

LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT – March, 2014

Bookmobile Service Celebrates 8th Birthday

May brings our 8th year of outreach service to the Homer community via the bookmobile. This outreach service began in 2006 and was the result of a grant award of \$150,000. It has extended library services to meet the needs of our extended community. The bookmobile travels the 36-square mile library district, bringing a core collection of new materials including books, magazines, DVDs, and other items to neighborhoods, senior villages, schools, and day care centers.

We have been delighted with the response from residents who have welcomed the bookmobile service with enthusiasm. Maryellen Reed, Bookmobile Manager, and staff, do an amazing job. Maryellen continues to coordinate with the Bus Barn/School District 33C and Homer Highway Department for support and services that directly impact lowering the maintenance area and fuel costs in our budget. This is yet another example of collaboration that comes from the Library working cooperatively with other agencies to the benefit of the entire community.

The Bookmobile Manager's report details the many new bookmobile specific programs and events that are planned this summer. A summer reading club, special event weeks, and more will be wonderful incentives to get residents on board the bus and reading. The Homer Bookmobile is also a participant at the Homer Township Independence Day Parade and at the Chamber of Commerce Community Expo.

March statistics showcase excellent usage with 620 patrons coming onboard. The bus also initiated three new library cards, and 164 children attended 16 onboard activities. With approximately 31 stops every two weeks, the bookmobile provides a Summer Reading Club, and a variety of other activities that encourage reading and library use. Senior holds delivered for March were 63 items, and another 52 items delivered to our VIP residents in 11 deliveries.

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 this proud tradition of serving a community well.

Non-Resident Card and Fee

Annually the board visits the non-resident card issue and establishes the fee. Specifically the administrative rules governing the non-resident law, Section 3050.20 state: a. the public library board of trustees shall annually take action to decide whether to issue non-resident library cards during the ensuing 12 months. At that time, the non-resident library card fee formula and fee to be used will be determined and adopted. b. The public library board of trustees shall notify the regional library system within 30 days of the action taken and effective dates and fee formula as determined in this Part.

The non-resident fee is based on what our taxpayers pay for library services, and is calculated either by a specific formula or from the non-residents' property tax bills. We previously have used the tax bill method of computation to establish the non-resident fee we charge. Our current non-resident card costs \$170 (reduced from \$180). We issue about 4 new cards annually.

Financial

We continue to spend conservatively and have expended approximately 63% of the library's working budget over the past eight months (through February). There is a repeated emphasis on conservative spending while construction is being completed. With this in mind we have continued to use the working budget figures with no increase for the past several years. The upcoming fiscal year begins July 1, 2014. 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 meetings in a compilation report and also within a comparison chart with last year's figures. The library's financial stability and success has been lauded in our audit and recognized to be extremely solid with excellent oversight.

National Library Week (NLW) - April 13-19, 2014

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, "Lives change @ your library." Author Judy Blume serves as the Honorary Chair this year. 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 15th. 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.* This is a day for library staff, users, administrators and Friends groups to recognize the valuable contributions made by all library workers.

National Bookmobile Day is Wednesday, April 16th. 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 17th. 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.

Public Relations

- Articles in the newspaper include publicity for programs and library happenings.
- We are sending a monthly library calendar to the schools in our district.
- The Calendar that lists all of our programs is accessible from the Library Web page

Programs + Events

The Winter Reading Club was well received with 451 participants; a slight increase from last year. Activities promoted reading and literacy via an incentive partnership program the Chicago Wolves Hockey Team. Fun reading incentives and giveaways included tickets, pucks, hats, winter caps, and posters. We also handed out rubber ducks to winners provided by IL American Water. Story Walk at Sendra Park was also incorporated into the Winter Reading Club with participants earning an extra raffle ticket for participation.

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.

Staff In Service Training

This spring we will host safety training and customer service training for a half-day staff in service planned for an upcoming Friday. This will delay one Friday public opening until approximately 12:30.

Environmental Scan/SWOT Analysis

Members of the Scan Committee have met. The draft report of our findings is included within your board packets. This Environmental scan and review of the community will assist the library as we continue to plan long range for excellence in services we provide to our community including any challenges we may face.

March Programs and Events

- ◆ March 22 ACT Practice Test
- ◆ Mar 24-Apr 5 Search for the Golden Egg
- ◆ March 25 Youth Bingo
- ◆ March 25 Lego's
- ◆ March 25 Chick Lit Book Club
- ◆ March 26 Youth Movie
- ◆ March 26 Social Media for your Business
- ◆ March 27 Drop-In Easter Egg Craft
- ◆ March 27 Dress to Impress
- ◆ March 31 Story Time
- ◆ March 31 Simply Stories
- ◆ Mar 31-Apr 10 Who's Your Favorite? (on the Bookmobile)

April Programs and Events

- ◆ Mon & Tue Story Time
- ◆ Monday Simply Stories
- ◆ Tuesday Special Needs Story Time
- ◆ Wednesday Simply Stories
- ◆ Wednesday Music & Movement
- ◆ Wed & Thu Wiggles & Giggles
- ◆ Thursday Polish Story Time
- ◆ April 1-5 Hunt for the Golden Egg
- ◆ April 1-10 Who's Your Favorite? (on the Bookmobile)
- ◆ April 1 Teen Book Club
- ◆ April 2 Intro to Genealogy
- ◆ April 3 String Dolls
- ◆ April 4 Basic Yoga
- ◆ April 5 Babysitting
- ◆ April 6 Planning your Financial Future, Part 1 -BMO Harris partnership (Money Smart Week)
- ◆ April 7 Planning your Financial Future, Part 2 -BMO Harris partnership (Money Smart Week)
- ◆ April 7 Adult Movie Matinee
- ◆ April 7 Mother/Daughter Book Club
- ◆ April 8 Understanding Today's Real Estate Market: Short Sales & Foreclosures -BMO Harris partnership (Money Smart Week)
- ◆ April 9 Chess/Checkers Club
- ◆ April 9 Intro to Credit -BMO partnership (Money Smart Week)

- ◆ April 9 Prairie Smoke Writers Group
- ◆ April 10 Planning your Financial Future, Part 3 -BMO partnership (Money Smart Week)
- ◆ April 10 Rainbow Rubber Band Club
- ◆ April 10 Teen Advisory Board
- ◆ April 11 Armchair Travelers
- ◆ April 11 Funny Money Story Time -BMO Harris partnership (Money Smart Week)
- ◆ April 12 Money Matters for Kids -BMO Harris partnership (Money Smart Week)
- ◆ April 12 National Drop Everything and Read Day
- ◆ Apr 14-24 What Bugs You? (on the Bookmobile)
- ◆ April 14 Mystery Book Club
- ◆ April 13-19 National Library Week – Dewey See It?
- ◆ April 15 Crafternoons
- ◆ April 15 Brunch in Spring Time
- ◆ April 16 Lego's
- ◆ April 16 Adult Book Discussion
- ◆ April 17 Youth Advisory Committee
- ◆ April 17 Teen Manga/Anime Club
- ◆ Apr 21-May 3 Mother's Day Craft
- ◆ April 21 A Journey through White Sox history
- ◆ April 22 Chick Lit Book Club
- ◆ April 24 Best Garage Sale Yet
- ◆ Apr 28-May 8 Happy Mother's Day (on the Bookmobile)
- ◆ April 29 Lego's
- ◆ April 29 Introduction to Budgets –BMO Harris partnership
- ◆ MAY dates - Water Conservation programs being developed –IL American partnership

In Conclusion

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.

Sheree Kozel-La Ha

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Library Director

3/21/14