

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT – OCTOBER 2016



OPEN HOUSE DEDICATION OF THE EBENREITER COMMUNITY SQUARE – OCTOBER 1, 2016

Photos: Sally Ebenreiter and her family posed with members of the library board/friends/staff in the new Ebenreiter Community Square. Gary Merrill (of Mad Dog & Merrill) posed with Lauri Konyon of Hums of Faith alpacas.

The rain didn't dampen our spirits for this event which showcased the newly renovated library and new Ebenreiter Community Square. There were vendors, food, and family activities throughout the morning and many local residents came to honor and thank Sally for this great gift to the community.

OCONTO COUNTY SCENIC ROAD RALLY – OCTOBER 1ST

The first road rally based on our barn quilt trail here took place on October 1st as well, and there were 28 rally teams that toured Oconto County that day. Our barn quilts project worked with the UWEX and Oconto County Tourism on this event, and it was my task to compile the questions and create the rally questionnaire.

The rally took riders to several communities throughout the County, including to our library for the Open House event (riders earned extra points if they took a picture of their team in our new Community Square!). Several communities throughout Oconto County held special events on this day to lure rally riders in, and we had many sponsors who provided prizes.

We had wonderful coverage of this event...both WLUK and WBAY came here to Gillett (to New View Industries) and filmed segments promoting the rally, and the event was also featured in Travel Wisconsin. Rally teams came from as far away as Sussex, WI (in Waukesha County) and Marquette Michigan. Our committee will be meeting in early November to assess this event and discuss hosting future rallies here.

On another note...I was just contacted by John Maino to be on his television show called "Hands on Wisconsin" which airs on Saturday mornings at 11:30 on Channel 5. He features local craftspeople and community highlights and they want to do a segment on our barn quilts project! They'll be filming us at New View Industries next week for an upcoming segment.

PACKER FOUNDATION VISIT

I applied through the Foundation for a grant to provide entertainment in the Square, and a member of the Packer Foundation board came here last week to see our project. I was told that there are 10 members on this board and that there were 425 applicants this year. Each of the 10 board members will visit 42 of the applicants (they contact them all), and we will hear in November if our project was chosen.

It turns out that the board member who visited us here was Terrence Fulwiler, and he serves on not only the Foundation board but is also on the Packers Board of Directors. After he left, I looked him up...it turns out that his family started WS Packaging in Algoma, and they are the largest label maker in the US (second largest in the world). Terrence was an aeronautical engineer and came back to his Dad's business and grew it to over 2000 employees...he is now a full time philanthropist and has received several national awards.

Terrence was here for over an hour and was impressed with all that has been done. The Foundation funds many projects (including homeless and battered woman's shelters) and he told me that if we aren't funded this year that we should try again, that persistence pays off with this board. Anyway, it was an exciting day to have a member of the Packer organization here (not as exciting as when John Kuhn was here a few years ago though!).

STRONG TOWNS CONTEST

I submitted our Community Center/Community Square project to "Strong Towns" which is an organization similar to the "Project for Public Spaces" (PPS is who we received our *Outside the Box* grant through a few years ago). They promote that communities will grow stronger by making small, incremental investments over time. The contest asked that you nominate a project from your town that exemplifies their Strong Town principles including:

- Local decision making and public input
- Bottom up rather than top down action
- Project design that's built to adapt or change incrementally
- Utilizing existing resources, land and infrastructures instead of building from scratch

They didn't want submissions to include new stadiums or performing arts centers...they asked for homegrown neighborhood-based small projects. Ours is a very small project, compared to those being done in much larger communities across the US, but I felt it was worth a shot. They'll announce the winners at the end of October.

CHANGE IN PRESCHOOL STORYTIME PROGRAM @ THE LIBRARY

We lost a lot of kids for our Friday morning program due to the 4K class being offered at the GSD, so we've decided to change the starting time to 11:15. We polled the families at school and this was the time that most could attend. We're planning to offer snacks, as kids are always hungry after school, and will have stories, crafts, and activities.

BULBS GOING IN THE SQUARE TODAY

Friends of the Library member Gary Jaeger donated \$250 for flower bulbs (and I'm donating the rest) so that 1000 bulbs can be planted in the Square. Gary was out there for several hours and got most of the bulbs in, which include daffodils, tulips, and alliums. It should look great next spring.



HAUNTED HOUSE 2016

We're almost ready to start the tours which will begin next weekend, and the theme is Grimm's Fairy Tales. Our Community Haunted House will be open the last two weekends in October: Oct. 21st and 22nd and on Oct. 28th and 29th from 6:00 – 8:30 in the Community Center. I have a lot of great volunteers, and we're expecting a great turnout again this year. Last year, we had over 500 visitors in the 4 nights that we were open and they came from all around northeast Wisconsin.

Families waited in line for over 1 ½ hours outside last year, and we'll be making improvements for this year. We'll entertain everyone inside the library by the fireplace while they're waiting for their house tour to begin, and we'll read Grimm's Fairy Tales to get everyone in the mood.

The Haunted House is family-friendly (no blood or gore) but we have several surprises and effects in store for all of our visitors. We did manage to startle a few adults last year and are planning for more of the same this year!



Our cast of Haunted House performers last year with Audrey (from Little Shop of Horrors).