

LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT – March, 2015

Bookmobile Service Celebrates 9 Years

May brings our 9th 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 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 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 a participant at the Homer Township Independence Day Parade, at the Homer Twp. Chamber of Commerce Community Expo, and in Lockport Park District Touch a Truck event.

February statistics showcase excellent usage with 736 patrons coming onboard. The bus also initiated two new library cards, and 380 children attended 21 onboard activities. With approximately 38 stops every two weeks, the bookmobile provides a Winter Reading Club, and a variety of other activities that encourage reading and library use. Senior holds delivered for February were 63 items, and another 23 items delivered to our VIP residents in 9 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.

General Election

The Library will serve as a polling place for the election in Homer Township. The community room will be used to accommodate the election on Tuesday, April 7th.

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. Our current non-resident card costs \$170. We issue about 4 new cards annually. With board approval, we will continue to issue non-resident cards at this amount unless you prefer to change it.

Financial

We continue to spend conservatively and have expended approximately 54% of the library's working budget over the past eight months (through February). There is an emphasis on conservative spending and we have continued to use the working budget with no increase for the past several years. The fiscal year begins July 1, 2015. 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 bond review and recognized to be extremely solid with excellent oversight.

Celebrate National Library Week 2015 (April 12-18, 2015) with the theme "Unlimited possibilities @ your library®."

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, "**Unlimited possibilities @ your library®.**" Best-selling author David Baldacci will serve as Honorary Chair of National Library Week 2015. Baldacci's novels have been translated into more than 45 languages and have been adapted for film and television. Over 110 million copies of his books are in print worldwide. In addition, Baldacci is involved with several philanthropic organizations, including his family's Wish You Well Foundation®, which fosters and promotes the development and expansion of literacy and educational programs.

National Library Workers Day (NLWD) is Tuesday, April 14th. 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 15th. 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 16th. 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, and submit program fliers in e-files.
- 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.

Patti Nakutis 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 1pm.

Craft Fair

Saturday, May 2nd is our second Craft/Home Fair, run by our library teens. Bake sale, too! We are partnered with Gleaners Homer Twp. Oak Chapter in this new endeavor to add more books and programs for area teens.

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 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 and our new sponsor Countryside 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.

Programming is a core initiative at the library. I recently organized a program brainstorming session with twelve staff that anchor and work on most programs. 150 new ideas for programs and events were noted and discussed. Continued meetings will help determine what best serves our community. Staff input has been essential as we plan long-range.

March programs include:

- ◆ *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 / Mystery Book Club / Mother Daughter Book Club
- ◆ Mar 10 Good Table Manners
- ◆ Mar 10 You Can Brew It
- ◆ Mar 11 Chess Club / Ladies Night Out
- ◆ Mar 12 Youth Bingo / Teen Advisory Board
- ◆ Mar 13 Vinyasa Yoga / 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:
 - 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 LIVE EGG HATCH – Eggs delivered
- ◆ Mar 31 Magic Show / Magic Workshop / Teen Craft / Legos

Money Smart Week

BMO Harris Bank is sponsoring several Money Smart Week programs and initiatives that begin in April. We will add to the collection, as well. We appreciate greatly the second year of BMO Harris Bank support for quality educational programming and new materials.

Per Capita Grant

We have been awarded the Illinois Public Library Per Capita and Equalization Aid Grant in the amount of \$48,823. The annual application is due each fall. The Illinois State Library (ISL) presents a three year list of requirements so libraries can plan accordingly to meet them. For next year we will review and report on progress in meeting Chapter 5, “Technology” of *Serving Our Public 3.0: Standards for Illinois Public Library, 2014*. In addition, we must identify educational programs and training opportunities for patrons. The Edge Initiative was developed by a national coalition of leading library and local government organizations, funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and led by the Urban Libraries Council. It was created with the vision that all people should have opportunities to enrich and improve their lives through open access to information, communication, and technology services provided by public libraries. Edge is a groundbreaking, first of its kind management and leadership tool, helping libraries create a path for the continuous growth and development of their public technology services.

Through an easy to use suite of tools, Edge supports libraries in making strategic decisions and identifying areas for improvement. The [Edge Toolkit](#) gives libraries a look into their local data, from operations to partnerships and programming, to assess how their community is using the technology and how best practices can be put into place to align future growth and services with community priorities. The Edge Assessment has been completed.

E-Rate

As we have a newly signed contract, we will be unable to request e-rate funding consideration this year.

In Conclusion

Countryside Bank is our newest sponsor for programming. With their direct support we will initiate the Sunday Music Series, two author events, and a program designed to help 60 Girl Scouts earn badges in the inaugural *Teach Children How to Save* program this spring. I am extremely pleased to coordinate a partnership with Countryside Bank and look forward to planning many programs that benefit our community.

Our Little Free Library is almost completed. It will be featured at the Storywalk in Sendra Park.

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
 3/21/15