

# **Lowell Library Lines**

**January 2009**

## **The Debate Begins!**

### **Library's Future in Hands of Legislators**

For several months in 2008, the Lowell Public Library has informed the communities it serves of the library's opposition to state government's proposal to mandate consolidation of all Indiana libraries.

This proposal followed the Indiana Commission on Local Government Reform's 2007 recommendation to merge all libraries, large, medium and small into one library system per county.

The consolidation issue is expected to be addressed at the January 2009 short session of the Indiana State Legislature but comes with strong opposition from library directors and librarians across the state. Resistance to consolidation comes for many reasons. Loss of local control means that one large library board per county would be put in place, deciding how each community's taxes for library services would be distributed.

Smaller libraries would also lose their independence and the great amount of local accountability and support they have in their communities. All decisions such as services, budgets, facilities, staffing, collections, programs, etc., would likely be decided at a new county library level. Your "home" library would become a branch of a county system, and under consolidation small communities such as Lowell might also be likely to pay one of the statistically higher tax rates levied by larger libraries.

Concerns exist regarding how present and future debt, new building and expansion projects in the county would be shouldered by all local taxpayers in a county system. Also worrisome is the fate of our small branch libraries, Shelby and Schneider, if consolidation should occur.

The 7 district libraries of Lowell, Crown Point, Lake County, East Chicago, Gary, Whiting and Hammond, as well as other library districts in the state, will be working diligently to present a model for consideration other than mandatory consolidation.

Opposition to county-wide consolidation has been strong in the communities our library serves in 2008, expressed by their letters, phone calls to our elected local and state officials and by the 1,800 plus signatures on petitions officials received opposing the proposed merge.

The library values your support at this crucial time of legislative decision making. Once again your library urges you to contact your legislators again, before the January 7, 2009 legislative session begins. Contact information can be found on the following page.

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# Oppose Consolidation

## Contact Your Elected Officials

Please Write or Call:

Indiana State Senator Sue Landske, District 6

200 W. Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204.

Phone 1-800-382-9467.

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Indiana Assembly Representative Don Lehe, District 15

200 W. Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204.

Phone: 1-800-382-9841

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Indiana Assembly Representative Rochelle "Shelli" VanDenburgh, District 19

200 W. Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204.

Phone 1-800-382-9842.

### **Early Childhood Learning Gets a Boost**

It's never too early to start your child on the road to success through reading. Toddlers, pre-schoolers and young school age children can get a jump start with reading and computer skills using the library's latest computer systems, soon to be installed in the Children's Room.

Two AWE Early Literacy Stations have been awarded to the library through a grant from the Indiana State Library. These stations, with printers, will provide a fun and easy interface to make learning exciting. The computer systems come with over 35 educational software programs for children to explore.

Bilingual programs will allow children to easily navigate between English and Spanish, accessing bright, colorful learning activities including: Jumpstart Advanced Kindergarten, Living Books, Kidspiration, Krazy Artroom, Millie's Math House, Flash Action Phonics Made Easy, Sesame Street-First Steps, USA Explorer and Reader Rabbit selections. The educational programs are geared to children pre-K through fifth grade. The computer systems come with color-coded keyboards, and child size optical mice that are used to navigate through the many programs. Little or no adult aid is needed.

In keeping with the *Every Child Ready to Read* national campaign to encourage parents to foster early literacy skills in their children, the library looks forward to offering this latest learning technology tool in the near future. For further information visit children's programmer Mrs. Mayhew.

## Lowell Adult Programs



### Free Computer Classes

Learn word processing and navigating the internet. Computer Basics will be offered on Mondays, Internet Basics on Wednesdays and Word or Excel on Fridays. All classes are held at 11 AM. Evening classes are held each Tuesday at 6 PM. Pre-registration required.

### Poetry Group Meets

Saturday, January 17, at 10 AM  
Aspiring poets can join the Northwest Indiana Poetry Society. Share your poems with others.

