

LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT – November, 2015

DVD collection

For the first ten months of 2015 we have circulated 11,236 DVDs. The DVD collection began as a donation initiative to offset budget costs and establish a core collection. To date we have 2633 total DVDs: 1866 at the library and 767 on the bookmobile. Some movies are popular duplicates and some titles new to the library collection. We continue to welcome DVD donations and are adding titles to the collection. The DVD collection is extremely popular and averages 200+ movies checked out weekly or approximately 33 movies taken home each day.

Star Wars

More than 300 visitors enjoyed the Nov. 5th Star Wars event. Characters on hand that evening included Chewbacca, Princess Leia, Storm Troopers, Darth Vader and a Jedi Knight. Many attendees dressed in costumes and all enjoyed games, face painting, trivia, a mock fight, stories, and more. This was also an opportunity to have 20+ young adult volunteers participate to receive community service hours, many from the Lemont High School Honor Society, Homer Jr. High, and LTHS. We appreciate and thank all volunteers.

1,000 Books before Kindergarten

Pete the Cat was on hand at the program celebration on November 24th along with 150 children and parents. We now have more than 500 families/children registered for this reading incentive program that promotes each child reach their 1,000 book goal before kindergarten, with incentives at key points along the way. 1,000 books can be accomplished by reading three stories daily for one year. We thank the Jr. Women's Club for helping to support this program initiative.

Outreach to Schools

Homer Library provides quality school support. Approximately 341 students from 15 Schilling elementary classes have visited the Homer Library and received a "behind the scenes" tour in October and November. Each visit finishes by having the teacher spin our "Wheel of Fortune" to receive a special classroom visit item. All 2015 Kindergarten classes have completed their tours.

Our Web page features a homework/assignment link to submit a library alert form. Teachers use this as a means of sending our staff messages, questions, or comments. A Teacher's Flier is sent annually to all schools and details how we can assist them. This is the second year with a Special Needs class of 21. There were 12 sessions during this past Winter/Spring, three in the summer and eight in the fall. These outreach efforts to schools and community members encourage all students to get a library card and feel comfortable visiting the library.

Music Showcase @ Your Library

A long time goal to bring in a musical showcase to anchor Sundays once a month has been realized. A partnership with House of Music has been arranged to provide a monthly 2-hour musical event on select Sunday evenings beginning November 22nd at 5:30pm. The first showcase featured both an acoustic young performer (4) set, a guitar set, and a classical piano performance. Sound and professional lighting are on board and we have begun promoting the Music Showcase widely, including on our social media. This event offers a free musical and educational atmosphere for the Homer community. We hope the library will fill a need in providing the public with an opportunity to experience the arts and enjoy musical showcases. Plans for jazz, guitar, aCappella performances, and theme events are being coordinated. Studies show that there are many benefits to listening to music including relaxation, improvement in cognitive function, and improvement of a person's emotional state. We hope to engage audiences with a wide variety of music and styles. The next musical showcase is December 20th with holiday music.

Winter Reading Club

The Winter Reading Club "Blizzard of Books!" 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 will begin February 1st. The bookmobile will also run the Winter Reading Club.

Donations

General donations and sponsorships received this year are approximately \$10,853. The grand total of all donations in the past five years is approximately \$33,749. With a tax-capped budget and grants less readily available this is one way to support operating a conservative budget. It is a high priority for me to continue to proactively pursue this type of community support.

In General

1. Sunday hours began September 2015 and are very popular.
2. The Library Calendar that lists all of our programs is accessible from the Web page.
3. Both school visits and registration promote the library's collections, services and support of teachers and students.
4. The Library Web page highlights a "quick click" homework/assignment alert form on the site at www.homerlibrary.org. Teachers use this as a means of sending messages, questions, or comments.
5. Distribution of monthly calendars to local schools is ongoing via a parent information log-in portal. We will extend outreach of specialty events to the schools as they allow.

Building and Grounds

Fall and winter decorating touches add a nice ambiance.

