



Director's Report

July 7, 2014

Personnel

- Dean Ramos, a librarian at White Oak Library District, Romeoville Branch, was hired as a substitute reference librarian.
- Mary Semetulskis resigned her position as part-time Finance Assistant; the search for a replacement is ongoing.

Renovation Plan:

A Special Board Meeting was held on Thursday, June 26. Thomas Reedy and William Hofherr from George K. Baum, Chicago presented a series of financing options for the renovation bond for the Board's consideration.

Two community meetings have been scheduled to present financing information and invite public discussion/questions on the renovation plan. The dates are:

Tuesday, July 22nd – 7:00 p.m. and Wednesday August 6th at 7:00 pm. – Library Meeting Room

An informational mailing addressing the benefits of the renovation plan and inviting residents to attend the public meetings will be mailed to Library District residents (in Lemont and DuPage County) next week.

Financial:

- We have received \$29,593.46 in the spring 2013 DuPage tax collection. Collections for FY 2013-2014 totaled \$1,528,348.93, exceeding the \$1,485,000 projection by \$43,348.93.
- Cook County Fall tax bills are due by August 1; we should begin receiving fall tax revenues within the next few weeks.

Property Tax Distributions – Levy Year 2012-2013

	Projected	Actual	Difference	% Collected
Spring 2013	\$816,722.00	\$796,766.99	\$19,955.01	97.55%

Updates to Personnel Policy:

A revision to the Tuition Reimbursement Policy and the addition of an annual Staff Development Day event are under consideration. An update to the Vacations provisions of the Personnel Policy to extend vacation status to full-time professional librarians is also proposed. (see attached draft).

FY2015 Illinois Per Capita Grant Requirements

A requirement of the FY2015 grant is as follows:

“The library staff and board must review and report on progress in meeting Chapter 7, “Collection Management and Resource Sharing,” of *Serving Our Public 3.0: Standards for Illinois Public Libraries*, 2014.”

A copy of Chapter 7 and the grant requirements are attached and will be discussed at the July 10 Board meeting.

Buildings & Grounds:

- Adjustments were made to the VAV boxes for the large meeting room; it was trying to heat the space, rather than cooling.
- We safely evacuated patrons and staff to the basement for 30 minutes when the tornado sirens sounded on the evening on Monday, June 30th. We were more fortunate than many in that we did not lose power in the aftermath of the strong storms. The arbor at the entrance to the library was removed as it was uprooted by strong winds.

Technology:

- Three security cameras were recently replaced with matching models (the previous install had 2 different brand cameras). The system is working per manufacturer’s specifications with good image quality. Signs providing notification of camera surveillance have been posted on the front doors, near the staff entrance and by the chillers in the back of the library.
- We have ordered eleven replacement monitors for the adult public computers.

Adult Department:

- The Reference team of Debbie, Pam and Paul are looking forward to fall, scheduling programs for inclusion in the next newsletter and planning special events. We will host the annual Library Card Sign Up event on September 9th, which has become a great way to kick off the fall and highlight the benefits of a free library card!
- We are also planning to participate in several outreach events, including the Senior Expo on August 27. We hope to have the LEAP mobile Polaris interface available by late August so that we can attend the Lemont Farmers Market and other events and issue new library cards and check out materials off-site, as well as promote upcoming events and services.

Teen Department:

- The Teen Summer Reading Kick-Off Party on June 20th was fairly well attended with a lot of regular teen program attendees showing up and a few newcomers. The weather was beautiful for a visit to the pool and everyone had a great time.
- The first DIY Wild program was heavily attended. We made Dinosaur bookends and all participants seemed enthusiastic about July’s prospective project.
- The first meeting of Chess Club, in partnership with Lemont HS, on June 24th was huge hit! We expect even more attendees for July and plan accordingly. We will likely continue Chess Club into the school year as a monthly or bi-monthly program.
- Lit Lounge teens discussed the book of the month, *Eleanor and Park*, a Printz Award honor book and one of the books from the YALSA Teen Top Ten Summer Reading Challenge list. The book was very well received and compared and contrasted to other teen novels with similar storylines.
- The Sketch of the Wild on June 27th was well attended and the teens had a great time learning how to draw animals with Dan Laib. We would definitely ask him back for any other art/sketching programs in the future.

