

Librarian's Report
Friends of the Library
May 4, 2013

Even though I have gotten a head start on summer planning, there are still a number of decisions to be made before I'll be ready for the start of the summer reading program at the end of June. However, I will report on what I know so far. Attendance at summer programs was down last year and I considered cutting programs or changing them in some way but I have decided to carry on with our usual offerings, to put more effort into promotion and see how it goes. We will not have the clown school or library sleepover but otherwise the same: preschool storytime, writing workshop, teen night, Fun Fridays, Pizza & Movie nights and kids' book club as well as summer reading programs for kids, teens and adults. I will be emphasizing the reading part of the summer and changing up how the kids' and teens' SRP will work. Sarah Groleau has agreed to help me with some of the Fun Friday activities and continue leading the kids' book club, Elizabeth Marx will lead some or all of the writing workshops and I might have some help with some of the teen nights.

The theme for the Summer Reading Program is "Dig into Reading." The kickoff at the Freedom Elementary School will be at 1:45 on Monday, June 24. Cartoonist/Comedian/Musician Keith Munslow will be performing. I applied for and received a \$400 Kids, Books and the Arts grant from the state. That grant plus a contribution from the school will cover the cost of his performance. I have lined up performers for Old Home Week: Wildlife Encounters will be bringing a variety of animals that dig or live underground to the Town Hall on Wednesday, August 7 at 10:00. The Toe Jam Puppet Band will be performing on the library lawn on Friday, August 9 at 3:30. Both were big hits when they came to Freedom two years ago. The total cost for these two performers is \$965, coming under budget by \$35.

I am requesting that the \$400 that was budgeted for the kickoff be added to the general Summer Reading Program budget this year. Because I haven't made firm decisions about key components of the summer reading program, I'm not 100% sure how I would spend this money but some of the things I am considering include a prize wheel for the kids' summer reading program. White Lake Speedway has agreed to provide a combo pass (mini golf and go kart ride) for \$4 per person as a final prize for participants (if I decide to have a final prize – I have in the past). I have already purchased karaoke equipment that I will be able to use this summer (and year round) that cost about \$100. I will try to keep spending under control and may not need all \$400 but to have some breathing room would help a lot.

In addition to financial support from the Friends, I need help with the following:

- Soliciting prizes for the summer reading program raffles
- Help with publicity – making flyers and posters, sending info to the newspapers, updating the website, posting on the library's Facebook page
- Publicizing the museum passes including the organizations' special events
- Cookie makers for Teen Night and Pizza & Movie nights
- Volunteers to be an extra pair of hands at Teen Night and Fun Fridays
- Substitutes at the front desk

Last year the Depews donated \$500 to the Friends for a Librarian's Discretionary Fund. In February I used \$474 of this fund to purchase an iPad Mini and a keyboard/case for it. As with the purchase of the Nook and Kindle a couple of years ago, this purchase helps to keep me up to speed with technology that patrons are using to access the downloadable books and to feel confident when patrons need help with their devices. I have purchased an adapter that will allow me hook the iPad up to the projector for programs and it also works in conjunction with the Karaoke equipment I bought. I used the iPad to play music during last month's after school program and I take it with me to workshops I attend to take notes and access the internet. Thanks very much to the Depews and the Friends for this helpful tool!

I am pleased to say that Peg Scully has agreed to donate a painting for this summer's art raffle. Jane Luke continues to do a terrific job of booking and hosting interesting and well-attended programs for adults and many thanks to her refreshments and publicity committee. I have an on-going conflict on Thursday nights when most of these programs are held and am sorry that I am not able to attend. I am excited that the Friends has an energetic new Executive Board and am looking forward to working in collaboration with them.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth A. Rhymer
Library Director