

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT – JULY 2017

REPORT TO OCONTO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS...

County administrator Kevin Hamann scheduled me to be the first Oconto County librarian to make a report to the County board, and I prepared a brief presentation for their County Board meeting on July 20th.

I had a lot to talk about including our Community Center/Community Square project and our efforts in creating a Teen Center here in Gillett for our area youth. I don't think that many of the board members have ever set foot in a library or had any idea of the role libraries play in their communities. The board asked several questions and I feel that it went well.

All 6 Oconto County public librarians have been asked to prepare a 5-10 minute presentation to the County board every other month for this next year.



SRP - "BUILD A BETTER WORLD"

Our Summer Reading Program is almost over, and it will end on Friday, August 4th with our annual Auction/Sale/Raffle. Auctioneer Jeff Bahrke will be here and I've received donations to purchase prizes for our summer reading program kids. It's been a fun summer that started with visits from Mike Riesch of Earthaven Museum and the New Zoo.

Each week, we encouraged the kids to make a new feature for our "Build a Better Gillett" display which takes up space on two of our lower bookshelves, and the public has been voting on their favorite entries...the top three vote-earners will earn a special prize.

ADDRESS NUMBERS/LETTERS FOR THE COMMUNITY CENTER

My husband donated the address numbers for the Center which will be applied to the glass window over the Main Street door as soon as I can get up there with a ladder to clean the window and install the numbers.

The Friends of the Library is paying for lettering which will go on the overhang at the Main Street entry which will say "GILLETT LIBRARY COMMUNITY CENTER". They've hired Scott Wolfe to do the installation, and he will also do the repair on that overhang which involves replacing the wood fascia. Hopefully this will be completed by the middle of August.

COMMUNITY SQUARE UPDATE

I applied for and received a grant from the Little Rapids Corporation for over \$17,000.00 to cover the cost of the pergola as well as an outdoor Checkerboard in the Community Square. This is great news, as the cost of the pergola came in a lot higher than what was originally expected.

The plan was to work with the Industrial Arts class at the GSD to construct the pergola, and we've been in discussions now for over a year with them. Unfortunately though, teacher Preston Zimmerman recently resigned from his position. Preston suggested I contact Ray Johnson (the Technology/Engineering Instructor) which I did, and he does not teach a construction class.

So at this time, we can either wait until the school hires a new Industrial Arts teacher or look elsewhere for a contractor/builder to do this project. Preston had received quotes from Oconto County lumber for one of the plans (the one that was suggested by Gary Hougas) and my grant submission covered the costs of that plan with the students doing the work; hiring another contractor will certainly add to the cost.

Lang Landscaping was here July 26th to replace the gravel strip around the Community Square by the back parking lot. The gravel was difficult to navigate through (especially with a wheel chair), and the gravel was constantly being spread all around the Square and parking lot areas. Lang installed concrete where the Square meets the parking lot, and this should temporarily solve the problem until we're able to complete the entire parking lot area around both buildings.



NEW STORYWALK ON MAIN STREET

I installed a new story in our StoryWalk holders along Main Street and it's the "County Fair" by Laura Ingalls Wilder. The StoryWalk encourages families to exercise their bodies and their brains at the same time as they stroll down our Main Street, and it starts (and ends) at our library.