

# Upstairs, Downstairs

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

**3-31-2008 and 4-7-2008**

## **Administration**

- The second Creative Gardening program of the year, sponsored by ISU Extension and the Linn County Master Gardeners, will be on Tuesday evening from 6:30-8:00 in Beems Auditorium. Michael L. Heger, author and owner of Ambergate Gardens, will present "Growing Perennials in Cold Climates." No advance registration is required, though seating is limited to 150.

## **Iowa Substance Abuse Information Center**

- A new version of the Iowa Facility Locator is now on the ISAIC website at <http://www.drugfreeinfo.org/php/srchdir.html>. This directory is used by professionals and community members; it is an accurate and reliable resource for finding treatment and prevention providers in local communities. ISAIC is very proud of this tool – it allows people to find the help they need in their part of the state.
- ISAIC 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Open House for Library Staff: Please plan to visit the ISAIC office on May 1<sup>st</sup> to celebrate! Join us for treats, conversation, and fun. Because ISAIC is a statewide resource center, we will also be sending out celebration items with each substance abuse order from the library and the Clearinghouse during the month of May.

## **IT**

- Staff installed new computers at Child/Programming desk.
- They also updated software in ISAIC.
- Computers at West needed to be fixed (again.)
- Staff continued to analyze suggestions from City IT.

## **Maintenance**

- The heat pump serving the assistant director's office is now operational. The old heat pump serving the office of the Computer Information Systems manager has been removed and the new heat pump is awaiting control wiring. Preliminary work on the computer room air conditioning system replacement was started on Friday.
- We repaired vandalism damage to the "Generations" statue in front of the main entrance.
- We also repaired vandalism damage in the men's public restroom this morning. Someone had kicked the sink drain p-traps loose and twisted the hot water pressure connection line loose thus causing a flood in the restroom. We believe everything is in ship shape now.
- We had roofers performing warranty repairs on the lower level roof last week.
- We were able to power wash both of our front entrances last week.
- At our last maintenance staff meeting we discussed and planned our next step in the landscaping as the weather improves.

## **Children's/Programming**

- Children's has applied for a grant from ALA in collaboration with the National Endowment for the Humanities. "Picturing America" is an initiative that will introduce students and the general public to some of America's art treasures and promote the understanding of American history and culture in K-12 schools and public libraries.
- The Early Literacy Stations have arrived and been installed. The stations contain lots of popular literacy games for preschool through elementary age children. This was the perfect week for their arrival since it was spring break. Many children have already used the games. One parent reported that her children were enthralled by the games. They spent twice as much time visiting the library as they had intended.
- Last week saw great attendance at our programs: a movie on Monday, the Madcap Puppets on Tuesday, a craft following story time on Wednesday, a make-it-take-it craft program on Thursday, and a First Friday program on spring on Friday.
- The heat pumps in our area have been completed. It's nice to have all our spaces back.

### **Circulation**

- Roma is retiring in May. She will be missed!
- Anneli is leaving sometime in June-July. She also will be missed!
- We seem busier, circ is up. After being closed for Easter holidays it took only 2 full days to catch up.
- Lunch will be catered by Mr. Beans for Staff Day. Email is forthcoming on menu.
- Jackie has a new display in the recently returned CD area to "Put a little spring in your step".
- Christina returned from PLA with new ideas and enjoyed the experience immensely. She will begin mini meetings this week.
- Mark will be training Bob this week to cover as a back up driver. Thanks Mark and Bob!
- The spring windows at West are "Baseball" created by Susanne and "Spring in Paris" by Jackie. Many thanks, ladies!
- The shelving staff has been working hard on their procedures manual and it is coming along nicely. We have a great shelving team!

### **Adult**

- Rebecca attended the Public Library Association conference in Minneapolis March 26-28. The most helpful session was "Where's a YA Librarian when you need one?" concerning reader's advisory and reference service for teens.
- Two groups of eighth-graders from Prairie Middle School toured the CRPL this week to learn about careers in libraries.
- Our next non-fiction book discussion will be Devil in the White City by Erik Larson on Thursday, April 17<sup>th</sup> at 2:00PM.

### **Ask Marian**