

LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT – January, 2014

Flood Damage

Due to the extreme weather conditions two pipes behind lending broke on December 24th and this flooded the lending offices and did much damage. The library was closed for two days while clean-up continued. Computers and printers were lost as was furniture and some materials. The section has been effectively dried and we are working with the insurance company to resolve compromised/damaged items. Baseboard is being replaced and painting and carpet cleaning will be scheduled. A chart of damages will be provided at the board meeting.

Sunday Hours

We began Sunday hours on January 5th. These 4-8pm hours are very well received by customers. They support and assist students, families and others who like to do research, study, or find a quiet haven as a busy weekend winds down. We will do another statistical review of usage for all scheduled hours this spring, as well as initiate a community survey for usage, programs, and to solicit input from our community.

Staffing

As we acclimate in the expanded space we have been reviewing staffing levels and budget to ensure adequate coverage. We have two staff retiring this winter/spring. Advertisements to increase staff in the Adult and Circulation Services Department have been posted and we are interviewing at this time.

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

The Library Year in Review was published by the Homer 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 creative 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 offer opportunities to be recognized for residents and business donors in 2014.

Programs + Events

We have several new program initiatives this winter/spring. Yoga, Zumba, & Fit programs will emphasize our new community room and promote collections that support wellness. We will hold a Home/Craft show anchored by teen volunteers as a fundraiser this spring. Staff plans to initiate a crafters group and adult Bingo. A series of financial programs will kick off national Money Smart Week in the spring, anchored by sponsorship of BMO Harris Bank. Water Conservation programming is planned, with support from IL American Water. Popular College Funding workshops are scheduled. A new series of Computer Classes will resume for Internet, Excel, PowerPoint and Word. We have had excellent response for our newest Sensory Story time, too. It is a great bonus to now have two community defined rooms so our planned programs do not have to compete with each other, but can run simultaneously in the Community Room, Family Activity Room and Teen Room. The following schedule showcases the many adult, teen and youth programs that are planned.

- ◆ January 2014 Sunday Hours Resume 4-8pm
- ◆ January 27 – March 3 Story Time Winter Session begins

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- ◆ January 27 Mother Daughter Book Club
- ◆ January 28 – March 4 Special Needs Story Time Session begins
- ◆ January 28 Lego's
- ◆ January 28 Chick Lit Book Discussion
- ◆ January 29 – March 5 Music & Movement Winter Session begins
- ◆ January 29 – March 5 Wiggles & Giggles Winter Session begins
- ◆ January 30 – March 5 Polish Story Time Winter Session begins
- ◆ January 30 Rubber Band Club
- ◆ January 30 Teen Craft
- ◆ February 1 Winter Program Registration begins
- ◆ February 1 Olympic Games
- ◆ Feb 1 – March 3 Winter Reading Club
- ◆ February 3 Adult Movie Matinee
- ◆ February 4 Teen Book Club
- ◆ February 5 Know the 10 Signs
- ◆ February 7 Basic Yoga
- ◆ February 7 Sit and Stay Fit
- ◆ February 10 Mystery Book Club
- ◆ February 11 Paying for College Workshop
- ◆ February 12 Chess & Checkers Club
- ◆ February 12 Calling all Chocoholics
- ◆ February 12 Prairie Smoke
- ◆ February 13 Teen Advisory Board
- ◆ February 14 Armchair Traveler
- ◆ February 15 Babysitting
- ◆ February 17 LIBRARY CLOSED – President's Day
- ◆ February 18 Crafternoons
- ◆ February 18 Teen Movie Nite
- ◆ February 19 Lego's
- ◆ February 19 Adult Book Discussion
- ◆ February 20 Youth Advisory Committee
- ◆ February 20 Teen Manga/Anime
- ◆ February 21 Adult Bingo
- ◆ February 25 Lego's
- ◆ February 25 Chick Lit Book Club
- ◆ February 26 College Application Essay Workshop
- ◆ February 27 Raw Food 101
- ◆ February 27 Family Fitness Fair (in partnership with Dist. 33C)

Family Fitness Fair

The date for the 3rd Annual Homer 33-C Family Fitness Fair is 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 some of us will join 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.

In General

1. Sunday hours have resumed 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 and print distribution.
6. We have scheduled a full slate of quality winter programming.

Bond Update

We will pass an ordinance to abate the bond proceeds on the tax rolls. This is done annually in January.

