

LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT – September, 2015

Sunday Hours

We officially opened Sunday hours 4-8pm on Sept. 13th. Sundays are quite popular and the library averaged 23 visitors per hour during September. Fall Sundays are active use days, especially with school starting.

1,000 Books before Kindergarten

Our 1,000 Books before Kindergarten is a free program that encourage families to read 1,000 books with their child before the child enters school. Sharing books helps cement pre-reading skills and helps to provide an important foundation to school and learning success. This is an incentive program and is supported in part by the Homer Junior Women's Club. At key levels participants receive a family book bag; each child is able to select a new book of their choice, a certificate, and t-shirt. By reading three stories each day a family will have read more than 1,000 books in one year, so this is an achievable goal and our program encourages library use and program participation. We began this initiative in November 2014 and to date have 462 participants with 16 who completed the 1,000 book goal. Pictures of children who reached the end goal of 1,000 books are posted in the youth area by the sun room.

Annual Report / Per Capita Grant

Every public library in Illinois is required by law (ILCS) 5/4-10 to file an annual report with the State Library. The purpose of this report is to obtain and publish data on the resources and services of all Illinois public libraries. Our annual report is completed with fiscal year-end statistics and ISL has requirements each year that must be met to receive funding. Previously we updated our Technology Plan, formalized our "Green" document, undertook a SWOT and community SCAN, and we continue to systematically review the required State Standards for Libraries.

With the building now at 26,497 square feet, we note increasing social and small group use. Trends noted before construction included residents wanting additional computers and technology, the need for areas to study and socialize in, more quality programming, and fax and copier use. This has been achieved. We see growing use of the six independent study rooms, quiet reading room, multiple 2-4 person tables, and couch seating throughout. We have a comfortable junior area across from the diner style booths, a separate teen room, and a heavily used community and youth activity room. The new print on demand system is in place for the computers, and updated copier equipment has been well received. These allow for an optimal library experience for residents. They can find a niche for their specific use from a multiple of possibilities.

Per capita grant funds are earmarked for supplementing the information tools that our patrons use daily, including books, audio, and special collections of materials. Total grant award should be in the range of \$40,000 and is based on the population. This is not a competitive grant. As supported by the 2010 census data, the population of Homer Township (39,059) has 27.4% children, 63% adult and 9.5% seniors. The primary change is the growing senior base (up 3.3%) and the adult base (up 6.4%). Homer residents use the Library heavily for a cross range of services, including computers and copiers, programs, reading, studying, classes, as a meeting place, and as the community social center.

Special Events

1. On August 27th the library participated in the Chamber of Commerce Community Expo with both table and bookmobile on site. Approximately 900 visitors attend this event. Library Staff and teen volunteers assisted with set-up, tear-down and helped to represent the library during the event.
2. The Gleaners Oak Arbor Club, which is based on Gleaner Life Insurance Society, began their third year. I serve as the Reporter. The Oak Arbor will continue to undertake community service projects that partner with our teens and provide opportunities for teen leadership. With Oak Arbor support we undertake the annual Craft Fair and Meals on Wheels winter specialty bags. This group is one illustration of the library partnering in many ways with other organizations. The Oak Arbor supported the Safe Driving program this year, which was filled to capacity. We plan another spring Safe Driving program due to its popularity.
3. Kindergarten Field Trips and school visits will be an outreach endeavor to classrooms this fall to encourage all students to get a library card and feel comfortable visiting the library.
4. September is Literacy Month as well as Library Card Sign up Month.

Illinois Library Association

The Illinois Library Association Annual Conference is titled 2015 All for One Conference: A Library State of Mind. Held October 22-24 at the Peoria Civic Center, it brings together library organizations in Illinois for a chance to connect, network, and learn together. This will be the first combined annual conference of the [Illinois Library Association](#) and [Illinois School Library Media Association](#), in collaboration with the [Illinois Association of College and Research Libraries](#) and the [Special Libraries Association Illinois Chapter](#). Complete information is at: <http://librariesillinois.org/>

The ILA conference is the best place in Illinois to develop professionally, connect with colleagues, and learn about new techniques and new products that improve library services for our community. This year's conference offers approximately 70 programs and will feature more than 150 companies exhibiting their new products and services. This conference is the third-largest state library exposition in the nation, representing 3,000 librarians from the state's public, academic, school, and special libraries. Librarians, trustees, library assistants, educators, and others interested in libraries all attend. Conference attendance highlights the innovative ways that we can use to embrace best practices, offers opportunities to network with colleagues, and provides information to encourage librarians' to remain vital and indispensable to our community.