### Meet with a Lawyer Day

Monday, January 19, 9 AM - 5 PM

### Library Board to Meet

Monday, January 19 at 7 PM

### Library Scrappers Meet

Monday, January 19, at 6:30 PM  
Scrappers meet on the third Monday each month. Share your ideas and learn new techniques.

### BP/Sugar/Cholesterol Test

Wednesday, January 21, 9 AM to 11 AM  
Blood pressure and sugar (glucose) screening are offered by Clinical Management Services, on a first come, first served basis. A combined cholesterol test will be available for \$5 (cash only please).

### Senior Social

Thursday, January 22, at 11 AM  
Bring a brown bag lunch, view Sweetland. Enjoy homemade desserts. Co-sponsored by the library and the Lowell Parks Department. Call 696-1570 to pre-register.

### Adult Book Discussion

Tuesday, January 27, at 10 AM  
The "Tuesday Morning Page Turners" group will meet to discuss *Standing in the Rainbow*, by Fannie Flagg. Pick up your copy to read at the circulation desk.

## Read to Win!

Join our Thumbs Up, Thumbs Down contest by reading a book, sharing your views with fellow readers, by filling out a card to be posted with others. We enter the cards in a drawing and pick a winner every month for a free gift certificate.

### At the Shelby Branch

#### Blood Pressure Check

Monday, January 5, at 10 AM  
Free blood pressure screening on a first-come, first served basis.

#### Sewing Projects

Monday, January 5 and 19, at 10 AM

#### Painting Projects

Monday, January 12 and 26, at 10 AM

#### Senior Games

Monday, January 19, 1 PM– 4 PM  
Play Bunco, cards, and dominoes.

### Shelby Kids

Every Saturday at Noon - Kids Movie Day!  
Have pop, popcorn and cookies for 25¢.

Wednesday, January 7, 14, 21, and 28 at 4 PM - Game night for kids.

Tuesday, January 27, at 4 PM - Make a unique bird feeder with Miss Sandy.



### At the Schneider Branch

#### Schneider Kids

Every Monday at 4 PM - Game Night is held for kids, ages 10 and older.

Thursday, January 29, at 4 PM - Join Miss Sandy to make a unique bird feeder for your feathered friends.

## **Non-Fiction Reading Picks**

- 158 *Happy at Last* - O'Connor, Richard
- 170.44 *This I Believe II.*
- 362.196 *Hurry down Sunshine* - Greenberg, Michael
- 363.25 *DNA Evidence and Forensic Science* - Newton, David E.
- 364.66 *The Top Ten Death Penalty Myths* - Gerber, Rudolph J.
- 391.009 *What People Wore When*
- 364.152 *Fatal Vows: The Tragic Wives of Sergeant Drew Peterson*
- 610 *Trick or Treatment:: The Undeniable Facts About Alternative Medicine* - Singh
- 616.99 *The 10 Best Questions for Surviving Breast Cancer* - Bonner, Dede
- 616.99 *100 Questions & Answers About Advanced and Metastatic Breast Cancer*
- 641.5 *How to Cook Everything* - Bittman, Mark
- 642.4 *Entertaining Simple* - Mead, Matthew
- 728.37 *Home Plans for Baby Boomers*
- 917.5924 *The Unofficial Guide to Walt Disney World*
- 973 *What Every American Should Know About American History* - Axelrod, Alan
- 973.92 *Bob Schieffer's American* - Scheiffer, Bob
- 973.971 *The One Percent Doctrine: Inside America's Pursuit of its Enemies Since 9/11*



## **Biographies**

- B LEMIEU *Breakfast at Sally's* - Lemieux, Richard
- B TURNER *Call Me Ted* - Turner, Ted
- B WAGNER *Pieces of My Heart* - Wagner, Robert
- B Notorious *The Notorious B.I.G.*

## **New CD's**

- Black Ice* - AC/DC
- Thriller* - Michael Jackson
- Tommy* - The Who
- Stone of Sisyphus* - Chicago
- Crayons* - Donna Summer
- Rio* - Duran Duran
- Hymns for my Soul* - Joe Cocker

