

LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT – September, 2013

Construction Update

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. Carpet and cabinetry has been installed, lighting is in place and finishes completed. We continue to coordinate the process of moving the collections and installing additional book stacks and furnishings during the period that we must temporarily close to the public.

Per Capita Grant & Usage Trends

The per capita grant is being completed; there are several areas that I finish and Sara will complete the application. These grant funds are earmarked for supplementing the information tools that our patrons use daily, including books, audio, and special collections of materials. Total grant award should be in the range of \$40,000. As supported by the 2010 census data, the population of Homer Township has 27.4% children, 63% adult and 9.5% seniors. The primary change is the growing senior base (up 3.3%) and the adult base (up 6.4%). Homer residents use the Library heavily for a cross range of services, including computers and copiers, programs, reading, studying, classes, as a meeting place, and as the community social center. We also note more minority resident users, including Arab, Asian, Hispanic, and Polish.

Trends include residents wanting additional computers and technology, quiet areas to study and socialize in, quality family programming, fax and copier use, and on-site support. Reference collections are being downsized and incorporated into the general collection. Free program and computer training requests are increasing, especially from our seniors and adult patrons. Teen use has also increased. As we look at future planning for programs and new services in an expanded space, including outreach, these trends are important to note.

SCAN

The Scan Committee met to undertake a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats) analysis of the library. As we plan forward this is an important exercise to assess long range for continuing excellence in library services. From it we develop goals and examine service priorities.

Special Events

1. On August 24th we participated in the Chamber of Commerce Community Expo and had the bookmobile on display. Over 1000 visitors attended this event. Teen volunteers assisted with set-up, tear-down and represented the library well during the event.
2. The Goodings Grove Lions Club has changed to become the Gleaners Club, which is based on Gleaner Life Insurance Society. Our new Oak Street Chapter will be undertaking community service projects. The Club has chosen the library as the recipient of community support for its' initial year, which will kick off on October 18th with the 2013 Fall Harvest for area seniors. In the past we have had more than 90 seniors visit over a two-hour period to receive free fruits and vegetables, courtesy of a partnership the Lions Club initiated with Fairplay Foods. We also serve coffee and had a snack table so seniors are able to socialize together. This is one illustration of the library serving in many ways as the social center place in the community. This year the venue has been changed to the Old Town Hall due to our library construction and will return to the library next year.
3. Fall Field Trips or outreach visits will be an outreach endeavor to school classrooms later this year to encourage all students to get a library card and feel comfortable visiting the library.
4. September is Literacy Month as well as Library Card Sign up Month.

Programs + Events

Upcoming library events and programs include:

- ◆ September Literacy Month and Library Card Sign Up Month
- ◆ September 1 Construction continues
- ◆ Sept. 30 – Oct. 21 CLOSE for move

- ◆ October 21 All areas open to public
- ◆ October Illinois Arts Month
- ◆ October 17 Senior Harvest with Goodings Grove Lions Club
- ◆ October Teen Read Week
- ◆ October 9-11 Illinois Library Association Annual Conference
- ◆ November GRAND OPENING (date TBA)

Planning for fall

- ✓ September is Literacy Month.
- ✓ September is Library Card Sign up Month.
- ✓ We have scheduled a variety of passive programming to promote continued patron usage during the construction project.
- ✓ We have suspended Sunday hours until January 2014.

In Conclusion

This monthly report is intended to give you a detailed overview and provide pertinent information on local, regional and state issues.

- Upcoming priorities include the levy and working budget portions of the budget.
- The library and bookmobile were featured at the Chamber of Commerce Expo on August 24.
- A Grand Opening Committee is being established.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you need any item in my report detailed more fully.

Sheree Kozel-La Ha
 SHEREE KOZEL-LA HA
 Library Director
 9/21/13