

LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT – March, 2013

Construction Update

We continue the process of construction. The addition is airtight with windows installed and interior framing ongoing. We are approximately 10 weeks out to move into the new addition. The vapor barrier is approved and the brick work is due to begin this week. The space appears to change daily. Other items:

- Sheri Law was able to come on site during a planned visit to measure for artwork. The timing was perfect as both CSI owner/ reps were there. Both art pieces will have the proper reinforced backing for security as they are both heavy.
- We have been meeting with Security Camera companies. While not in the budget at this point in time we do have some savings from furniture, etc. that we spoke of and safety is a priority. It is good planning to ensure we have camera drops and plans in place.
- We were able to take advantage of two closing businesses in Homer Glen (Learning Express and Blockbuster) and purchased 36 SF of media shelving, a gaming station for teens, a youth entry sign, a children's train and Lego table, materials showcase cabinet and tons of gently used DVDs along with new puzzles and items for the library. These items are all being stored at the bookmobile garage and we will have lots of excellent items to showcase at the grand opening, at a fraction of what they would have cost brand new.

Programs + Events

The Winter Reading Club was well received with 440 participants and our projection of approximately 150 families that signed up. Activities promoted reading and literacy via an incentive partnership program the Chicago Wolves Hockey Team and Chicago Slaughter Arena Football Team. Fun reading incentives and giveaways included tickets, t-shirts, backpacks, hats, pennants, and posters. Staff continues to do an excellent job of soliciting sponsors for existing and new programs that benefit our community. We recognize all sponsors in PR, fliers, and on our web site. Last year we expended zero dollars on the summer reading program due to the generosity of local business support. We thank local organizations for their ongoing generosity. This type of program support will be pursued to help contain spending and maintain a conservative budget.

Publicity

PR articles regarding the library are included within your packets. We have requested a corner feature area to showcase the library construction periodically on the local newspaper. The Calendar that lists all of our programs is accessible from the Web page, which is continuously updated. Distribution of monthly calendars to area children via the local schools continues.

Financial

We continue to spend conservatively and have expended approximately 58% of the library's working budget over the past eight months (through February). Last year was 70%, so we continue to place an emphasis on conservative spending while construction is ongoing. We have continued to use the working budget figures with no increase for the past several years. The upcoming fiscal year begins July 1, 2013. The working budget does not mimic appropriation amounts, which represent our authority to spend. Instead it is an accurate picture of what we conservatively limit spending to. The working budget is distributed monthly at all board meeting in the compilation report and also within a comparison chart noting last year's figures. The library's financial stability and success has been lauded in our audit and recognized to be extremely solid with the ability to bond.

Staff Spotlight

I want to recognize and applaud Sara McCambridge, the library's Assistant Director. Creating a team approach for overview of this construction project was the right decision. A motivated self-starter, Sara's leadership is evident, as she organizes elements for collection placement and the phasing that this project requires, among a myriad of other details that we come across daily. She provides guidance to staff as questions and issues arise about procedures, construction and interior changes. Her calm and capable demeanor delivers continued support and she serves as a liaison for our construction advisor when I am unavailable, grant writing, or simply addressing another issue. We are synchronized and I know this project is benefiting greatly from our team effort and Sara's steadfast involvement.

On behalf of the library board and community I express my appreciation to Sara for her willingness to bring her talents to this construction project, while continuing her primary job responsibilities. This construction project has provided "learning moments" for all of us and she has stepped up to the challenges with a positive attitude that is most appreciated and noted.

National Library Week - April 14-20, 2013

National Library Week (NLW) began in 1958, as a national observance sponsored by the American Library Association (ALA) and libraries across the country. NLW will be celebrated with the theme, "Communities matter @ your library." NLW is a time to celebrate the contributions of our nation's libraries, librarians and library workers and to promote library use and support.

National Library Workers Day (NLWD) is Tuesday, April 16th. This is a day for library staff, users, administrators and Friends groups to recognize the valuable contributions made by all library workers. On January 25, 2003, a resolution was proposed to honor library staff which read: *That in order to recognize the hard work, dedication, and expertise of library support staff and librarians that the Tuesday of National Library Week be designated National Library Workers Day; and, that on that day, interested library workers, library groups, and libraries should advocate for better compensation for all library workers and, if the day coincides with National Pay Equity Day, these individuals, groups, and libraries should recognize both days together.*

National Bookmobile Day is Wednesday, April 17th. We join the American Library Association (ALA), the Association of Bookmobile and Outreach Service (ABOS), and the Association of Rural and Small Libraries (ARSL) as we commemorate the annual National Bookmobile Day. Providing the library experience to the extended Homer community our bookmobile offers professional outreach staff, programs, and special events, as well as quality resources. We are pleased that National Bookmobile Day recognizes and celebrates the role of bookmobiles and direct-delivery outreach services in fulfilling the mission of libraries. For over 100 years, bookmobiles have provided access to information and materials for life-long learning to Americans of all walks of life in rural areas, cities, and suburbs. We share a proud tradition of serving a community well.

Teen Literature Day is April 18th. The Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA, the fastest growing division of ALA, is celebrating Teen Literature Day. The purpose is to raise awareness among the general public that young adult literature is a vibrant, growing genre with much to offer to today's teens. Teen Literature Day also seeks to showcase some award-winning authors and books in the genre as well as highlight librarians' expertise in connecting teens with books and other reading materials. Statistics show that about one in every four library users is a teen.

In General

1. We have scheduled a variety of programming to promote continued usage during the construction project.
2. We plan to re-open Sunday hours sometime this fall of 2013.
3. We continue to provide staff information and meetings to detail construction phasing, etc. as preparation for what is expected to be a busy season with lots of change underway.
4. The Library Calendar that lists all of our programs is accessible from the Web page.
5. 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.

In Conclusion

I was a guest speaker this month at the Chamber of Commerce Community luncheon (along with the Homer Glen Mayor and Major Brown of LTHS) and provided information on the addition and what it will provide to the community. It was well attended and an honor to showcase our addition / renovation project. I will be speaking to residents at Victorian Village next month and hope to continue to publicize our project at other community events.

In April we will feature an amnesty of fines during National Library Week here and on the bookmobile. I continue to meet with my management team to discuss the phasing process, and coordinate what each department's responsibilities will be.

These monthly reports are intended to give you a detailed overview of our library and provide pertinent information on local and regional issues. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or if you would like any item in my report detailed more fully.

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Library Director

3/21/13