

Standards for Illinois Public Libraries

The Serving Our Public 3.0: Standards for Illinois Public Libraries was approved by the ILA Executive Board, prior to being published in 2014. The Standards has had every chapter reviewed and updated with one new chapter on library safety added to address safety concerns for customers and staff. We again begin the process of undertaking a Standard Chapter Review at each board meeting. This month we review the Applicable Core Standards for Chapter 1: Core Standards.

Publicity

- The Homer Library Newsletter was distributed within the June 5th issue of Homer Horizon Newspaper. It featured/introduced our library Trustees and had a section for each department with highlights and news.
- The library had a full page featured in the Homer Township Chamber of Commerce Community 2014 book that was distributed in the same issue of the Homer Horizon.
- Homer Horizon Newspaper will partner with us to promote Shark Week @ Homer Library – an upcoming program that kicks off with a DIY Shark Bank craft competition for all ages. Look for details in the editor's section in the next issue. I requested a weekly column/picture and the editor has agreed to be a judge for Editor's Choice winning contest entry.

Social Media

Facebook/Twitter/Instagram - Our presence on Facebook shows a range of use, for example last week we had reached 981 compared to the previous week of 210. Facebook works differently now - each post does not get sent out to all of our subscribers - instead the more people who like each post or share the post increases the amount of times Facebook will send that same post to other subscribers of our page. This social network presence allows the library to publicize events and creates an avenue to interact and connect with our patrons. Twitter is a social stream that we have begun posting regularly to, as is Instagram.

Flickr Library Photo Site - We began posting pictures to Flickr in April, 2006 and were one of the first libraries to use this online site. To date we have had 252,685 visitors (up from 116,917 noted last year) view the 10,010 pictures that are posted of our events, programs, and initiatives. We routinely alert the newspapers and reporters about this site and allow them to use pictures we post on it for stories and news.

Library Web Site/Blogs - Homer Library has an active web site, updated frequently. In the past seven years I have regularly posted to my director's blog, and staff to Facebook and the library twitter account.

Each of the above details the people we are reaching as we establish and maintain ways to connect to our users to showcase the many programs and services we offer. These sites allow the vibrancy of the library to be "seen" and give us a human and social presence. We are fortunate to have talented and progressive staff to oversee these tools.

Summer Reading Program

This year's club *Paws to Read* kicked off on Monday, June 16. It was a busy day with many children and adults in attendance.

We have organized 44 Summer Reading sponsors to benefit the program. With their support we have added reading incentives for participants each week, prizes, and more. This support is greatly appreciated. Last year we expended zero dollars on the summer reading program due to the generosity of sponsors. We continue 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. We thank local organizations for their ongoing generosity. Program support will be pursued to help us maintain a conservative budget and offer value added programming for the community.

June/July Programs and Events

We have many quality programs in the schedule for our community. Upcoming programs include:

- ◆ June 5 new stops added for our Bookmobile this summer
- ◆ June Artist Amanda Grabenhofer displays artwork in the adult display case
- ◆ June 2 Adult Movie Matinee
- ◆ June 3 Teen Book Club
- ◆ June 4 Bring Nature to Your Yard
- ◆ June 6 Yoga
- ◆ June 9 Chef Kate: Cooking for a Crowd
- ◆ June 9 Mystery Book Club
- ◆ June 10 Untold Secrets of Financial Aid
- ◆ June 11 Chess/Checkers
- ◆ June 12 Teen Advisory Board
- ◆ June 13 Vinyasa Yoga + Armchair Traveler: Soul of South Africa
- ◆ **June 16 Paws to Read Summer Reading Club** (ends July 26)
- ◆ June 16 Creatures Clues (ends July 26)
- ◆ June 17 Word Gone Mad WWII
- ◆ June 18 Adult Book Discussion
- ◆ June 18 Dave DiNaso's World of Reptiles
- ◆ June 18 Lego's
- ◆ June 19 Teen Manga
- ◆ June 20 Bingo & Flicks on Friday
- ◆ June 23/24 Teddy Bear Sleepover
- ◆ June 24 Lego's
- ◆ June 24 Chick Lit Book Club
- ◆ June 25 Big Run Wolf Ranch
- ◆ June 25 Basics of Photography
- ◆ June 26 PAWS mini garden & Puppy Dog Pop
- ◆ June 26 Tween Theater Movie Night
- ◆ June 26 Teen Craft
- ◆ June 26 7:30 p.m. Closing for Homer Fest
- ◆ June 30 Simply Stories
- ◆ June 30 Give a Dog a Bone (Bookmobile through July 9)
- ◆ July 1 Artwork Animals (*sponsored by Lakeshore Learning*)
- ◆ July 2 Simply Stories
- ◆ July 3 Origami Animals & Teen Book Club
- ◆ *July 4 CLOSED*
- ◆ July 7 Movie Matinee
- ◆ July 7-19 Scooby Snack Guessing Jar
- ◆ July 7 Chef Kate: Summer Sippers & Starters
- ◆ July 8 Noah's Ark & Teen Movie Night

- ◆ July 8-10 Lego Robotics Camp (*sponsored by U of I extension*)
- ◆ July 9 Crafternoons & Chess/Checkers
- ◆ July 10 PAWS to Rock Dance Party & Tween Theater Movie Night
- ◆ July 10 Teen Advisory Board
- ◆ July 11 Yoga & Bingo
- ◆ July 11 Ecobot Workshop
- ◆ July 14 Simply Stories
- ◆ July 14 Mystery Book Club
- ◆ July 15 Kitty Kat Kapers
- ◆ July 16 Legos
- ◆ July 16 Adult Book Discussion
- ◆ July 16/17 Defensive Driving (*sponsored by Gleaner Oak Arbor*)
- ◆ July 17 Animals for Awareness (*sponsored by IL American Water*)
- ◆ July 17 Teen Manga
- ◆ July 18 Vinyasa Yoga & Flicks on Friday & Armchair Traveler
- ◆ July 21 Baseball in the Attic
- ◆ July 22 Special Needs Story Time
- ◆ July 22 Chick Lit Book Discussion
- ◆ July 23 T-Rexplorers (*sponsored by BMO Harris Bank*)
- ◆ July 23 Minecraft
- ◆ July 25 Restore Your Core
- ◆ July 28 Beat the Heat - (Bookmobile through August 6)
- ◆ July 29 Legos
- ◆ July 29 Chef Kate: We All Scream for Ice Cream
- ◆ **July 30 BEGIN ACCEPTING DONATIONS FOR AUGUST USED BOOK SALE**
- ◆ July 31 Teen Post-It Art Show

In Conclusion

My priorities for the coming months include personnel meetings, goal development, and Standards Review. Budget work has begun. Statistics will also begin to be compiled for the annual IPLAR report after June 30th.

These monthly reports are intended to give you a detailed overview of our library and provide pertinent information on both local and regional issues. In addition, weekly trustee updates present information about the activities and plans of our library. We are compiling new statistics and next month I will have study room usage for your review.

Please contact me if you have any questions or if you would like any item in my report detailed more fully.

Sheree Kozel-La Ha
SHEREE KOZEL-LA HA

Executive Director
June 18, 2014