



Lowell Library Lines

October 2007

Library Addresses Consolidation Issue

Dear Community Residents,

The Lowell Public Library Board of Trustees recently addressed the issue of the possible consolidation of community libraries into one county system. The board discussed its concerns that the move could severely impact the quality of services and programs that libraries offer their residents. Their concern comes from the results of studies aimed at cutting local government costs.

Over the last three years one of the main topics of discussion throughout Lake County has been the Good Government Initiative, a privately funded study of costs, efficiency and effectiveness of local government. The study focused on several levels of government, including cities and towns, county, townships, school systems, and a variety of other special taxing units in Lake County.

Included in this study was the county's seven independent district libraries which are Hammond, East Chicago, Gary, Whiting, Lake County, Crown Point and Lowell. Each library is uniquely responsive to its community with specialized collections and local programs. Each library is funded through the taxing district it serves.

From the results of this study, Governor Mitch Daniels formed the Blue-Ribbon Commission on Local Government Reform. The purpose of the Commission is to recommend, reform and restructure local government throughout Indiana. The study and its recommendations will be released December 31, in time for the start up of the short session of the 2008 legislature.

The commission is emphasizing consolidation. If consolidation occurs, it would mean the Lowell Public Library would become a branch of the county library system with only one member from the Tri-Creek area likely to serve on its board. Services, programs, branches and personnel would probably be cut. Taxes paid by our community residents would go to the county system with only a portion used to operate our library.

This month the library is launching a campaign to inform you of the many concerns we have if consolidation of libraries should occur. More importantly, we are asking the residents of our library service area to contact the Blue-Ribbon Commission and our legislators to tell them what our library offers to its community and let them know we are opposed to consolidation.

The commission's website is <http://indianalocalgovreform.iu.edu> and E-mail comments may be submitted to lgreform@iu.edu or by U.S. mail to the Center on Urban Policy and the Environment at 334 N. Senate Avenue, Suite 300, Indianapolis IN 46204.

There are many questions and concerns we have over the wisdom of consolidating the county's independent libraries. Please take the time to read the following page and contact us with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Sandy Morgan, Library Director

Why begin a campaign against consolidation of Indiana libraries before the Blue Ribbon Commission has submitted its recommendations to the Governor?

Part of Governor Mitch Daniel's "Charge to the Commission" is to answer the question "What local units of government (including schools and libraries) might be successfully consolidated to reduce overhead and administrative expenses?"

Our library is taking a pro-active stance against consolidation before the study is completed and the recommendation given. We want to send a clear message to the Commission that more collaboration between libraries, not consolidation, is the best way we can serve our communities.

- Consolidation does not save money. And, the logistics of consolidating the seven district libraries are enormous. What is the value if you lose services, programs and branches in the process?
- Under consolidation, the building and expansion debts of independent library districts would have to be shouldered by tax payers of the entire county. Some libraries in Lake County have unions. Salaries would have to be equalized throughout the county.
- Management Without Full Representation? The 7 members of the Lowell Public Library Board of Trustees are unpaid volunteers who give of their time and talents to oversee a service area that covers the southern 3rd of Lake County with a population of 17,835 residents. They have always been, and continue to be fiscally responsible to the library and the Indiana Department of Government Finance. What would be the makeup of a new centralized board? How could small libraries be adequately represented at a county level?
- Will our library become a "Cookie Cutter" library? Who decides what programs and services our library can offer? Who decides the use of our meeting rooms? Last year the library's meeting rooms were used 835 times. The library held 485 programs for seniors, adult, young adult and child participants. During 2006, meeting room use by non-profit organizations, girl scouts, boy scouts, 4-H members, women's clubs, the Three Creeks Historical Association, and other local groups numbered 350.
- Will our small town libraries in Shelby (population 300+) and Schneider (population 200+) that are at the tail end of the county be closed? These libraries are flourishing and well visited.

Let's keep your library "your home library." We ask for your support:

Contact the Blue Ribbon Commission (address on page 1)

Senator Sue Landske District 6. Indiana State Senator, District 6. 200 W. Washington Street Indianapolis, IN 46204. Phone 1-800-382-9467.

Representative Don Lehe, 200 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204.
Phone: 1-765-563-3620 or 1-800-382-9841

Representative Rochelle "Shelli" VanDenburgh, 200 W Washington, Indianapolis, IN 46204.
Phone 1-800-382-9842.



Adult Programs

Lowell Public Library

October 2007

Library Quilters Meet

Each Monday, October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
9 AM - 12:30 PM
Bring your quilting projects.

