

LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT – November, 2013

Library Milestone & News

We officially opened to the public on Monday, October 21, 2013. A Grand Opening will celebrate this library milestone to be undertaken Sunday, November 24th from 1-4pm. The Event Committee has planned a wonderful program that includes a dedication, state and local officials speaking, refreshments, raffles, a silent auction, giveaways, live entertainment, Santa visit, crafts, and more. Two advertisements were undertaken in the Homer Horizon Newspaper and invitations have been sent.

This past month has seen much activity and many visitors. The Fire Department staff toured the facility, as have approximately 10 kindergarten classes with more than 235 students and teachers. The Mokena Library Staff and some of their Trustees toured during their recent staff in service day.

ILA undertakes their annual construction issue and we hope to be included, which showcases several recent construction projects.

Construction Site

Site work continues which will be detailed at the board meeting from our construction advisors, ICS and architect. The expansion project is in the final stages. Signage and final modifications are underway.

Staffing

As we acclimate in the expanded space we have been reviewing staffing levels and budget to ensure adequate coverage. We are coordinating advertisements to increase staff in the Adult Services Department initially.

Outreach to Schools

Jody Olivieri has been contacted to provide Caudill book talks to the Homer Junior High students. Homer Library is pleased to provide this outreach and increase partnership opportunities with our local schools.

DVD collection

The DVD collection began as a donation initiative to offset budget costs and establish a core collection. 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. To date we have 2,243 total DVDs. The DVD collection is extremely popular and averages up to 500 movies checked out weekly or approximately 72 movies taken home each day.

Winter Reading Club

The Winter Reading Club for all ages runs the month of February and is titled, "Olympic Readers". The bookmobile will run the same reading club program. The Winter Reading Club will have Chicago Wolves and Illinois American Water as primary sponsors. We are most appreciative of these partnerships, which encourages participation with reading incentives to our community of readers at both the library and on the bookmobile.

Publicity

PR articles regarding the library are included within your packets. The Calendar that lists all of our programs is accessible from the Web page. Distribution of monthly calendars to 7000 children via the local schools continues.

Sponsor Wall

We are working to create a dynamic concept for a donor wall in the vestibule. We have a general draft visual completed. Artist Sheri Law is assisting to oversight this process to help us create a unique opportunity that showcases the community and local business support of the library. This support has been ongoing and has assisted us in providing more to the Homer community. We wish to recognize key support and donors beginning in 2014.

Programs + Events

Monthly programs include:

- Armchair Traveler
- Lego's
- Chess/Checkers Club
- Mystery Book Club
- Chick-Lit Book Club
- Adult Book Discussion
- Teen Advisory Board

Upcoming library events and programs include:

- ◆ Now thru Dec 13 Simply Stories (Story Time)
- ◆ Now thru Dec 13 Simply Stories in Polish
- ◆ Now thru Dec 13 American Girl Fundraiser Raffle
- ◆ November 20 Adult Book Discussion
- ◆ November 21 Family Reading Night Pajama Party
- ◆ November 24 GRAND OPENING 1pm
- ◆ November 24 SANTA VISIT 2-4pm
- ◆ November 26 Thanksgiving BINGO
- ◆ November 26 LEGOS
- ◆ November 26 Chick Lit Book Discussion
- ◆ December 3 Teen Meals On Wheels with Gleaners Oak Chapter
- ◆ December 3 Teen Book Discussion
- ◆ December 3 American Girl Craft Days
- ◆ December 9 American Girl Book Discussion
- ◆ December 11 Check & Checkers Club
- ◆ December 13 Armchair Traveler
- ◆ December 16-28 Drop in Ornament Craft
- ◆ December 17 American Girl Tea Party
- ◆ December 18 Adult Book Discussion
- ◆ January 2014 Sunday Hours Resume 4-8pm
- ◆ January 13 Winter Program Registration begins
- ◆ Feb 4 – March 1 Winter Reading Club
- ◆ February 8 Family Fitness Fair (in partnership with FTR & Dist. 33C)

Family Fitness Fair

The date for the 3rd Annual Homer 33-C Family Fitness Fair has been set. The event will take place on the evening of Thursday February 27th. The Fitness Fair will feature events and activities pertaining to healthy living (physical activity, nutrition, backpack safety, bone health, etc.). This year the 33C School District has taken on a larger role in the planning and organizing of this event via the school district's Wellness Coordinator. Homer Library is proud to be a part of the past Event Committee and joins the volunteers again this year - including students, teachers, community members, and local professionals to coordinate a successful event. The location for the 33C Family Fitness Fair event is Hadley School.

Insurance

Our policy review showed that with the additional space the projected increase is only \$320. This is due to the requirement to add sprinklers to the entire building for fire safety. This factored into the discount for the original space and negated the cost increase for the new addition.

In General

1. Sunday hours will begin in January 2014.
2. The Library Calendar that lists all of our programs is accessible from the Web page.
3. Both fall school visits and registration have begun to promote the library's collections, services and support of teachers and students.
4. 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.
5. Distribution of monthly calendars to local schools is ongoing via a parent information log-in portal.
6. We have scheduled a full slate of quality fall and winter programming.

Donations

General donations received from patrons this year are approximately \$1,740 (\$2,740 in 2012). The grand total of all patron donations in the past four years is approximately \$14,680. The quiet reading memorial fund is separated in a restricted account and received approximately \$53,845.

Conclusion

This monthly report is intended to give you a detailed overview and provide pertinent information on local, regional and state issues. If there is any issue that you would like information about or if you need anything detailed more fully, please let me know.

Upcoming priorities include working budget portions of the budget, general policy updates, and grant writing.

Sheree Kozel-La Ha

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Library Director

11/23/13