# What's New!

## **New Fiction Books:**

*Under Your Spell* - Greiman, Lois  
*Born to Run* - Grippando, James  
*The Lost Temple* - Harper, Tom  
*Every Now and Then* - Kingsbury, Karen  
*Kissing Games of the World* - Shelton, Sandi  
*The United States of Atlantis* - Turtledove, Harry  
*The Charlemagne* – Berry, Steve  
*Face of a Killer*– Burcell, Robin  
*Dying for Revenge* - Dickey, Eric Jerome  
*Just After Sunset* - King, Stephen  
*Salmonella Men on Planet Porno* - Tsutsui, Yasutaka  
*Dashing Through the Snow* - Clark, Mary Higgins

## **Mystery**

*Hark! The Herald Angel Screamed* - Ballard, Mignon Franklin  
*Private Patient* - James, P.D.  
*Scarpetta* - Cornwell, Patricia Daniels  
*The Clinch Knot* - Galligan, John  
*Cruel Intent* - Jance, J.A.

## **Don't Throw it Away: Recycle**

The Friends of the Library ask you to put a smile on someone else's face by recycling books, paperbacks, Books-on-Tape and CD, VHS and DVD movies, music CDs and cassettes, or magazines that are in good condition by donating these items to the library for their on-going booksale or added to the library's collection.

## **For Puzzle Lovers**

Put them together, take them apart, bring them back and check out some more. You will find recycled puzzles on the shelves of the west wall of the non-fiction section. The library appreciates donations of puzzles. Please, no missing pieces.

## **Library Closings**

In observance of the New Year holiday, the library will be open from 9 AM to 1 PM, on Wednesday, December 31. Closed New Year's Day, the library will resume regular hours on Friday, January 2.

The Shelby and Schneider branches will be closed Wednesday, December 31 and resume regular hours on Saturday, January 3.



## **Old Man Winter Shut Us Down**

Northwest Indiana took a hit from old man winter and the library and its branches were no exception.

We apologize for any inconvenience caused by the emergency closings the libraries experienced due to the recent ice storms. Library staff exempted overdue fines incurred during this period.

## **Winter Branch Hours**

### **Shelby**

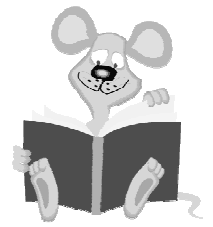
Monday 9 AM-6 PM  
Tues-Thurs. 3 PM-7 PM  
Closed Friday  
Saturday 9 AM-5 PM

### **Schneider**

Monday 2 PM-7 PM  
Tues-Wed. 3 PM-6 PM  
Thursday 3 PM-7 PM  
Closed Friday  
Saturday 10 AM-12 PM



# *Just for Kids*



## **Story Time**

Story Time is a program for four and five year olds. There is no charge for Story Time. Each session is limited to 20 children and lasts approximately 30 - 45 minutes. You must pre-register at the circulation desk for either the Tuesday (January 6 - February 10, at 10 AM) or the Wednesday session (January 7 - February 11, at 10 AM)

## **January Craft Corner**

Join us on Thursday, January 8 when we will be making bookmark mice. Not only are they fun to make, but your mouse will also keep your place in your favorite book. Craft corner is for children, preschool to grade 5. Preschoolers must be accompanied by an adult. Pre-register for the 10 AM or the 3 PM session.

## **Winter Bingo**

Winter fun at the library is in store for children, preschool to 5th grade. Join in the games, vie for prizes and take home some candy too! Preschoolers must be accompanied by an adult! The fun starts on Thursday, January 15. Register for the 10 AM or 3 PM session.

## **Newsletter Mailings**

Due to the increasing cost of mailing the Library Lines newsletter to area businesses, public entities and organizations, the Friends of the Library now limits its mailing of the newsletter to Friends members. The newsletter is available at the library, and on the library's website at <http://www.lowellpl.lib.in.us/>. The Friends will also be happy to send the newsletter via E-mail upon request.