

LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT – November/December, 2014

DVD collection

For the first ten months of 2014 we have circulated 18,357 DVDs, which is a 12% increase over the past year. The DVD collection began as a donation initiative to offset budget costs and establish a core collection. To date we have 2402 total DVDs: 1663 at the library and 739 on the bookmobile. Some movies are popular duplicates and some titles new to the library collection. We continue to welcome DVD donations and are adding titles to the collection. The DVD collection is extremely popular and averages 350+ movies checked out weekly or approximately 58 movies taken home each day.

1,000 Books Before Kindergarten

Clifford the Big RED Dog was on hand at the program kick off in November along with 150 children and parents. 75 families registered that day for this reading incentive program that promotes each child reach their 1,000 book goal before kindergarten, with incentives at key points along the way. 1,000 books can be accomplished by reading three stories daily for one year. We thank the Jr. Women's Club for helping to support this program initiative.

Outreach to Schools

Homer Library provides quality school support. Approximately 211 students from 3 elementary schools have visited the Homer Library and received a "behind the scenes" tour in October and November. Each visit finishes by having the teacher spin our "Wheel of Fortune" to receive a special classroom gift.

Our Web page features a homework/assignment link to submit a library alert form. Teachers use this as a means of sending our staff messages, questions, or comments. A Teacher's Flier is sent annually to all schools and details how we can assist them. This year we welcomed a Special Needs class of 21. Kindergarten classes from Young and Butler schools will be visiting in February, 2015. These outreach efforts to schools encourage all students to receive a library card and feel comfortable visiting the library.

Winter Reading Program

The Winter Reading Club "Reading is SNOW Much Fun!" 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 teens and will begin February 2nd. The bookmobile will also feature the Winter Reading Club.

Donations

General donations received this year are approximately \$4,850. The grand total of all donations in the past five years is approximately \$22,384 (does not include memorial funds). All memorial account funds were transferred to the general account, as they funded the Heroes Quiet Reading Room.

In General

1. Sunday hours began September 2014 and are very popular.
2. The Library Calendar that lists all of our programs is accessible from the Web page.
3. Both school visits and registration 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 messages, questions, or comments.
5. Distribution of monthly calendars to local schools is ongoing via a parent information log-in portal. We will extend outreach of specialty events to the schools as they allow.
6. November was the annual "Food for Fines" event. Patrons were encouraged to return overdue items and give canned goods in lieu of fines.

Building and Grounds

ICS is getting a quote for a wall heater for the book drop room, as it becomes quite cold in there. ICS will be at the board meeting to report. Fall and winter decorating touches add a nice ambiance.

Program and Special Events

Upcoming library events and programs include:

- Dec 1 & Jan 5 Adult Movie Matinee
- Dec 2 Fairy Tea Party
- Dec 2 & Jan 6 Teen Book Club
- Dec 3 Storybook Explorers Club
- Dec 3 Restore Your Core
- Dec 4 Believe in the Magic
- Dec 4 Teen Volunteer Night & Pizza
- Dec 6 & Jan 10 Board Game Central
- Dec 6, 20 & Jan 24 Screenings on Saturday
- Dec 8 & Jan 12 Mystery Book Club
- Dec 8 Mother Daughter Book Club
- Dec 9 Holly Jolly Story Time
- Dec 10 & Jan 21 Legos
- Dec 10 & Jan 14 Chess and Checkers Club
- Dec 11 Super Fab Lab
- Dec 11 & Jan 8 Teen Advisory Board
- Dec 12 Armchair Traveler
- Dec 13 Melikin Puppet Show
- Dec 15 Teen Cram Exam
- Dec 16 Crafternoons
- Dec 17 Polish Traditions
- Dec 17 & Jan 21 Adult Book Discussion
- Dec 18 Tween Scene
- Dec 18 Teen Manga Cosplay Party
- Dec 19 & Jan 16 Adult Bingo
- Dec 24 & 25 LIBRARY CLOSED
- Dec 31 & Jan 1 LIBRARY CLOSED
- Jan 4 Downton Abbey
- Jan 12 Program & Story Time Registration
- Jan 14 Ladies Night Out: Make a scarf
- Jan 15 Teen Manga
- Jan 19 LIBRARY CLOSED
- Jan 23 Coffee, donuts, and a movie
- Jan 26 Winter session of Story Time begins
- Jan 26 Winter session of Wiggles & Giggles begins
- Jan 27 Chick Lit Book Club
- Jan 28 Ladies Night Out
- Jan 28 Pokemon
- Jan 29 Teen Pizza Taste Test
- Jan 31 Frozen Sing-a-long
- Feb 2 – Mar 2 Winter Reading Club: Reading is SNOW much fun!

Equipment

A new public copy and computer management system (that was delayed due to construction and timing) is moving forward. It provides new copiers with coin operation and computer time management for our users. This replaces aging copiers, offers customers more convenience, and reduces staff time.

Insurance

Our policy review showed that with the revision of a worker's compensation claim the policy will see a reduction of \$3,140.

Conclusion

The Ludwig family gave the library three large aerial pictures of Woodbine and library property taken in 1982, 1986 & 1991. We will have them displayed at the board meeting.

Palos and Green Hills library administrators toured the library this past month. New Lenox Library staff will tour as part of their in-service day December 19.

A professional photographer from Engberg Anderson Architects was here this past month. We will be receiving prints of the pictures they took.

We received grant letters of support from 22nd Century Media (Homer Horizon), Marian Village, Gleaner Oak Arbor, and Victorian Village for a new ALA American Dream Grant application that we hope will be successful.

Upcoming priorities include policy work. The revision is complete and will be ready for committee review before the next board meeting. The audit has been completed. Grant writing continues.

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.

Sheree Kozel-La Ha

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Library Director

11/28/14