Summer Reading Program:

- Sunday, June 8th turned out to be a great day for a Summer Reading Kick Off PAWTY. The weather was beautiful and nearly 200 people turned out for a great show from A Zoo To You. They brought some unusual animals which included an albino skunk and a wallaby. Other animals included a fox, baby alligator, a tarantula and a boa constrictor.
- Summer reading is going extremely well with 390 folders distributed to children, ages babies to 11. The kids are coming in regularly to the dog house to pick their prizes out of the dog food bowl and to turn in their reading logs. All of the story times and Action Academies are well attended---everyone loves the Paws to Read theme with excellent reviews from parents as well!
- Kids' programs have been fun and very well attended (attendance in June was 12% higher than last year). One knockout hit program is Book Barkers. Each Thursday evening, three dogs come to our Bark Park (children's room) and listen to children read to them. It has been so popular that extra spaces were added and it's definitely slated to return in the fall. Dawn Strand has done a great job setting up Book Barkers.
- Dave Howe returned with his dinosaur fossils on June 28th. They were amazing! To see the rib of such a large creature was really cool and the children loved the program. He brought a dinosaur egg—with an MRI picture of the baby dinosaur inside.
- Katie Boyle held an excellent cooking program with a large group of kids. They made hot dog snakes, bird nests, and other recipes.
- We had our first program from the Cook County Farm Bureau in June. "Where Does Ice Cream Come From" was filled to capacity before we even had time to hang the flyer! Kids enjoyed hearing about cows and making cow masks. The program ended with kids making their own ice cream. They will return in July with Pig Bingo!
- Our staff did a great job with other programs. Marilyn DeVries led the kids in playing human checkers with cats versus the dogs. Nicole DeVries had a very Alex Trebek kind of day playing Animal Jeopardy! Kay Norfleet has had larger than usual groups attending Creature Features, our Monday movies.
- Tweens have not been forgotten! The Lego Lockin was a big draw for the boys as well as the girls. They watched the Lego Movie and then made their "lego" snacks. The tower challenge had towers of legos looking pretty fantastic! Tweens also had a great time creating Dinosaur book ends at another tween event.

Pinnacle Library Cooperative:

The PLC Budget for FY2014-2015 of \$559,249 was approved at the Governing Board meeting on June 20. The budget includes Polaris maintenance costs, system administrator services, and Pinnacle Cooperative purchases of digital content, and databases. Per the cost-sharing formula (based on library circulation numbers for 2013) Lemont's share of the overall budget is calculated at 10.3% (\$53,816.96).

Officers for FY2014-15 were elected, as follows: Chair – Jennie Mills (Shorewood); Vice Chair – Julie Milavec (Plainfield); Treasurer – Kevin Medows (Joliet) and Secretary – Paul Mills (Fountaindale).

Training/Workshops:

- Sandra Pointon participated in a 3M Cloud webinar.
- Christina Theobald attended the PinTech meeting.
- Jackie Lakatos chaired June PIRC meeting.
- Debbie Somchay attended the PinDigital committee.
- Debbie Somchay attended the PAC committee meeting.

Outreach

- Sandra Pointon attended the Lemont Administrators Lunch hosted by the Village of Lemont on June 12th. The heads of Finance, Economic Development, HR and Public Works updated attendees on village projects and issues which was very informative.
- Our joint venture with the Park District at Virginia Reed Park on June 26th was a hit! Librarian Dawn Strand read animal stories to a huge crowd on the story time hill, followed by games from the Park District.
- The Lemont Park District brought their day campers for a visit on Wednesday, June 11. In keeping with Paws to Read, the 59 campers watched the movie *Bolt*.
- Lemont's new Little Mountain Theatre group held auditions for the Wizard of Oz's Toto at the library on Sunday, June 22. The library provided lemonade, cookies, and fresh water for people and pets. The dogs were very cute.
- The Chess Club, in partnership with Lemont High School, had its first session in June.
- Debbie Somchay delivered the outreach items to Franciscan Village on Monday, June 30. 6 people attended and 25 items were checked out.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra D. Pointon