

## **LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT – March 2016**

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### **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 family 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.

### **Bookmobile Service 10-year Milestone**

National Bookmobile Day will be celebrated on April 13, 2016. May brings our 10<sup>th</sup> 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 728 patrons coming onboard. The bus also initiated 6 new library cards, and 266 children attended 31 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 78 items, and another 16 items delivered to our VIP residents in 5 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.

A committee has been established and planning is underway for a Bookmobile Birthday Party event for late summer or early fall. More details will be coming.

### **Long Range Budget Planning**

The working budget is being completed and will be reviewed with both the accountant and finance committee. It is based on the upcoming fiscal year, which begins July 1, 2016. The working budget does not use the appropriation amounts, which represent our authority to spend. Instead it will present an accurate picture of what we are striving to limit spending to. This budget, when completed, will be included in your packet for a future board meeting.

## **Financial**

We continue to spend conservatively and have expended approximately 52% 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, 2016. 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.

**D.E.A.R. – Drop Everything and Read** is a national month-long reading celebration in April. It is a reminder of the impact reading can be if it is a priority in your life. Initiated from a popular Beverly Cleary Ramona book, D.E.A.R. is endorsed by the National Education Association (NEA), Parent Teach Association (PTA), ALA Library Service to Children (ALSC) and more.

## **National Library Week - April 10-16, 2016**

National Library Week began in 1958, as a national observance sponsored by the American Library Association (ALA) and libraries across the country. National Library Week is a time to celebrate the contributions of our nation's libraries, librarians and library workers and to promote library use and support. This year National Library Week is being promoted with the theme *Libraries Transform*.

**National Library Workers Day – April 12, 2016** is a day for library staff, users, administrators and library friends/groups to recognize the valuable contributions made by all library workers. On January 25, 2003, a resolution was proposed to honor library staff which read: ...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..."

**Money Smart Week @ your Library– April 23-30, 2016** is a partnership with the American Library Association and the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago. Designed to promote a public awareness campaign to help consumers better manage their personal finances through hundreds of libraries and programs that stress financial literacy.

**Children's Book Day** - April 30, 2016 The celebration of children, families, and reading is held annually each year.

## **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

## **Craft Fair**

Saturday, April 23 is our fourth Craft/Home Fair, run by our library teens. We are partnered with Gleaners Homer Twp. Oak Chapter in this fundraiser and community event that will assist us to add more books and programs.

## **Programs + Events**

The Winter Reading Club was well received with 448 participants. Activities promoted reading and literacy via an incentive partnership program the Chicago Wolves Hockey Team. Incentives and giveaways included tickets, pucks, hats, winter caps, and posters. Story Walk at Sendra Park was also incorporated into the Winter Reading Club with participants earning an extra raffle ticket for participation.

Patti Nakutis does 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.

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. We now offer Ladies Night Out group, Knit Club, and Bingo. A series of financial programs will kick off national Money Smart Week in the spring, anchored by sponsorship from BMO Harris Bank. 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.

### **Money Smart Week**

BMO Harris Bank is sponsoring several Money Smart Week programs and initiatives that begin in April. We appreciate greatly the third year of BMO Harris Bank support for quality educational programming and new materials.

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.

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Library Director

3/26/16