

# LIBRARIAN'S REPORT - MAY 2017



*We've received a lot of compliments on how beautiful the Community Square is with all the bulbs blooming this spring. Friends member Gary Jaeger and I donated and planted over 500 bulbs last fall (Tulips, Daffodils, and Alliums) and they're really putting on a show this spring on Main Street!*

## **PRESENTATION IN EAU CLAIRE FOR THE INDIANHEAD FEDERATED LIBRARY SYSTEM**

Along with myself, 3 other librarians from around the State made presentations on our community projects to their member libraries on Thursday, May 11<sup>th</sup>. The IFLS organized a series of programs for their member libraries on community outreach, and this was the final day for them to get together and brainstorm.

The 4 of us spoke for a half hour, and after lunch we heard from their member libraries on what they were doing in their communities. Leah, the IFLS's Library Development and Youth Services Coordinator, said that the 4 of us complimented each other well and that she was very happy with how the day went.

I learned from the other 3 presenters as well (from Appleton, Minocqua, and Columbus). It's always great to collaborate with others and adapt their ideas to fit in your own community.

## **DOWNTOWN MARKET BEGINS THURSDAY, JUNE 1<sup>ST</sup>**

I'm working to get vendors again this year, and the Downtown Market will take place on Thursdays as before from 4:00-6:00. The Missy Tucker band will play in the Square on the first day of the Market, and I'm hoping to schedule additional entertainment throughout the season.

## **TEEN ZONE continues to be a success...**

Children's Librarian Cathie Erdmann is doing a wonderful job of organizing weekly events for our teens, and there has been a great turnout each Wednesday that we've held this event after school. On Mother's Day week, local business owner Julie Allen from "For You With Love" donated her time to teach a class on flower arranging. All went home with a beautiful arrangement for their Moms for Mother's Day. We hope to have more individuals come forward to teach a class and share their knowledge with our teens. The Teen Zone will continue through the summer as a part of our Summer Reading Program.



*Julie from "For You With Love" here in Gillett taught our TEEN ZONE kids how to do flower arranging on Mother's Day week.*

## **GARDEN SERIES – SPRING PROGRAMS @ THE LIBRARY**

We had a great turnout for all 3 programs, many came from outside of the Gillett area to attend. Matt from the Flower Shoppe was very happy with their Open House event, and says that he will do this again next year. They opened earlier than normal in the season for this event, and he said it was a success.

Cheryl and Kathy from the "Farm Near the Falls" opened up the series of programs with a talk on Herbs in our Community Center. And Scott Reuss from the UWEX did a program on Vegetable Gardening.



*Kathy & Cheryl (Farm Near the Falls)*



*Scott Reuss (UWEX)*

## OCONTO COUNTY LIBRARY SERVICES BOARD

This board met on May 17<sup>th</sup> and Kevin Hamann (County Administrator) announced that our 2018 funding from Oconto County for Gillett will remain the same in 2018. 3 libraries are going up in funding a bit, and 3 of us are staying the same.

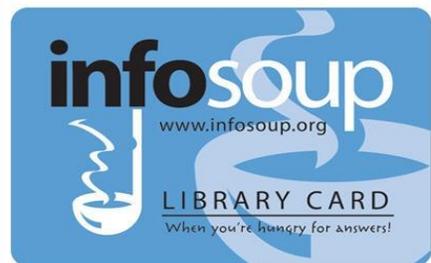
“Computer Use” isn’t one of the criteria used for funding, as two of our libraries use their City’s Internet (and those figures aren’t available to provide statistics). Our computer use here in Gillett is high, and it’s an important service that all of our libraries provide; it’s unfortunate that this statistic can’t be used towards our funding from the County.

The board is currently reviewing our 5 year plan and there was some talk about rearranging the percentages, but it will probably remain the same. Here’s how the County funding is divided up between our 6 member libraries, as decided by the OCLSB:

- Circulation: 45%
- Circulation to Non-Residents: 20%
- Program Attendance: 15%
- Total library Collection: 10%
- Total Service Population: 10%

The OCLSB is supplying funding for our 6 libraries to place ads in local papers and on Facebook to promote the use of Oconto County libraries. Oconto County still has to reimburse Brown County each year for our residents who use their libraries. The main cross-over borrowing takes place in the southern part of the County...those who live in Little Suamico and use Pulaski libraries. Per Kevin, it’s cheaper to pay Brown County each year than it is to put a library in that area of the County, and chances are the residents there would still use Brown County libraries as their children go to school in Brown County.