Program and Special Events

Upcoming library events and programs include:

- thru Nov 19 Story Time
Wiggles & Giggles
Special Needs Story Time
Family Story Time
Simply Stories
Music & Movement
Polish Story Time
- November Food for Fines Month
- Nov 2 Movie Matinee / Selling on eBay Program
- Nov 3 Teen Book Club
- Nov 4 Mahjong / Pokemon / Build with Nanoblocks
- Nov 5 Star Wars Specialty Program
- Nov 6 Yoga
- Nov 7 Apple Harvest
- Nov 9 Mystery Book Club
- Nov 9 Mother Daughter Book Club
- Nov 9 Retirement
- Nov 10 Youth Bingo
- Nov 10 Author Talk: Katie Dierkes, local author
- Nov 11 LIBRARY/BOOKMOBILE CLOSED
- Nov 12 Tween Scene
- Nov 12 Teen Advisory Board
- Nov 13 Vinyasa Yoga
- Nov 13 Armchair Traveler
- Nov 14 Babysitting
- Nov 14 Writers Rally – Local authors Meet & Greet
- Nov 16 Medicare Update
- Nov 17 Teen Chocolate Fest
- Nov 17 Reptiles
- Nov 18 Story Explorers
- Nov 18 Mahjong

- Nov 18 Chess
- Nov 18 Adult Book Club / Photography Program
- Nov 19 Optical Illusion Art Workshop
- Nov 19 Teen Manga
- Nov 20 Adult Bingo
- Nov 21 Teen Open Gaming
- Nov 23 Youth Bingo
- Nov 23 Mortgages
- Dec 1 Teen Book Club
- Dec 2 Mahjong
Gingerbread Story Time
Pinterest Palooza
- Dec 3 Teen Volunteer Night
Reptiles
- Dec 4 Yoga
- Dec 7 Movie Matinee
Build a Gingerbread House
- Dec 8 White Elephant Bingo
Youth Bingo
Frosty's Winter Wonderland *Sponsor: March Family*
- Dec 9 Mahjong
Chess
Story Explorers
Build with Nanoblocks
- Dec 10 Boppin' with Books
Youth Bingo
Organized Resolution
- Dec 11 Vinyasa Yoga
- Dec 12 Holiday Sides
- Dec 14 Mother Daughter Book Club
Mystery Book Club
- Dec 15 Crafternoons
- Dec 16 Mahjong
Polish Christmas Traditions
Adult Book Club
- Dec 17 Tween Scene
Storyteller Megan Wells *Sponsor: March Family*
Teen Manga
- Dec 18 Adult Bingo
- Dec 21 Children's Movie
- Dec 22 Holiday Crafts
- Dec 23 Mahjong / Legos
- Dec 24 LIBRARY CLOSED
- Dec 25 LIBRARY CLOSED
- Dec 29 Legos
- Dec 30 Mahjong
- Dec 31 LIBRARY CLOSED
- Jan 1 LIBRARY CLOSED

BOOKMOBILE:

- Nov 30-Dec 9 Let's Tag It
- Dec 14-17 Holly Jolly
- Dec 21-Jan 3 BOOKMOBILE SERVICE ON HIATUS

Insurance

Last year the policy review showed that with the revision of worker's compensation the policy had reduction of \$3,140. This year we also saw a reduction overall of an additional \$352.

Changing pattern of Use

Usage has remained strong with an 8% increase in visitors over last year. We have approximately 33 visitors each hour, up from 25 people visiting last year. Homer Library has a solid 14,121 resident library cards in use (we purged records as required by PrairieCat, so it is lower than the 16,592 last reported). We see database and electronic usage increasing by 17%. Collection usage has decreased 11%. While items checked out have lessened, usage of the library overall has increased. Foot traffic has increased as we, along with other libraries, are used heavily as community social centers, as well as for materials. Residents enjoy the broad range of educational and recreational programs we offer. There is increased demand for the study rooms and computer usage has increased, too.

In Conclusion

This year we received grant letters of support from 22nd Century Media (Homer Horizon), Marian Village, Gleaner Oak Arbor, Homer Township, and the Lemont Art Guild for grant applications that we hope will be successful.

Upcoming priorities include policy work. The revision is complete and will be ready for committee review before the next board meeting. The audit has been completed. Grant reports, writing and sponsorship support continues.

This monthly report is intended to give you a detailed overview and provide pertinent information on local, regional and state issues. If there is any issue that you would like information about or if you need anything detailed more fully, please let me know.

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Library Director

11/27/15