Halloween Safety

Monday, October 8, 6:30 PM
Officer Eric Matson will discuss how to keep your children safe on Halloween.

Oil Painting with Susan Young

Saturday, October 13, 10- 4:30 PM
Join artist Susan Young as she teaches you to paint a beautiful oil landscape entitled, *Canyon Falls*. Pre-register at the circulation desk. Cost \$45.

Basket Weaving Classes

Monday, October 15, at 6 PM Master Weaver Julie Duttlinger will teach participants to weave the Pumpkin/Bean Pot Basket. Fee is \$24.00

Blood Pressure/Sugar Test

Wednesday, October 17, 9 AM to 11 AM
Join the people who are monitoring their health on a monthly basis. Blood pressure and sugar (glucose) screening is offered by Clinical Management Services.

Brown Bag & Movie at Senior Social

Thursday, October 18, at 11AM
Seniors-bring a brown bag lunch and watch *Wild Hogs*, with John Travolta and Tim Allen. Homemade desserts will be served by library staff and Lowell Parks Department staff, co-sponsors of the program. Call 696-1570 to pre-register.

NWI Poetry Society Meets

Saturday, October 20, at 10 AM
Bring your poetry to share with others.

2007 Garden Series

Monday, October 22, 7PM
Bring your plants indoors. Enjoy a variety of houseplants you can grow all winter long.

The Haunted Mesa - Book Group

Wednesday, October 31, at 6:30 PM
Read *The Haunted Mesa* by Louis L'Amour and join others to discuss this best selling book. Refreshments will be served.

Computer Classes

Take computer classes at the library and learn word processing and how to surf the net. Computer Basic are held Mondays, Internet Basics on Wednesdays, and Friday sessions will offer Word and Excel on alternate weeks. All classes are held at 11 AM. Please pre-register at the circulation desk.



At the Shelby Branch

Blood Pressure Screening

Monday, October 8, at 10:30 AM to 12 Noon

National Angel Food Cake Day

Wednesday, October 10
Stop in anytime during the day for a piece of angel food cake to help us celebrate!

Book Discussion

Friday, October 12, at 11 AM
The book selected for discussion is *The Mirror* by Marlys Millhiser. Refreshments will be served.

Adult Craft Night

Monday, October 15, at 5 PM
Bring your craft project and work with others.

Adult Bingo

Monday, October 22, at 5 PM
Play games with other adults.

At the Schneider Branch

Play Those Cards

Monday, October 1, at 2 PM
Play card games and enjoy refreshments.

Adult Craft

Thursday, October 18, at 3:30 PM
Join together with other adults to make a Halloween craft. Refreshments will be served.



JUST FOR KIDS!



Story Time Continues

Story Time, a program for 4 and 5 year olds, will continue at the Lowell Public Library each Tuesday, at 10 AM, through October 16 and each Wednesday at 10 AM, through October 17. You may pre-register for either program at the circulation desk. Story Time will be held at the Shelby Branch each Monday at 10:30 AM, September 10 through October 15.

Make a Mummy at Craft Corner

Pre-schoolers through 5th grade will have fun making mummies at the Lowell Public Library on Thursday, October 11. These mummies can hold Halloween treats! Pre-register for the 10 AM session or the 3 PM session at the circulation desk. Pre-schoolers must be accompanied by an adult.

Halloween Fun

Games! Prizes! Contests! Candy! Kindergarteners through 5th graders can come and have some fun on Friday October 26. Wear a costume, but only if you want to. Pre-register at the circulation desk for the 10:30 AM or 1:30 PM session.



Lowell Public Library
1505 E Commercial Ave.
Lowell, IN 46356

YA Programming - Lowell

October 2007

YAs (Young Adults) grades 6-12 can read for a chance to win a Halloween Basket. The contest began Saturday, September 1. The basket will be given to the contest winner on Tuesday, October 30. For each book read, fill out a slip to put in the pumpkin at the circulation desk. While you are there, estimate how many treats you will devour if you guess the magic number in the glass gourd. One guess per visit, so visit often.

Saturday, October 6, 2 PM Movie- *Fantastic Four Rise of the Silver Surfer*.
25 cent pop, PB & J sandwiches, and popcorn

Game Night Thursdays- Oct 4, 11, and 18 at 6:30 PM. (No Game Night October 25)

Saturday, October 13, 1:30 PM Movie- *We Are Marshall*. 25 cent pop, PB & J sandwiches, and popcorn

Wednesday, October 17, 6 PM Halloween Bingo

Tuesday, October 23, 1 PM Sign up now. Learn to make seasonal chocolates.