Conclusion

Beginning January 2, 2013, annual library system membership certification is required of all library system members. According to the Illinois Library Laws and Rules, receiving grant funds from the Illinois State Library is contingent upon annual certification compliance. This certification is completed so we are eligible to receive grant funding. Upcoming priorities include the continuing review of the general policy, construction and staffing. The audit has been completed. Grant writing will begin again. I am pleased that BMO Harris Bank has agreed to again sponsor programming and materials, this year for the amount of \$3,000.

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. Lastly, I appreciate the courtesy and professionalism you each bring to the board. Your thoughtfulness and willingness to do our best for the Library and the Homer Community is wonderful. Thank you.

Sheree Kozel-La Ha

SHEREE KOZEL-LA HA

Library Director

1/23/14

Year in Review 2013 @ Homer Library

Greetings from Sheree Kozel-La Ha, Executive Director

Did you know that there are more public libraries than McDonald's restaurants in the United States? Homer Library enriches the quality of life for residents in many ways and it is our mission to continue this tradition of excellence.

It has been a long-time goal to expand and update our facility. This is an exciting time as we realize the vision of much hard work and conservative budget planning that allowed us to add an addition and remodel our facility to better serve the Homer community. We are proud to bring this expansion forward at no cost to Homer residents. As Homer Township Library completes its 30th year of excellence in services to the Homer community we are most proud to showcase the construction of an 11,640 square foot addition, almost doubling the library to 24,000 square feet. It is bright, inviting, energy efficient and offers more space to enjoy the things you love @ your library.

Homer Library continues to be a community gathering space, social destination, and a haven where information can be accessed by every person in our community. Learning continues at every age and stage in a person's life and your library is here for YOU. Take advantage of everything we offer @ the Homer Township Public Library and visit us today.

LIBRARY HIGHLIGHTS

Enjoy free DVD movies, read a magazine, check out that brand new bestseller, take a free computer class, register your child for a fun program, join one of our clubs, and benefit from your Homer library more than ever in 2014.

A snapshot of 2013 would reveal:

- **You can save money by using the library!** The Library provides 225 magazines and a collection of almost 100,000 items to make life-long learning possible. We have access to an enormous collection of materials that we can get for you if they do not exist in our collection.
- **A DVD movie collection** is anchored by family and classic films but offers something for everyone. We happily will accept your gently used movies to help expand the library collection.
- **Play Literacy Areas @ Homer Library** encourage children to become aware of and comfortable with books, media, computers, staff, and the library. Our play literacy areas can stimulate a child's intellectual and social development and prepare them for learning and school activities. It also fosters family interaction and creates opportunities that nourish creativity and curiosity.
- **Teens Rock @ Homer Library!** Library teens have a creative personal space to meet with friends for study, homework, and socializing. Grant funds and help from the Friends of the Library group subsidized the teen area, which is bright, inviting, and will be anchored by art created by our very own library teens!
- **VIP Adults/Seniors** offers popular programs for adults including Armchair Travelers, Knitting Club, Cooking Classes, and other educational and inviting programs. Libraries offer big returns to the communities we serve.

Serving More People, Reaching out to our Community!

- The **Bookmobile** extends library services throughout the Township. With a core collection of 5,000 items it also features contests, special weekly themes, reading clubs, and more to encourage library use and participation.
- **Gaming @ Homer Library** provides an opportunity to play Guitar Hero and enjoy Dance Dance Revolution and more with other library teens. Did you know that studies show there is a direct correlation to game playing and improved school performance? It's true!
- **Wiggles 'N Giggles and Polish/English Story Hour** remain favorite preschool children's programs. They provide opportunities to enjoy the library, books, and more.
- **Sunday 4-8pm hours** increase your access to the library at convenient times.

WEB Convenience

- Homer Library's on the **web** at www.homerlibrary.org
- Library photos are on a **Flickr photo site** at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/homerlibrary>
- Join our conversation on **Twitter** <http://twitter.com/homerlibrary>
- Now on **Facebook** - just search Homer Library to find us! Become a fan and find out the latest and greatest to discover even more @ your library!

With over 600 library users daily that check out an average of 750 items each day, Homer Township Public Library has experienced a phenomenal increase in use since it opened in 1988. With a collection of 100,000 items and growing use, we serve as an active community center. Meet and greet friends, use a study room or visit the Family Activity Zone in 2014!

I value your input and welcome all suggestions and comments. Call me at (708) 301-7908, email sheree@homerlibrary.org, or AIM: **GrantExprt** and let me know what's on your mind. I hope to see you soon.