

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT – JANUARY 2019

By Kay Rankel, director



Entry display case - Winter Reading Challenge

13th ANNUAL HOLIDAY WREATH HUNT coordinated by our library

There were 19 families/groups that participated in the “Hunt” this year, and several area businesses and organizations donated prizes for the hunters. Many families do this activity every year as part of their holiday tradition, and I was able to give a prize to all who participated. Here are some of the winners collecting their prizes!





SKATING THE SQUARE THIS SEASON

Mother Nature didn't cooperate at all this season and I'm sorry to say that we won't be building a rink in the Square this winter. We didn't have enough snow to build the rim or enough cold to make the ice, and the upcoming forecast doesn't look good. We've had a lot of calls about skating here this winter (especially over the holidays), and we now have over 65 pair of ice skates that have been donated for us to loan out. Unfortunately, this winter we've had ice everywhere else except where we wanted it for our skating rink.

Here a few pictures from last year. Many of the folks who went skating had never worn skates before and it was great to see them out there!



WINTER READING CHALLENGE

We're promoting reading again this winter, and participants have until March 1st to complete 6 of the 10 challenges. Readers can win prizes like books, gift certificates to area businesses, and/or assorted winter goodies. Challenge examples include:

- Snuggle up with a good mystery
- Read a book that has a word associated with WINTER in the title (i.e. "cold", "ice", "snow")
- Read a book in your favorite way...like under a warm quilt or nestled by the fire

THERE'S NOW BETTER TIME TO READ!

NEW COMPUTERS (LAPTOPS TOO)

Our new computers are up and running! John (the Info/Tech Support person from our Nicolet Federated Library System) was here in late December to install them (HP Prodesk with Windows 10 OS). John also alerted us of a good deal on monitors, so all are equipped with the new larger monitors.

Our Library System recommends replacing computers once they're 6 years old, and that's not always possible. Hopefully, though, we can start on a rotation to replace some computers every few years. John is currently wiping out all of our old PC's in preparation for a spring sale that will coincide with the Friends Book Sale. And one of the old computers will replace the dedicated computer in our Children's Area that "died" last fall (that one was a Windows 98!).

We also received a donation from a local resident who works for the Oconto Falls school district, and he donated several laptops to our library that the district was replacing. I plan to keep a few for staff purposes (we always need them for programming, including our Community Haunted House). Unfortunately, though, we will not be able to circulate them to the public. I had hoped that we could "check them out" to library users while they were here @ the library. John says that the laptops are all 6 years old with Windows 8 OS, and our Library System will not support them (our System never recommended this version and none of our libraries have Windows 8 OS in-house). It would be too time-consuming for library staff to have to wipe them clean after each use, so we will be selling them in the Spring Book Sale as well.

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE STATE

DPI (Dept. of Public Instruction) has the site ready for us to upload our annual data, and our Library System is close to having all of our 2018 statistics ready for our reports. I'll be starting to compile everything from our library (which is due to the state by early March) and will need statistics from our records here at the library as well as budget info from the city. Our board will need to meet in February to approve the report before it's submitted to the state.

VALENTINE DANCE February 16th @ the Golden Sands

I've been asked to forward information on this community event which is being sponsored by the Gillett Civic Club and the Gillett Business Association. Both groups are joining together and they are inviting all Gillett area groups/organizations to meet for a fun-filled evening. Cocktails are at 6:00 and dinner is at 7:00 (chicken and tips), and the cost is \$15/person. RSVP to either Rachel Borneman (715-216-3855) or James Beaton (920-366-9107) by February 8th.

LIBRARY UPKEEP/REPAIRS

Lisowe Heating was here to replace parts in both furnaces in the Community Center (bearings and blower motor/fan in one and a venter wheel in the other). Those are the original furnaces in that building which was built in 1998. Hopefully this will keep them running for a little longer.

The automatic door opener on the parking lot entrance of the library was repaired as well. This door opener was purchased and installed in 2007 and it needed some parts in the motor assembly. I had also changed the 9V batteries in both of the push plates (I never knew that there were batteries inside those plates) and it's amazing that they've lasted as long as they did.

OCONTO COUNTY LIBRARY SERVICES BOARD – 5 YEAR PLAN

This board, which regulates how all 6 of our county public libraries are funded by Oconto county, is in the process of determining the criteria used to base that funding on. All 6 library directors are to work on a proposal to present to this board for when they meet next. Our Linda Hougas serves on this board as our representative, so hopefully we'll have some pull in getting things changed to better reflect the current services that libraries provide.



WILD WISCONSIN WINTER WEB CONFERENCE IN JANUARY

The Wild Wisconsin Winter Web Conference is a state-wide virtual conference developed by the Nicolet Federated Library System and supported by 15 other library systems in Wisconsin. It's a full 2 days of programs (Jan 23rd and 24th) with topics that include customer service, marketing, programing, and library environments. It's a great opportunity to earn CE credits for recertification without having to leave the library. Here's a link for more information on the WWWWC: <http://www.wildwiscwinterweb.com/>