

LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT – November, 2011

Expansion Plans

Work continues on the expansion plans. Several meetings have taken place with the Township, Village, and architects regarding the library plans to add an addition and update the existing building. Draft floor plans are being reviewed with the architect. Plans to rezone are being worked on and we have been in contact with the Village and Township. Budget analysis has been undertaken with PMA Financial and Sensesac and Lennon. Proactive publicity has begun and will continue. We had a wonderful information piece this past week in the Homer Horizon newspaper. Community information sessions are being planned to begin in January. When final decisions are made the expansion FAQ will be updated and distributed to our community. This is an exciting time as we realize the vision of much hard work and conservative budget planning. We are proud to bring this expansion forward at no cost to Homer residents. It has been a long-time goal to be able to expand and update our facility to better meet the growing needs of the Homer community.

DVD collection

For the first nine months of 2011 we have circulated 16,213 DVDs, which is a 9% increase from last year. The DVD collection began as a donation initiative to offset budget costs and establish a core collection. To date we have 1,782 total DVDs: 1,250 at the library and 532 on the bookmobile. Some movies are popular duplicates and some titles new to the library collection. We continue to welcome DVD donations and with additional budget support are adding titles to the collection. The DVD collection is extremely popular and averages 500 movies checked out weekly or approximately 72 movies taken home each day.

Holiday Program

In partnership with the Chamber of Commerce we are hosting a special Holiday Program and Visit with Santa on December 17 from 10-noon. We will have several stations that families can visit while waiting to take a picture with Santa. A refreshment table, coloring area, holiday sticker area, letter to Santa station, etc. will be ongoing for the two hours. We will also have music playing. The chamber will provide refreshments and will be on hand to assist. Join us for a busy and fun Saturday!

Winter Reading Program

The Winter Reading Club will have Chicago Wolves as our primary sponsor. We are most appreciative of this partnership, which brings many reading incentives to participants at the library and on the bookmobile. The program includes adults and teens and will begin February 1st. The bookmobile will begin the Winter Reading Club January 30th.

Program and Special Events

Upcoming library events and programs include:

- ◆ October – Nov. College Prep/ACT Tests Prep/Strategies program series
- ◆ November-Dec. Chess and Checkers Club on select Wednesdays
- ◆ November Food for Fines Month- Canned goods accepted in lieu of fines
- ◆ November – Dec. Friendship Club on select dates
- ◆ November – Dec. Armchair Travelers Program Series
- ◆ November 12 National Game Day
- ◆ November 17 Family Reading Night
- ◆ December 17 Holiday Program / Visit with Santa

Donations

General donations received from patrons this year are approximately \$2500. The grand total of all patron donations in the past five years is approximately \$10,755. The quiet reading memorial fund is separated in a restricted account and has approximately \$46,331.

Building and Grounds

Fall mums and decorating touches add a nice ambiance.

In General

1. The Library Calendar that lists all of our programs is accessible from the Web page.
2. Both fall school visits and registration have begun to promote the library's collections, services and support of teachers and students.
3. The Library Web page highlights a "quick click" homework/assignment alert form on the site at www.homerlibrary.org. Teachers use this as a means of sending our staff messages, questions, or comments.
4. Distribution of monthly calendars to local schools is ongoing via a parent information log-in portal.
5. November 1st begins "Food for Fines" month. Patrons are encouraged to return overdue items and give canned goods in lieu of fines.

Conclusion

Upcoming priorities include continued space and expansion planning. The audit has been completed. Grant writing continues.

These reports are intended to give you a good overview and pertinent information on local and regional issues. If there is any issue that you would like information about or if you need anything detailed more fully, please let me know.

Sheree Kozel-La Ha

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Library Director

11/28/11