

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT – MAY 2019

by Kay Rankel, director

SPRING HAS SPRUNG in the Community Square...



Hundreds of tulips and daffodils are brightening up the Square, and the trees, shrubs, and perennials are starting to pop. We get a lot of compliments on the spring display (everyone who goes to the post office gets a good eyeful every day), and Friends of the Library member Gary Jaeger and I plan to add more summer and fall blooming perennials again this year.



DOWNTOWN MARKET opens Wednesday, June 6th

The season opener for the Market coincides with the Citywide Rummage Sale, and our Friends group will also be holding the Spring Book Sale on this day in the Community Center. We're hoping to hold special events/programs throughout the season on Market Day to attract vendors and shoppers. This is the 5th year for the Downtown Market which meets on Thursdays from 4-6 PM.



NEW STORYWALK IN THE SQUARE

There's a new StoryWalk set up in our Community Square and it's called "Happy Go Ducky" by Jackie Urbanovic. Families can walk the walk and read along as they enjoy the outdoors this spring.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Our Janie is doing a great job continuing our outreach to ***Serenity Gardens*** and the ***Sunshine Daycare Center***. She goes to each facility once a week and reads for an hour. Each week, she reads to about 14 children at the daycare and 9 adults at Serenity. Janie brings books to both places that we leave there each week for them to read...both facilities have library cards so we can check out materials to them directly.

The daycare kids greet her every week enthusiastically and the kids feel special when they're selected to be the ones that can sit close to her for the story!

And the residents at Serenity enjoy this activity as a chance to socialize and interact, and they really look forward to her visit each week. She's been reading short stories from several authors including Wisconsin author Michael Perry who writes about small town life on his farm in northwest Wisconsin. Many can relate to his stories which encourage lots of conversation, and a few laughs too.



SUMMER READING PROGRAM

We've finalized the weekly schedule of events and will begin registering kids the first week in June. Our first program will be on Friday, June 14th with special presenter Stepheni Curran (her book is "Rock On Kindess...Pass it On!"). Each week, we have a different program with the "Universe of..." theme including Pets, Music, and Superheroes. You may see us strumming down Main Street one week, or out in the Community Square to celebrate the Summer Solstice.

As in past years, we reward the kids each week with points for all the reading that they do and for all the projects that they complete. They turn their points in on the last day like money that they can spend at the Auction (professional auctioneer Jeff Bahrke always donates his time for us on this day).

We always have a Summer Project for them to do that relates to the theme, and we have the public vote on their favorite entry. And the take home activities each week are also an opportunity for the kids to earn points.

The summer is our busiest time of year at the library, and I'm looking forward to another successful program this year.



FRIENDS OF THE GPL BOOK SALE

Thursday, June 6th: Noon to 5:00
Friday, June 7th: Noon to 5:00
Saturday, June 8th: 9:00 to Noon

Books, CDs, DVDs, Hp Windows 7 computers, bank door and table, & more...

COUNTY FUNDING INCREASE FOR US @ THE GPL

The Oconto County Library Services Board (which governs all 6 public libraries here in Oconto County) has been working to develop the next 5-year plan. This plan includes the funding formula that the County uses to fund us all each year.

I've been pushing to include "Computer Use" as one of the funding criteria, and it will now be included in the next plan...this is great news for us, as our use is high here in Gillett. I've also been pushing to eliminate "Total Collection" from the funding formula completely, as it shouldn't matter how many items are on a library shelf, especially if they aren't circulating; and this also discourages libraries from weeding out outdated and/or unpopular material.

5 of the 6 Oconto County librarians agreed on a funding formula based on current services to our communities. We put together a proposal for this board to consider which included several changes:

- Include computer use, including wireless activity
- Decrease the funding for Circulation (as circulation is going down in all libraries)
- Increase the funding for Programming (as program attendance is going up and it is an important service that all libraries provide to their communities); this will also benefit us here in Gillett
- Eliminate "Total Collection" from the funding formula completely
- Increase funding for Total Population because we all agreed that larger communities should have more funding as they serve more

At the OCLSB meeting on May 7th, the board agreed to our proposed changes and the weight we gave to all of those criteria. This is good news for our library as it will mean an increase of about \$3300 each year from Oconto County once the new plan is in place.



LIBRARY SYSTEM GRANT OPPORTUNITY

I'm working with the library directors in Lena and Suring to put together a grant proposal to bring Virtual Reality sets to our 3 libraries here in Oconto County. Our Nicolet Federated Library System is offering grants right now and the 3 of us are collaborating together on this. If we're awarded the grant, it will give us the opportunity to have 2 headsets here in Gillett that we can use for programming to provide news, information, and educational content to our library users in a fun and interactive way.