### Visit Oconto County Libraries



**Brown County Library use cost Oconto County Taxpayers \$105,755**

Questions? Ask at your Oconto County library.

**Oconto • Oconto Falls • Lena  
Gillett • Suring • Lakewood**

It was decided that all 6 of our county librarians will make a report to our Oconto County board beginning this July. Kevin will schedule one library every other month to make a 10-15 presentation during the regular County board meetings. I think it will be good for the board members to hear from us directly, as many don’t ever set foot in a library or have any idea of the impact that libraries can have on their communities.

## **NFLS and OWLS WILL BE LOOKING FOR NEW DIRECTORS**

The Nicolet Federated Library System that we belong to is looking for a new director. Mark Merrifield, who has been the director there for 20 years, needed to retire due to health issues.

And the Outagamie/Waupaca Library System, part of our OWLSnet consortium of both Systems here in northeast Wisconsin, is also looking for a new director.

There is talk about NFLS and OWLS working together even more to hire just one director to take over for the consortium, as federal and state funding for Library Systems is in question now. Both Systems currently share/coordinate one delivery service as well as cataloging; it will be interesting to see how this plays out over the new few months as they work with DPI to form a plan of action.

## **COMMUNITY SQUARE UPDATE**

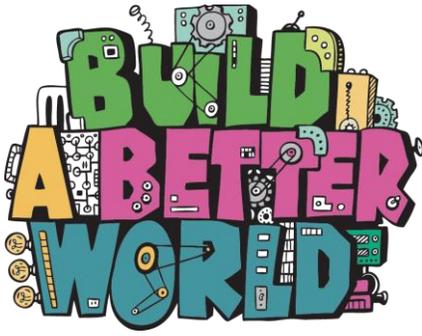
I met with Kyle from Lang Landscaping this past week to discuss the problem we're having with the gravel strip that was installed around the perimeter of the concrete. I explained that it may be several years before we can move forward with finishing all of the outdoor spaces (that additional funding was needed) and that the gravel isn't working. It's difficult to navigate through it with a wheelchair or stroller, and it gets sprayed all across the Square as well as in the grass which makes it difficult for the City crews to maintain.

We decided on replacing the existing gravel with Traffic Bond (TB) mixed with a dry concrete for a more solid hold. TB is a much smaller crushed limestone and it compacts; it's used in driveways et. al. and will be a better solution until we can install the permanent landscaping there.

Also, Shane from the city will be looking into locking electric box covers for the outlets on the outside of our buildings. We've checked all of our breakers, but there are still some outside outlets that are staying on.

## **DEPARTMENT HEAD MEETINGS UPDATE**

At our last Monday morning meeting, Mayor Pecha said that the city is working on developing a "real" Outlay Account, as it was set up in the past. Apparently Nan is on this committee and all Department Heads will be asked to create a 5 year plan of needs. Our library board needs to discuss what capital expenses we want to include in our plan. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Pecha family and hoping for a speedy and complete recovery. Mayor Pecha has worked hard to keep all departments communicating, and our meetings have definitely been beneficial.



## **SRP 2017 – “BUILD A BETTER WORLD”**

Our Summer Reading Program will begin the first week after school let's out and we have several special events planned. On Friday, June 16<sup>th</sup> Mike Riesch from Earthaven Museum will be here for a program, and on Friday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> the New Zoo will be here. As in the past, the kids will earn points for all of the reading that they do and for all of the projects that they complete and they will turn their points in for prizes at the end of the program. We hold an Auction/Sale/Raffle on that last day and everyone goes home with some nice prizes.

We're finalizing the details of the schedule, and will register kids the first week in June. We're planning an ongoing project this year where the kids will “Build a Better Gillett”, adding new components to the street scene each week that will be constructed on top of one of our bookshelves here at the library. Cathie is working on a few local field trips as well...one to our Gillett Area Historical Museum with our teen group.

## **FRIENDS OF THE GPL BOOK SALE**

The Friends have been organizing all of our donated books to get ready for the upcoming book sale in June. The sale will be open to Friends members on Wed, June 14<sup>th</sup> and then to the public on June 15 and June 22 during the hours of our Downtown Market.