are Not Alone

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