

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

March 8, 2016

Hoosier S.T.A.R.T.

Todd Williams, a retirement plan counselor representing Hoosier S.T.A.R.T. will be here to discuss this state sponsored plan that could be offered as a benefit to our staff.

Building

Restrooms are complete, but several doors came in warped, so we are waiting for the replacements. One door latch does not function well, but that maybe partially caused by the problem door. The partial privacy panel in the men's restroom is not wide enough to provide privacy an opening door. I asked Steve to work on getting us something else. When they are not reporting that we are out of paper towel, patrons are very complimentary about the remodel.

This was not a good month for water heaters. Saturday, February 13th the staff came to work to find water raining from the ceiling in the upstairs board room. It was flowing out in to staff room and admin area and found its way to the ground floor in the children's room office and workroom. I came in to find the intake valve on the 3rd floor water heater spraying water. I turned the water off and my son started using the shop vac in the board room while we were waiting for Mr. B's to arrive to check the extend of the damage and finish the extraction. Schwartz replaced the water heater under warranty on President's Day and everything was back to normal by business on Tuesday.

Friday, February 25th we found water right inside the AV office and found the 1st floor water heater in the back hallway store room leaking water out the bottom. Schwartz replaced that 12 year old water heater that afternoon and Gene cleaned up the small amount of water.

We should be good for a while now, but the Saturday morning incident could have been really bad if it had happened after closing. I plan to investigate acquiring some water sensors to alert us if this happens again. I realize that we cannot protect the entire building, but these 2 water heaters are areas that we can protect.

Endowment Distribution

The Wells County Foundation notified the library that the annual endowment payout was 5%. For the library this is a \$16,000 distribution. We also had an additional \$51,000 of undistributed return, but we did just withdraw that to pay for most of the restroom remodel. The two funds that I plan to maintain with a small portion of this money are the 1000 Books fund and the staff recognition fund. Both are good for another year.

Mobile Internet Hotspot

About a year ago, Sprint approached me about a government collaboration that enabled them to provide libraries with mobile hotspot devices to loan to patrons. The devices were available for \$0.99 each and the unlimited data service was \$35/mo. I did not jump on the service at that time because I wasn't sure that patrons would return the devices and the number of patron's benefiting from the service would be rather limiting. I decided to take the "wait and see" option and follow the program. It is not a cheap service as minimally the cost per circulation is \$8.00

Yesterday the Sprint rep was back in with a 60-day trial offer. During the trial Sprint would pay one month service and we would pick up the second month. Sprint would supply us with the devices and train the staff prior to the trial. After the trial, we could decide to drop or continue the contract. Those libraries that I am connected with that have been offering the service say that it has been positive. The devices are almost always out and the most that any library has lost is one device. The replacement cost of the devices is \$168. In the 2 cases that I know about, the patrons did not return or pay for the devices, but Sprint did replace them for the same \$0.99. I doubt if that will be an ongoing policy though.

Seeing the success of our recent Launchpad service, it seems that perhaps I should give this at least a demo.

Winter Reading Program

We had another very successful reading program during the month of February. Registration numbers were up from last year. Seventy-five books were earned for Kate's Kart. That was 15 more that last winter.

Staff

Branch manager Susan Dailey is taking time off to tend to her very ill husband. I cannot speak highly enough of the Ossian Staff who have stepped in and covered all of Susan's desk time. That was an even larger task this week as two of the 5 remaining staff were ill and also off.