



Director's Report

August 11, 2014

Renovation Plan:

An informational mailing addressing the benefits of the renovation plan and inviting residents to attend the public meetings was mailed to Library District residents (in Lemont and DuPage County) in mid-July. This was followed by two community meetings held at the library on Tuesday, July 22nd and Wednesday August 6th. Following a presentation on financing information and the renovation plan benefits, there was very productive input and questions from the public in attendance (complete details can be found in the meeting minutes posted on the library website).

Financial:

We have received more than half of the fall 2013 tax collection from Cook County. DuPage taxes will be received in September.

Property Tax Distributions – Levy Year 2013-2014

	<u>Projected</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>% Collected</u>
Fall 2013	\$736,000	\$492,325.45	(\$243,674.55)	66.9%

Audit FY2013-2014:

Auditor Ken Jaszczak will meet with Director Pointon on August 15 to begin the Library Audit.

Budget & Appropriation Hearing:

A meeting of the Finance Committee will be held on Thursday, August 14th to approve a draft of the Budget & Appropriation Ordinance for FY2013-2014. A tentative B&A must be available for public inspection at least 30 days prior to the date of the B&A Hearing in September (to be set at Board meeting on September 14.).

Buildings & Grounds:

- Johansen & Anderson, our new HVAC contractor, completed their first inspection in mid-July. They discovered a problem with a faulty circuit breaker that had burned out on the compressor which required replacement.
- The humidifier has completed its first schedule self-cleaning cycle. This is a scheduled cleaning per the program when using a water treatment system. Scale build-up seems to be very minimal; a chemical wash is scheduled for late September.
- We are investigating options for removing the two dead ash trees at the Library entrance. The trees on the parkway are the responsibility of the Village and will be removed when funds are available (trees that pose a safety/power threat are being given priority).

Technology:

- New 24 inch monitors were installed on eight adult public computers, a catalog computer and at two staff desk.
- New Anti-Virus protection software from AVG has been installed on public access computers and staff computers.
- Adobe reader and Java up dates have been installed on public access computers.
- Accounting software Sage 50 has been updated and is working well.
- Anti-spam software was installed on the Directors computer to see if it will control spam. The software Spam bully seems to be doing a good job at stopping 90% of the spam emails coming in. Mail Washer is another product available for spam clean up. This product is used at the Email server level and would catch emails before they get delivered. The product is in a test environment and will be evaluated for 30 days.
- The Technology Inventory is in progress and will be completed shortly for the Auditor.
- A service patch was installed to Paper Cut in hopes that a communication problem and a no-print problem could be solved. The problem is still present. Fernando is working with TBS to resolve the problem.

Adult Department:

- The Adult Librarians have been busy planning our Library Card Sign-Up Event for September. *Powerpalooza* will take place on Tuesday, September 9th from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. All Lemont Library District residents are encouraged to “Unleash the Power of Your Library Card.” The event will feature visits from superheroes Spiderman and Captain America and the popular sisters Anna and Elsa from the movie *Frozen*. Other entertainment will include a photo booth (wear your super hero costume!) and music by DJ Greg Carter. Gelsosomo’s Pizzeria will provide free pizza for attendees, who will also receive frozen drinks (slushies) and popcorn from SBT Bank. Throughout the month of September, patrons can pick up a Powerpass, complete five library-related activities and be eligible to win a Kindle Fire HDX.
- We are also finalizing our outreach plans. Our newly acquired tent, folding table and library flag were used at the Summer Reading picnic and will be utilized at upcoming biweekly visits to the Lemont Farmers Market, beginning on August 19th. We will offer tech help, new card information, voter registration, ereader check out and story times!
- The fall newsletter, featuring programs for September through November is currently in design and will be mailed the last week of August.

Teen Department:

- We were honored to learn that Sara Brunkhorst’s proposal was awarded a \$1000 Teen Read Week Grant, only ten of which are chosen every year by YALSA and the Dollar General Grant Foundation. The money will be used for programming, prizes, and books for Teen Read Week (October 12-18).
- Many interesting programs were held as part of the Summer Reading Program, including:
- A successful Vegetarian Iron Chef program where the attendees created interesting meals (appetizers, main dishes, and desserts) from foods that were strictly vegetarian. Prizes were awarded to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place entries.
- The Lemont High psychology class Literature Lounge was the most well attended Lit Lounge. *The Testing* by Joelle Charbonneau and the major themes of the book in respect to psychology were discussed.
- The second DIY Wild program was as heavily attended as the first. Teens made button and bead animal collages on canvas.
- For Teen Tech Trek the teen iPad was used to create stop motion videos with the Vine application and they were uploaded to the Lemont Teen Facebook page.

- We had many High School and Middle School students attend the Death by Dewey after hour murder mystery dinner party. The teens were given a packet with the storyline, suspects, murder weapons, areas of the library, and their first clue. They had to use the resources of the library to find each clue before they could solve the mystery.
- Chess Club was again well attended and we have decided to extend the club into fall programming as well.
- At Lit Lounge, teens discussed *Winger* by Andrew Smith, a book from the YALSA Teen Top Ten Summer Reading Challenge list. We discussed the believability of the characters and unreliable narrators.

