

LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT – May 2015

Library Issues / Advocacy

The Illinois Library Association (ILA) has a link that you can use (CapWiz):

<http://capwiz.com/ala/il/state/main/?state=IL> which provides easy access to current Illinois bills related to library advocacy and the mission of the ILA. You can also access general information about Federal, State and local legislators.

Financial

We continue to spend conservatively and have expended approximately 69% of the library's working budget over the past ten months (through April). For the next fiscal year we will continue to use the working budget figures with no increase. The upcoming fiscal year begins July 1, 2015. A commitment to continue to operate the budget conservatively is in place. The working budget is distributed monthly at all board meetings in the compilation report and also within a comparison chart noting the previous year's figures. The library budget is reviewed with both the accountant, finance committee, and provided to the full board. The working budget will present an accurate picture of what we limit spending to. The library's financial stability and success has been lauded in our audit, by financial advisors PMA, and recognized to be excellent with the ability to bond as necessary.

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. We have several sponsors in place: Budde Marketing, Homer 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.

In other program news, we are undertaking a Camp-in @ Homer Library where families can schedule time for reading and activities in a tent located within the large study room. Costco and Oriental Trading sponsored our Great American Campout with donations. Costco is also working with us for our end of summer reading program celebration. Sponsors and their support allow us to operate the Summer Reading Club without budget impact.

Ethics Committee/ Trustee Oath of Office

At this meeting the board needs to appoint or renew all terms of the library ethics commission.

Currently Brian Smith is the Ethics Chair, and serves with trustees Owens and Mitchell. The position for trustee The Ethics Commission has the authority to review and act upon complaints arising under Article 10 of the Model Ordinance (Gift Ban), and also to review complaints arising under Article 5 of the Ordinance for Prohibited Political Activities.

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 have begun the process of undertaking a Standard Chapter Review at each board meeting and this will resume in the fall.

Teen/Homer Twp. Oak Arbor - Gleaner Join Hands Day Craft Fair Project

The library participated in a Join Hands Day Gleaner project, where adults and youth partner together. Library youth took leadership in a Craft Fair project and the arbor provided support. This second Craft Fair @ Homer Library was extremely well received with 727 attendees (142 people per hour). Supported by the Gleaners Homer Oak Arbor the craft fair netted over \$1,200. All monies will be directed to the purchase of audiovisual and programming. The library teens worked cooperatively with members of the Oak Arbor to help make this happen. We have already received several requests to undertake the event next year from both attendees and vendors. Teens undertook a bake sale, had 32 vendors and teens also planted 63 plants. Marketing ads were placed in the Farm Bureau News and in the Homer Horizon Newspaper. An article was undertaken by the Horizon and also sent to the Tribune. We extend our appreciation to the Homer Twp. Oak Arbor/Gleaners for their partnering support. It was very successful, the teens enjoyed it and worked hard, and we will plan to hold it as an annual event. Pictures are posted on the library's photo site at: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/homerlibrary/>

May/June Programs and Events

We completed our Money Smart Week Programming. The partnership with BMO Harris Bank has been excellent and extended our ability to offer more to our library community. The IL American Water partnership continues with programs and activities. We will host the Lemont Art Guild for monthly programs beginning in September. A wide variety of programs anchors our offerings and includes: book discussions, featured movies, IL Humanity grant programs, bingo, mahjong, yoga, and other specialty programs. Youth Series Story Time programs will resume in the fall.

May/June Programs and Events (many days have multiple programs):

- ◆ May 1 Basic Yoga
- ◆ May 2 Arts & Crafts Vendor Fair!!!
- ◆ May 4 Adult Movie Matinee
- ◆ May 5 Teen Book Club
- ◆ May 6 Story Explorers
- ◆ May 7 Kids Bingo
- ◆ May 7 Teen Volunteer Night
- ◆ May 7 Mother's Day Craft
- ◆ May 8 Vinyasa Yoga
- ◆ May 8 Armchair Traveler
- ◆ May 9 Board Game Central
- ◆ May 11 Mother Daughter Book Club
- ◆ May 11 Mystery Book Club
- ◆ May 12 Teen Ice Cream Sundae Bar
- ◆ May 13 Chess Club
- ◆ May 13 Ladies Night Out – Movie Night
- ◆ May 14 Teen Advisory Board
- ◆ May 15 Adult/Senior Bingo
- ◆ May 18 Board Meeting

- ◆ May 19 Doggie Dilemmas
- ◆ May 20 Legos
- ◆ May 20 Adult Book Discussion
- ◆ May 21 Tween Scene
- ◆ May 21 Teen Manga/Anime
- ◆ May 22 Coffee, Donuts, & a Movie
- ◆ May 23 Children's Cinema
- ◆ May 24/25 LIBRARY CLOSED - Sunday hours resume after Labor Day
- ◆ May 26 Legos / Chick Lit Book Club
- ◆ May 27 Super Fab Lab
- ◆ 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 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 / Read to the Beat

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 30th.

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 long range plans of our 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

May 15, 2015