

Upstairs, Downstairs

What's going on behind the scenes at the Cedar Rapids Public Library

1-21-2008

Administration

- The library has received word that we can expect \$62,067 in Access Plus state funds for 2008. The three Metro libraries together will receive over \$100,000! This is an all-time record. In comparison, only \$1,017 was received in 2005. Using statistical reports and IT staff reports, our administration was able to count our Interlibrary Loan transactions in a way that includes items loaned to Metro libraries. Reimbursement from the State Library depends on the number of transactions counted, and we are benefiting greatly from this change.
- The library's guard service provider has been changed to Per Mar, following city contract negotiations. We are pleased to welcome Derek, the new weekday and Saturday daytime guard, and Nathan, the new evening/Sunday guard.
- Jazz at the Brary tickets will be available on January 28, so plan to get yours before they disappear! This year's "Ornithology" event will feature the Sax Offenders performing a tribute to Charlie "Bird" Parker. Get set for a free evening of hot jazz to warm up your winter! There will be two performances in Beems on February 22: one at 7pm and one at 9pm. Tickets will be available at the Information Desk. Sponsors include KCCK radio, CRPL, the Iowa City Public Library, the Iowa Arts Council, and Bradley & Riley P.C.
- The CRPL Foundation is planning to have a reception for 2007 donors 5-7ish, Friday evening, Feb. 22 prior to Jazz at the Brary. Like last year, it will be held in the second floor lobby.
- Special thanks are due to Lola, Brock and Karen, who coordinated magazine weeding, as well as other staff who donated magazines for our Family Fun Day, which will be held February 2 at the Museum of Art. We co-hosted two FFD's last year in connection with the "Hidden Treasure" art exhibit, and they were so successful that the museum staff wants to continue the tradition. We appreciate our wonderful relationship with the museum and look forward to more joint ventures with them.
- The City of Cedar Rapids has developed a new City Vision Statement:
 - ▲ Cedar Rapids, a vibrant urban hometown—a beacon for people and businesses invested in building a greater community for the next generation.

Iowa Substance Abuse Information Center

- It's been a busy week – lots of activity on the ISAIC phone lines and e-mail inquiries, as well as quite a few walk in patrons to the temporary location.
- Barb is participating on the advisory committee for planning the 2008 Governor's Conference on Substance Abuse, which will be held in Des Moines on April 8 & 9.

IT

- Out-of-state library users with Reference questions now have a simple online form to fill out and are given the option of using PayPal or sending a check/money order. Nick has done a great job of setting up this system for ease of patron use.

Maintenance

- A contractor's meeting was held Thursday morning to discuss control issues and ongoing progress. Three heat pumps have been removed from above the Substance Abuse office ceiling. Two pumps have been put into place and the third one is in process.
- We have been working with continuity issues in the fire alarm system and believe we have successfully dealt with these concerns at this point in time.
- We continue to work with the heat pump contractors to ensure a good installation.

Children's/Programming

- A workshop for the teachers at the Cargill Cares site was held on Tuesday evening. Myrna Loehrlein presented a workshop on "Helping Children with Grief and Other Losses: A Hopeful Approach."
- Children's Services received \$50 to be used for children's materials from the America Reads project. Donated funds left from last year's project are divided up and given to the schools and libraries who participated last fall.
- Marion, Hiawatha and CRPL staff met to discuss the first author visit sponsored by the Giacoletto grant. Bruce Hale will be here on April 29.

Circulation

- Jackie has a new display for the recently returned CD area featuring New Age music for the New Year!

Adult

- The fiction book discussion for this week is David Maine's The Preservationist. Maine draws on the story of Noah and the flood for a powerful and engaging first novel. The book discussion will be held Monday, January 21st at 10AM in the second floor lobby.
- On Thursday, January 17th, Rebecca gave a presentation at the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library about her August 2007 trip to Dobruska, Czech Republic. She won a full scholarship from the Czech government to spend four weeks there in intensive Czech language school. Rebecca was one of 60 students in the program who represented a total of 32 different countries.
- Jo has shifted materials at West to improve browsability. She will be weeding children's materials soon.

Ask Marian

Dear Marian,

I keep seeing messages about the library's operating budget and the capital budget. What is the difference between operating and capital budgets?

Signed,

Dollarwise But Confused

Dear Dollarwise,

The operating budget covers the normal, day-to-day library expenses such as personnel, materials, and general maintenance. The capital improvement program budget (CIP) is a unique budget that provides for funding of big ticket, one-time items. Example of a CIP expenses would include the heat pump replacement or purchasing a new telephone system. The two types of budgets are funded and tracked separately.

Financially yours,

Marian