

## LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT – June 2015

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### **Standards for Illinois Public Libraries**

The Serving Our Public 3.0: Standards for Illinois Public Libraries was approved by the Illinois Library Association (ILA) Executive Board, prior to being published in 2014. The 2014 Standards has updated each chapter and added one new chapter on library safety. We will continue the process of undertaking a Standard Chapter Review at each board meeting this fall. We have made good progress in our review of both the Standards and Trustee File. The April 2015 edition of the Illinois Library Laws and Rules will be distributed at the June board meeting.

### **Publicity**

- The Homer Library Newsletter was distributed within the June 18<sup>th</sup> issue of Homer Horizon Newspaper. It featured a section for each department with highlights and program news.
- The library had a full page featured in both the Homer Township and Lockport Chamber of Commerce Community guides (last year), which were distributed widely.
- 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** – The library Facebook page has 708 likes. 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.

**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 293,695 visitors (up 41,010 from last year) view the 12,234 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 eight 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 Read to the Rhythm kicked off on Monday, June 15. 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.

### Spotlight on Homer Library Staff

- The bulk of staff vacations are beginning. We are always cognizant of staffing and schedule appropriately to provide coverage for those on vacation or out of office. The library is anchored by experienced staff, whether some staff is attending meetings or taking earned time off. Personnel records (regarding vacation, sick, and personal time) are recorded electronically and monitored by our business manager.
- Our staff has received much acclaim and I consider them the “best of the best!” I want to take this opportunity to give them credit for a job well done. They support a full schedule of events and bring much energy to provide a positive customer service experience. I appreciate their effort and willingness to attend educational training and provide the best to our community.

### Programs/Events

The Summer Reading Program theme is *Read to the Rhythm*. There is a full slate of quality programming in place. We have approximately the same number of sponsors in place as last year, here is a partial listing: Homer Township Vision, Homer Township Oak Arbor, Budde Marketing, Homer Twp. Chamber of Commerce, Shedd Aquarium, Museum of Science and Industry, Lou Malnati's, State Bank of Countryside, an anonymous resident, Cooper's Hawk, Dave and Busters, Challenge Park, White Castle, McDonalds, Texas Road House, Joliet Slammers, Windy City Thunderbolts, Chili's, Granite City, Great American Bagel, Burger King, Nick's BBQ, Chicago White Sox, US99.5, Haunted Trails, Butler School, Hadley School, Homer Jr High, Goodings Grove School, Oak Prairie Jr High, etc. A final, complete listing of sponsors will be posted on our web site and is included in recent press releases.

### June/July Programs and Events

We will host the Lemont Art Guild for monthly programs beginning in September and have many quality programs in the schedule for our community. Many days have multiple programs. Upcoming programs include:

- ◆ Jun 1-10 BOOKMOBILE: Happy Father's Day
- ◆ Jun 2 Teen Book Club
- ◆ Jun 4 Teen Volunteer Night
- ◆ Jun 8 Edible Flowers
- ◆ Jun 8 Adult Movie Matinee
- ◆ Jun 10 BOOKMOBILE: Summer Reading Kick Off with Circus Boy @ Culver Park
- ◆ Jun 10 Adult Craft: July Wreath
- ◆ Jun 10 Chess/Checkers Club
- ◆ Jun 11 Kids Bingo
- ◆ Jun 11 IL Creoles, French Canadians, and Louisiana Cajuns and their Fiddling
- ◆ Jun 11 Teen Advisory Board
- ◆ Jun 13 Board Game Central
- ◆ Jun 15-Jul 25 **BOOKMOBILE & LIBRARY: Summer Reading Club: Read to the Rhythm**
- ◆ Jun 16 Science Just for Fun! / Crafternoons
- ◆ Jun 17 Legos / Music & Movement
- ◆ Jun 18 Teen Manga/Anime
- ◆ Jun 18 Bremen Town Musicians / Bailey Cook's Reptiles & More
- ◆ Jun 19 Adult Bingo / Young School Teachers Read
- ◆ Jun 20 Children's Cinema / Resume Program
- ◆ Jun 22 Clothing for Confidence
- ◆ Jun 22 Shake Rattle & Read
- ◆ Jun 23-27 Great American Campout

