

LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT – February, 2015

We encourage residents to make Homer Township Library their first choice for information and learning in a bright and expanded facility for their use. As always, we want to provide the best in services, collections and programs that bring value to the Homer community both now and in the future. We continue to add signage that assists visitors.

Primary

The Library will serve as a polling place for the primary election in Homer Township on Tuesday, Feb. 24th. The community room will be used to accommodate the primary election. The regular general election will take place on Tuesday, April 7th. We serve as a polling place for that, too.

Winter Reading Programs & Events

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 adults, and began February 2nd. The bookmobile also features the Winter Reading Club.

Financial

We continue to operate conservatively and have expended approximately 51% of the library's working budget over the past seven months (through January 31). Areas to note include:

1. Supplies and materials –expended 66% (for seven months).
2. Capital expenditures –expended 42% (for seven months).
3. Personnel –expended approximately 50% (for seven months).
4. Operating and contractual services –expended 57% (for seven months).

It is a high priority to anchor or reduce expenses in a logical and manageable manner and I am working long range to continue this trend.

Grants/Sponsorships

We are an ALA Teen Tech Week Grant Winner of \$2,000. Congratulations to Alex Annen for the lead in submitting a wonderful grant. On another nice note, a resident who provides funds monthly to the library for youth programs also asked to sponsor a program this spring and provided funds for the winter puppet show. I have met with an area bank for a new initiative, details will be coming. We appreciate all sponsors for their support.

We continue to seek support for new and established popular programming. The egg hatch will be coming this March with the incubated eggs and that is always quite popular. On schedule for discussion include:

- Sunday Music @ Your Library
- One Book One Community (books under discussion include Gone Girl, Divergent, American Sniper, Unbroken, The Fault In Our Stars)
- Name Author Event
- Job Club
- Little Library (Sendra Park) see <http://littlefreelibrary.org/>
- Saturday Disney Film Series
- Youth Safety Session Series
- Teacher in the Library – Homework Help
- 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten
- Winter & Summer Reading Clubs
- Craft Fair
- Star Wars 2015
- Shark Week

Programs and Events

We have several new program initiatives that are popular, including Yoga programs that emphasize the 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 has initiated a Ladies Night Out group and Bingo. A series of financial programs will kick off national Money Smart Week in the spring, anchored by sponsorship from 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 has resumed for Internet, Excel, PowerPoint and Word. We have had excellent response for Sensory Story time, too. It is a great bonus to now have defined community program rooms. Planned programs do not compete with each other, but can run simultaneously in the Community Room, Family Activity Room and Teen Room. The Quiet Reading Room will host some book discussion groups and also House Republican Leader Jim Durkin, who will hold "office hours" at the library on the third Thursday of each month (Feb., March & April) from 5-7pm. The following schedule showcases the many adult, teen and youth programs. Plans for an iPhone User's Club this spring are in the works.

Currently accepting applications for upcoming Arts & Crafts/Vendor Fair on May 2

Thru Feb 27	Visit the Berry Unsafe House
Jan 26-Mar 3	Story Time sessions every Monday & Tuesday
Jan 26-Mar 5	Wiggles & Giggles sessions every Monday, Wednesday & Thursday
Jan 27-Mar 3	Special Needs Story Time sessions every Tuesday
Jan 27-Mar 3	Family Story Time sessions every Tuesday
Jan 28-Mar 4	Music & Movement sessions every Wednesday
Jan 28-Mar 4	Simply Stories sessions every Wednesday
Jan 29-Mar 5	Polish Story Time sessions every Thursday
Feb 2-Mar 2	Reading is SNOW Much Fun – Winter Reading Club for all ages
Feb 23-Mar 8	Dr. Seuss Guessing Jar
Feb 27-Mar 1	Mini Used Book Sale
Mar 2	Mini Used Book Sale-Fill a bag for \$5
Mar 2-29	Dr. Seuss I Spy
Mar 3	Teen Book Club
Mar 4	Story Explorers
Mar 5	Dr. Seuss Birthday Party
Mar 5	Teen Volunteer Night
Mar 6	Yoga
Mar 7	Screenings on Saturday
Mar 9	Movie Matinee
Mar 9	Mystery Book Club
Mar 9	Mother Daughter Book Club
Mar 10	Good Table Manners
Mar 10	You Can Brew It
Mar 11	Chess Club
Mar 11	Ladies Night Out
Mar 12	Youth Bingo
Mar 12	Teen Advisory Board
Mar 13	Vinyasa Yoga
Mar 13	Armchair Traveler
Mar 14	Board Game Central
Mar 16	Spring Registration
Mar 17	Crafternoons
Mar 18	Legos
Mar 18	Adult Book Discussion
Mar 19	Meet Winnie the Pooh

Mar 19	Teen Manga
Mar 20	Adult Bingo
Mar 23/24	Smart Driver 2 day course
Mar 24	Fractured Fairy Tales
Mar 24	Chick Lit Book Club
Mar 25	Super Fab Lab
Mar 25	Ladies Night Out
Mar 26	Tween Scene
Mar 26	Teen Movie Night
Mar 27	Coffee, Donuts, and a Movie
Mar 30	Spring Session:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Story Time (Monday & Tuesday) ▪ Wiggles & Giggles (Monday, Wednesday & Thursday) ▪ Special Needs Story Time (Tuesday) ▪ Family Story Time (Tuesday) ▪ Simply Stories (Wednesday) ▪ Music & Movement (Wednesday) ▪ Polish Story Time (Thursday)
Mar 31	Legos
Mar 31	Magic Show
Mar 31	Magic Workshop
Mar 31	Teen Craft

Conclusion

The priority for this spring is coordinating continued grant writing, and review and development of policy. We are busy planning community programming and will be working together further to add quality programming. As we move into a busy year it is imperative that we continue to emphasize the value of teamwork and promote our reputation for quality service and programs.

My personal goal this year is to secure grants, increase funding with creative opportunities and partnerships, and focus my attention within the library and on staff development and support. The priority for this spring is continued budget oversight, planning for grant projects, review and development of policy, and staff in-service day planning. I continue to attend (with the Assistant Director) the Public Library Round Table presented monthly by the Management Association.

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 need detailed more fully, please let me know. I have invited both the auditor and accountant to attend the April/May board meeting to discuss the audit and monthly compilation report and answer any questions.

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.

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Library Director

2/20/15