Monday, October 30, 6:30 PM Ghost stories with Mark Marimen

Branch Programs for Children / YA's



Schneider

Shelby

Watch "Goosebumps" on Kids' Movie Day on Thursday, October 11, at 4 PM. Get free refreshments at the "concession stand."

Halloween is coming! Kids, make a ghost craft on Monday, October 1, at 4 PM.

It's Kids' Game Day on Thursday, October 25, at 4 PM. Bring a friend and play board games.

Play Kids Halloween Bingo on Tuesday, October 16, at 4 PM.

All kids programs include refreshments!

YA's make a Halloween Sign
3:30 PM on Wednesday, October 10

YA Chats & Chewies—Hotdogs and S'Mores
5 PM on Monday, October 22

Saturdays at 12 Noon is Kids' Movie Day.

Each Wednesday night at 4 PM is Game Night. Bring your friends!

It's a tootsie pop spider mobile you can make with Miss Sandy at the Shelby Branch program on Tuesday, October 30, at 4 PM.

Mondays at 10:30 AM is Story Time with Miss Bethany.

YA Tuesday October 2 Chats & Chewies – Halloween Memories 5 PM

YA Movie October 8 4:30 PM -*Fantastic Four-Rise of the Silver Surfer*. 25 cent pop, popcorn, and PB & J sandwiches.

YA Book Discussion Outdoors-Tuesday, October 16, Hotdogs over the fire discussing the book, *Makeovers by Marsha*, by Claudia Mills at 5:30 PM

New Book Section



Beginning Thursday, October 4, the Lowell Public Library will place all new books in the New Book section of the library for circulation as soon as they are processed. Previously, new books were placed on display for one week before becoming available for checkout or reserve. A list of new book arrivals will be kept in the blue book at the circulation desk. Each week a list of new book arrivals will be sent to the Lowell Tribune for publication in their weekly newspaper.

Holiday Children's Paperback Book Sale

Curl up with a spooky story for Halloween that you can find at the Children's Paperback Book Sale in the main room of the library at the Lowell Public Library from October 10 to 24. With each purchase, a drawing slip can be filled out. There will be \$10 certificates for three children and two young adult winners.

Harry Potter books will be there as well as many other favorite character books. Chapter books, easy readers, fantasy, mystery, contemporary and activity books will be at the sale. Bookmarks, posters, journals and diaries, crayons, and fun novelty items will also be available for purchase. For more information, visit our bookfair website at: <http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/bookfairs/cptoolkit/publish/lowellpubliclibrarybookfair>

Tri-Kappa Blood Drive

The Zeta-Chi Chapter of Tri Kappa will sponsor an American Red Cross Blood Drive with the library on Saturday, October 6, from 9 AM to 1 PM. Call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE (448-3543) to schedule your blood donation.

Friends to Address the Consolidation Issue at October Meeting

The Friends of the Library will hold their regular meeting on Wednesday, October 17 at 7 PM. New members are welcomed to attend. The main topic of discussion will be the issue of possible consolidation and our library.

An Evening with the Indiana Ghost Trackers

Looking for a haunted place to visit during the Halloween season? Try the library. Yes! We are haunted! In 2003 and 2004, after library hours, the Northwest Indiana Ghost Trackers conducted extensive studies of the library. Their findings were conclusive that there was paranormal activity at the library. Ghostly visitors come both in the library and on its grounds. Pictures of orbs were taken and are on display at the library. We're rather fond of our ghosts; they are quite friendly, although at times a bit mischievous. Is there a ghost haunting your house?

Bring your personal stories of hauntings to the library and meet the Indiana Ghost Trackers as they present "Close Encounters of the Ghostly Kind" on Monday, October 15, at 7 PM. The Indiana Ghost Trackers are dedicated to research, investigation, and documentation of hauntings. Adults and Young Adults can register at the circulation desk. Bring your questions and a friend to hold your hand!

Haunted Indiana Revisited!

The library may be haunted but its story can't compare to the fascinating tales presented by author and master storyteller Mark Marimen. Marimen is the author of the *Haunted Indiana* books. His *Haunted Indiana* 4-book series provides the reader with a chilling look at haunted Indiana sites. His stories are filled with ghostly legends and lore, best told in a darkened room. Marimen will spin his tales on Tuesday, October 30, at 6:30 PM.