- ◆ Jun 23 Butterfly Metamorphosis & Workshop
- ◆ Jun 23 Wizard of Oz Sing-a-long
- ◆ Jun 23 Chick Lit Book Club
- ◆ Jun 23 Reading with Rover
- ◆ Jun 24 Pokemon
- ◆ Jun 24 Fun Fun DJ
- ◆ Jun 24 Read to the Beat
- ◆ Jun 24 Mahjongg
- ◆ Jun 25 Polish Story Time
- ◆ Jun 25 Art Workshop
- ◆ Jun 25 Teen Movie Night
- ◆ Jun 26 Donuts & a Movie
- ◆ Jun 26 Young School Teachers Read
- ◆ Jun 27 Babysitting
- ◆ Jun 27 Bookmobile: Homer Parade
- ◆ Jun 27 Job Interview 101
- ◆ Jun 29 Stretch to a New You
- ◆ Jun 29 Sidewalk Artist
- ◆ Jun 29 Read to the Beat
- ◆ Jun 29 Melikin Puppets
- ◆ Jun 30 Science Just for Fun – Meteorology
- ◆ Jun 30 Reading with Rover
- ◆ Jun 30 Teen Craft
- ◆ Jul 1 Read to the Beat
- ◆ Jul 1 Music & Movement
- ◆ Jul 1 Shark Bank Contest
- ◆ Jul 1 Mahjongg
- ◆ Jul 2 Polish Story Time
- ◆ Jul 2 Teen Volunteer Night
- ◆ Jul 3 Basic Yoga
- ◆ Jul 6 Teen BBQ
- ◆ Jul 6 Electric Creations
- ◆ Jul 6 Movie Matinee
- ◆ Jul 7 Teen Book Club
- ◆ Jul 7, 8, 9 Tech Creator Camp
- ◆ Jul 8 Chess/Checkers
- ◆ Jul 8 Mahjongg
- ◆ Jul 9 Children's Bingo
- ◆ Jul 9 Teen Advisory Board
- ◆ Jul 9 Polish Story Time
- ◆ Jul 9 Star Spangled Banner/Struggle that Forged 2 Nations
- ◆ Jul 10 Vinyasa Yoga
- ◆ Jul 10 Armchair Traveler

- ◆ Jul 10 Young School Teachers Read
- ◆ Jul 13 Shake Rattle & Read
- ◆ Jul 13 Tool Kit
- ◆ Jul 13 Mystery Book Club
- ◆ Jul 13 Read to the Beat
- ◆ Jul 14 Ralph's World Rock N Roll
- ◆ Jul 14 Teen Craft
- ◆ Jul 15 Lego Club
- ◆ Jul 15 Adult Book Club
- ◆ Jul 15 Read to the Beat
- ◆ Jul 15 Music & Movement
- ◆ Jul 15 Mahjongg
- ◆ Jul 16 Polish Story Time
- ◆ Jul 16 Teen Manga/Anime
- ◆ Jul 16 Reptiles & More
- ◆ Jul 16 & 17 Defensive Driving
- ◆ Jul 17 Adult Bingo
- ◆ Jul 17 Young School Teachers Read
- ◆ Jul 18 Summer Pies, Tarts, and Crisps
- ◆ Jul 18 Children's Cinema
- ◆ Jul 20 Read to the Beat
- ◆ Jul 21 Crafternoons
- ◆ Jul 21 Elite Dance Studio
- ◆ Jul 22 Read to the Beat
- ◆ Jul 22 Majhongg
- ◆ Jul 22 Yu-Gi-Oh
- ◆ Jul 23 Beauty & the Beast Sing-a-long
- ◆ Jul 23 READ to the RHYTHM BASH
- ◆ Jul 27-Aug 5 Bookmobile: Dog Days of Summer

### **In Conclusion**

My priorities for the coming months include budget work, grant writing and personnel meetings. Statistics will also begin to be compiled for the annual IPLAR report after June 30<sup>th</sup>.

These monthly reports are intended to give you a detailed overview of our library and provide pertinent information on local and regional issues. In addition, weekly trustee updates present information about the activities and plans of the library. 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 11, 2015