Summer Reading Program:

A variety of wonderful programs were offered as part of Paws to Read and were almost uniformly well attended. Highlights for July included:

- The annual Putt-Putt Golf in the library turned out to be a hole in one with a full house playing the 9-hole golf course. The teen volunteers turned out and created their own designs for each hole. It was gorgeous! We picked up little trophies and awarded them to the three top players.
- The Downton Tabby Tea Party had two sessions of girls and boys all eager for a spot of “tea and crumpets”. They brought their favorite toy cats and made cat headbands and then dressed up to take pictures in our feline photo booth. Lots of volunteers made the tea a special success!
- Library mom Kerri Jonikas did a marvelous job with “Paint a Pooch”. The younger children enjoyed painting a ceramic dog and the older ones did as well as the artist who created the original blue dog, George Rodrigue. Their watercolor paintings were worthy of framing.
- Presidential Pets featured fun trivia and stories about the pets that have lived in the White House. Sponsored by Lemont VFW 5819.
- The Cook County Farm Bureau returned for Pig Bingo, an in depth look at pigs. Using the information they learned, the kids won prizes when they had pig bingo in the traditional game.
- The stuffed animal sleepover was one of the breakout hits of the summer. The kids and parents enjoyed playing hide and seek with their pets, listening to great bedtime stories, and making a special picture frame to go along with their photos of themselves and their pets together. Then they left their animals to sleep over at the library. The children returned the next morning for donuts and juice, saw pictures of the hijinks the animals were up to during the night and then went home very happy.
- Paws to Listen—A Concert on the Lawn turned out to be a lovely program. The Second City Brass was wonderful with the music fitting the summer theme perfectly—Carnival of Animals, the Pink Panther, Rubber Duckie and more. The neighbors came outside to listen from their driveways. The library was fortunate to have the Illinois Arts Council provide funding for the event.
- What Does the Fox Say complemented the hit song with the game freeze dance. The happy crowd went on a fox hunt where they caught the fox hiding in the library bathtub. They made fox marionettes and finished with popsicles outside.
- Animal Safari--Kids 5-11 had a "wild" hour at Dawn Strand's Animal Safari. We started with a scavenger hunt which sent the kids out into the library to find their hidden animal. Once they found their animals, they learned a little bit about how to use the library catalog to find books about their animal. We then finished off the program with a fun cartoon, and then headed outside for popsicles and sidewalk chalk animal murals.
- Kids 7-11 enjoyed an hour of non-stop fun at our Go Dog Go relay races. Kids did old standbys such as wheelbarrow races, but added some unique races in as well. They raced to see who could get dressed the fastest in our crazy outfits, and the first to use an entire roll of toilet paper to wrap their "mummy".

- Book Barkers was a great way for kids to practice their reading skills and the program proved to be so popular that we decided to continue it through the fall. The dogs and their trainers were wonderful and the kids loved reading to them.
- The tweens enjoyed their own programs as well, including: A Dog's Blog showed them how to create their own reviews and a future blog, Petapaloosa made towel origami puppies, played animal Bingo among other fun things, Batman Day watched the Lego Batman movie and made their own versions of the Batmobile. (Random House and Richard Haddock donated a box of Batman goodies to use at the program.)
- Nicole DeVries brought her artistic talents to the forefront in Print Some Paws. The large group of kids learned how to cartoon and went home with some great artwork.
- Story times and Action Academies were full of pawsitively great fun this summer. Both Babytime and Toddlertimes drew record crowds enjoying canine and feline stories.
- Action Academy attendees had a great time with watermelon bowling, water balloons, games, and they particularly liked this summer's read "The Good Crooks: Dog Gone".

The Grand Finale picnic, sponsored by SBT Bank, on Monday, August 4 was truly grand. The Lemont Park District once again was gracious and gave us the full benefit of their picnic grove, portable mic, and support. The crowd of more than 100 enjoyed beautiful weather, fantastic tasting hot dogs, cooked up by Fernando and Sandi, and a potluck dinner. Robin Bengtson brought her All Star Dogs to do tricks including climbing ladders and jumping through hula hoops. The event concluded with a Best in Show drawing of prizes. The Lemont Artists Guild contributed one of the grand prizes.

Summer reading was a marvelous experience for all this year, thanks in no small part to our staff and volunteers. Mary Inman, and the Children's Department staff of Marilyn DeVries, Nicole DeVries, Kay Norfleet, Sara Brunkhorst, and Dawn Strand, did an outstanding job manning the children's desk and keeping the thrill of summer reading fresh for its participants with some fantastic and inventive programs. The teen volunteers were a wonderful help, especially the story program helpers as they came each week faithfully and were extremely useful. All volunteers were thanked at a special party on Wednesday, August 6 featuring pizza and a movie.

Both program attendance and children's book checkouts increased this summer. 226 children completed the reading program, with another 100 or more others participating in Fetch story times and Action Academies. We estimate that they read 91,245 minutes and two of the groups read 3,133 books!

Fall programs will begin with story time signup on August 25. Programs will begin on Monday, September 15.

Training/Workshops:

- Sandra Pointon attended the 3M Cloud webinar introducing their newly updated reader app.
- Christina Theobald attended the PinTech meeting.
- Debbie Somchay attended the PinDigital committee meeting at the Fountaindale Public Library.
- Debbie Somchay, Pam Zukoski, and Paul Dobersztyn attended the Dewey or Not to Dewey webinar hosted by ALA.

Outreach

- Sandra Pointon presented information about the Library Renovation Plan at the monthly meeting of SALT (Seniors and Law Enforcement Together) on Tuesday, August 2nd to a receptive group of 40 seniors.
- Sandra Pointon attended the Lemont Administrators Lunch hosted by Lemont H.S. on August 1st.

- Dawn Strand had a marvelous time teaming up with the Park District for the second Wag Your Tales program at Virginia Reed Park on Thursday, July 17. The crowd of sixty or more enjoyed stories with Dawn followed by the park district team's games.
- Paul Dobersztyn attended the Lemont Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours hosted by Air 1 Wireless on July 15. Air 1 has agreed to present a program on Smartphones at the Library in November.
- Debbie Somchay delivered the outreach items to Franciscan Village on Monday, July 28. 6 people attended and 27 items were checked out.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra D. Pointon