

## LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT – October, 2015

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### Library Milestone

We celebrated our two-year anniversary on Wednesday, October 21<sup>st</sup>. Customers continue to provide positive feedback regarding the addition and remodeling. I am also proud to note that the Little Free Library is completed and anchored at Sendra Park. We will join the Township to celebrate the Sendra Park updates on November 1<sup>st</sup> at noon.

### ILA Conference

The annual Illinois Library Association conference is always educational. Alex Annen and Heather Colby attended ILA. Both appreciate the opportunity to network, learn the latest in library trends and issues, bring back new ideas, and see the newest in materials and items from vendors.

### Levy

The drafted levy is within your packets. There will be a 7 p.m. special meeting preceding the regular board meeting this month for a public hearing in taxation hearing before adoption of the 2014-15 levies.

The levy defines the categories in which tax dollars are being allocated to. The recent legal notice simply does not allow us to provide the detail necessary or the reasons that adequately describe levy intentions. Homer Township Library operates in a fiscally conservative manner. We proactively pursue grants, sponsorships, special event fundraisers, and awards that benefit our community. The library board and administration are proactive in trying to maintain our tax rate so we can operate effectively. Over the long term, the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law ("tax cap") has reduced the library's tax rate from the .15 rate that was originally established in 1982. This creates a significant loss of funds for library services and in providing for the operation of the library. The library levies a higher amount than we actually will receive in part to ensure we do not lose further ground. The levy notice cites a 9.43% increase (reduced from 12.6% and 11.6% for the 2013 and 2014 years, respectively). We anticipate an actual gain of approximately 2-3%, and that will be dependent on actual "new growth" monies. Last year the levy notice was essentially the same and we saw almost a 4% increase due to new growth monies.

The levy request helps the library to:

1. Retain the maximum dollars that as a taxing district we are allowed by statute.
2. Insure that we capture both the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and New Growth monies. If there is new growth in the community and we are serving more people, our rate is adjusted so the library has proper funds to operate to serve residents adequately and meet State Standards. If there is limited or no new growth we see narrow or no gain.

The increase on the corporate and special purpose levies should capture any new property in addition to the CPI increase. Tax revenue for new property can be static in that if the new property extension does not materialize, then it is not being extended and collected. The other portion increase is for a back-up levy required for the bond issue (expansion). However, the District continues to pay the bond payments from operating revenues and does not anticipate ever using this levy. Accordingly, the District will abate the bond levy annually in February, before the County extends and collects the tax.

At one time the library accounted for approximately 3% of a homeowner's tax bill. We now account for approximately less than 2% of a person's tax bill. Our Library mission is to make available to all people (from birth through senior citizenship) the materials and resources they need to participate in lifelong learning, enjoy a good quality of life, and to remain civically engaged. As a community center we take great pride in serving our community with excellence and in maintaining a conservative budget. Usage is strong.

Long range budget planning continues to allow us to serve our Homer Glen and Homer Township communities well.

### **Building and Grounds**

- ICS has just completed the facilities Capital Replacement Plan. This will be in place for our bond renewal/insurance. It details long-range planning needs for replacement and upkeep costs. It's a 10-year projection and will be updated every 5 years. Some items may be logically deferred until necessary, but it is a proactive and useful tool. It will be reviewed at the October board meeting.
- VanBruggen Signs has reviewed and provided costs to repair the outdoor sign.
- Further meetings with LFI for the youth desk and a budget are being undertaken this week.

### **Special Outreach**

1. Fall Field Trips have been scheduled as an outreach endeavor to school classrooms to encourage all students to get a library card and feel comfortable visiting the library.
2. October is Illinois Arts Month. We feature monthly art programs co-sponsored by the Lemont Artist Guild.
3. The Teen After Hour event in October was well received with more than 65 teens enjoying games, trivia, spinning the wheel of library fortune, photo booth fun, ping pong, Wii, snacks, and more.

### **Programs + 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
- Oct 26 Teen Movie Night
- Oct 27 Legos / Chick Lit Book Club
- Oct 27 Puppet Show (*sponsored by the March Family*)
- Oct 28 Mahjong
- Oct 28 Adult craft – fall wreath
- Oct 29 Healthy Habits
- Oct 31 Trick or Treat
- 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

**BOOKMOBILE:**

- Nov 2-10 Family Reading Night
- Nov 16-24 Bears vs. Packers

**In General**

1. We have scheduled School District 33C field trips to showcase our youth and library areas.
2. Sunday hours have begun and are extremely popular.
3. The Library Calendar that lists all of our programs is accessible from the Web page.
4. Both fall school visits and registration have begun to promote the library’s collections, services and support of teachers and students. The Library Web page highlights a “quick click” homework/assignment alert form on the site at [www.homerlibrary.org](http://www.homerlibrary.org). Teachers use this as a means of sending our staff messages, questions, or comments.
5. Distribution of the library newsletter was undertaken via the Homer Horizon Newspaper.
6. Monthly calendar distribution to local schools is ongoing. The monthly calendar has been featured on Mayor Yukich’s blog.
7. We have scheduled a full slate of quality fall and winter programming.

**Conclusion**

This monthly report is intended to give you a detailed overview and provide pertinent information on local, regional and state issues. Upcoming priorities include oversight and review of the working budget and continuing to solicit for local sponsorships. Assistant Director Sara McCambridge is currently working with the Local Records personnel to follow the legal guidelines for Local Records retention and proper disposal.

Please don’t hesitate to contact me if you need any item in my report detailed more fully.

*Sheree Kozel-La Ha*

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Library Director

10/24/15