An entire track of programming has been created specifically for library trustees. As noted in the State Standards for Illinois Libraries, trustees are encouraged to attend at least one educational opportunity annually and I hope you will consider the ILA Conference. Trustee day is set for Saturday, October 24th. The day begins with opportunities to network with other library trustees, followed by many quality educational sessions that you may attend, including the Fundraising luncheon and exhibit times. This year's conference planning committee dedicated itself to bringing a top notch line-up of programming. Program information is included in your board packet. Please let us know if you plan on attending.

Programs + Events

We welcome the Lemont Artist Guild with monthly programs that began September 16th. Other library events and programs to note include:

- September Literacy Month and Library Card Sign Up Month
- September Fall newsletter distributed via Homer Horizon Newspaper
- Sept. 2 Ladies Night Out
- Sept. 3 Teen Volunteers
- Sept. 7 Closed – Labor Day
- Sept. 8 Teen Book Club
- Sept. 9 Chess Club
- Sept. 10 Teen Advisory Board
- Sept. 13 Sunday hours 4-8 pm resume
- Sept. 14 Fall program sign-up /Adult Movie Matinee
- Sept. 14 Mystery Book Club
- Sept. 14 Book Buzz
- Sept. 15 Rep Durkin Traveling Office Hours
- Sept. 16 Lego's
- Sept. 16 Artist Guild class
- Sept. 16 Adult Book Discussion
- Sept. 17 Manga
- Sept. 18 Bingo
- Sept. 19 Babysitting
- Sept. 22 Chick Lit Book Club
- Sept. 23 Manga
- Sept. 23 Adult craft
- Sept. 25 Coffee, Donuts & and a Movie
- Sept. 28 thru Nov. 19 Weekly youth programs

- ✓ Story Time
 - ✓ Wiggles & Giggles
 - ✓ Family Story Time
 - ✓ Music & Movement with Mary
 - ✓ Polish Story Time
 - ✓ Simply Stories
- Sept. 28 – Oct. 3 Banned Books Week: Celebrating the Freedom to Read
 - October IL Arts Month
 - October Food collection drop off for Oak Arbor Gleaners
 - Oct. 6 Harry Potter crafts
 - Oct. 7 Coloring for Adults
 - Oct. 8 Grimm’s Grimmest: Darker Side of Fairy Tales
 - Oct. 12 T Rex Show (*sponsored by IL American Water*)
 - Oct. 15 Harry Potter Party
 - Oct. 16 Teen After Hours
 - Oct. 18-24 Teen Read Week
 - Oct. 18 Family Movie Night
 - Oct. 19 Fall Prevention
 - Oct. 20 Start your Business in IL
 - Oct. 21 Sumi-e Painting (*sponsored by Lemont Artist Guild*)
 - Oct. 21-24 IL Library Association Annual Conference; Peoria
 - Oct. 24 Tailgating Foods
 - Oct. 26 Teen Movie Night
 - Oct. 27 Puppet Show (*sponsored by the March Family*)
 - Oct. 28 Adult craft – fall wreath
 - Oct. 29 Healthy Habits
 - November Food for Fines Month
 - Nov. 5 Star Wars Specialty Program
 - Nov. 19 Family Reading Night

Monthly programs include: Yoga, Armchair Traveler, Teen Volunteer Night, Teen Manga, Reptiles, Adult Matinee, Coffee-Donuts and a Movie, TAB, Chess/Checkers, Tween Scene, Legos, Crafternoons, Adult Book Club, Chick Lit Book Club, Teen Book Club, Mystery Book Club, Mother/Daughter Book Club, and Story Explorers.

Weekly programs include: Mahjong, a variety of Story Time sessions, Wiggles & Giggles, and Music & Movement.

In Conclusion

Grant writing is in full swing. I have completed the ALA Curiosity Creates Service to Youth grant and am finishing for submission the Science Kits for Public Libraries grant. We are waiting to hear from Best Buy on the recent teen grant I submitted. Grant opportunities allow us to try programs with support for new technology, materials, and collections. Sponsorships and grants are both key priority areas of mine to help support the operation of a conservative budget.

This monthly report is intended to give you a detailed overview and provide any pertinent information on local, regional and state issues. Upcoming priorities include the levy and review of the working budget.

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

Sheree Kozel-La Ha

SHEREE KOZEL-LA HA
Executive Director

9/25/15