



# LOWELL LIBRARY LINES

A PUBLICATION OF THE LOWELL PUBLIC LIBRARY

MARCH 1990

Dear Friends:

For several years now, you've been involved in or hearing about the Planning Process the library undertook in 1987. The Long Range Plan which resulted from the process gave us a plan for services, based upon a survey of our users, for the next several years.

Our surveys told us that you wanted more of the kinds of services and materials we were already offering, as well as new types of materials and services.

As everyone knows, you can't do any of these things without a facility to house them. Thus, in keeping with our plan, the board employed David Smith, a consulting librarian, to assess our building needs.

It was Mr. Smith's recommendation that we build a 20,000 square foot library on Commercial Avenue, which would provide enough space for the next 20 to 25 years. In addition, he recommended that the library board acquire enough land so that if an addition to the new building is needed someday, we will not have to relocate again.

After several months of researching sites, the board agreed on a 5½ acre site across from Evergreen Park. We currently have an option to purchase that property, assuming that soil testing yields satisfactory results, zoning requirements can be met, and that financing can be arranged. The board is hoping to arrange at least the first year or two of financing to come out of the current budget and donations.

As news of the pending land purchase and future building has spread, we have had a number of questions and suggestions from the public. We welcome them. We want to know what you want.

Following are some of the most frequently asked questions and our answers:

Q. Why do we need a new library? A. The present library is over crowded. We are particularly cramped for work space, storage and parking. Due to lack of meeting room space, many groups have to be turned away or meet in the public area. We have a very active children's program, which is important to everyone, but there is no room to provide a quiet area for adults who would like to do some serious studying.

We are not able to keep all the materials we would like. We discard most magazines after five years; if you want an issue older than that, we have to send for it from another library.

Q. Why don't you just build a second story on the present building?

A. The present library would not support a second floor and a library with more than one floor requires additional staffing, thus increasing the cost of operating the building.

Q. Why do you want to put the library on Commercial Avenue? A. No matter where we locate the library, only a few people will be within walking distance. Most people drive to the library now. Studies and experience in many other communities show that if a library is located on a main street, it is more heavily used, and the taxpayers get their money's worth.

Q. When would the new building be completed? A. The library board has not yet set a date for construction. We are concentrating first on obtaining a suitable piece of property. Hopefully, construction will begin in a few years.

Q. Is there anything I can do to help? A. Yes. By sharing information about the library and its needs, you help to increase public understanding. If you or your organization would like to help financially, your gifts are needed and welcome.

If you have other questions you'd like answered or comments you would like to make, please let us know.

Sincerely,

*Virginia Maravilla*

Virginia Maravilla, Director  
Lowell Public Library







# March

WE'RE ON OUR WAY!

"Kick Off Time for Land Purchase" at the Lowell Public Library and at the starting line are the Friends of the Library, pledging \$1,000.00 to the library at their February meeting.

The funds will be placed in a special account for the purchase of 5½ acres on Commercial Avenue. Other groups and individuals are urged to join with the Friends in making a site for the new library a reality.

Friends also hope to increase their donations for the land purchase by holding a mini book sale during National Library Week, April 21-28, and a raffle of an afghan, handcrafted by Cecil Krost of Lowell.

Anyone wishing to join the Friends can contact Sue Wingate at 696-8131 for membership application.

## IN MEMORY OF ADELE MEYERS



For half a century, she had lived in the Schneider Community, raised her only child, was a grandmother to nine and a great grandmother to fifteen. She knitted and sewed for her family, grew African violets and made pies that were the rival of her peers. She was a loved and respected member of her community.

Her daughter Betty is President of the Lady Lions Club, which supported a small library in the community room in Schneider. In 1988 the Lady Lions helped the Lowell Library establish the Schneider Branch Library at the same location.

Grandaughter Lori is now the Head of the Schneider Branch. Adele was her favorite patron.

The staff of the Lowell Public Library and Shelby Branch along with the Friends of the Library will present a floral print to the Schneider Branch in memory of Adele Meyers, patron and friend who passed away in January.

## PUBLIC FORUM ON TAX ASSESSMENTS

Recent notification of tax hikes from property reassessments brought a mixture of responses from area residents.

Where some citizens found slight increases in their property assessments, other residents and business owners saw their assessments double, triple, or quadruple from a decade ago.

On Tuesday, March 6 at 7:00 PM, Lake County Assessor Peter Benjamin, West Creek Township Assessor Rick Niemeyer and Cynthia Vick, Deputy Assessor for Cedar Creek will explain the reassessment process from its beginning with local valuations on up to the actual notifications received from the county. Benjamin will outline steps and deadlines property owners can take to appeal a reassessment.

A question and answer period will follow the program. Pre-register by calling the Lowell Public Library at 696-7704.

## BAYH'S VISIT "PACKS 'EM IN"



Lowell's new literacy headquarters was filled to capacity and then some, with people waiting to greet Indiana's First Lady, Susan Bayh on her recent visit to our area.

Literacy tutors, students, local residents and business persons gave a warm welcome to Mrs. Bayh, who then spoke to the audience about the problems of illiteracy in Indiana and how important "getting the word out to get more students in" was to literacy centers.

Lowell Library Trustee Norma Ruley also spoke to invited guests, explaining Lowell's literacy program. Ken Woodruff, supervisor of the Cedar Lake/Lowell Learning Centers was there to speak on the importance of the Adult Learning Center and G.E.D. in our community.

Mrs. Bayh then met with the literacy tutors, praising their efforts to teach others to read.

Since Mrs. Bayh's visit, 5 more students have entered the literacy program.



## MARCH ADULT PROGRAMS

### "Good Nutrition Forever"

Monday, March 5, 7:00 PM

Registered Dietician Marilyn Montoro

### "Public Forum on Tax Assessment"

Tuesday, March 6, 7:00 PM

County Assessor Peter Benjamin, West Creek Assessor Rick Niemeyer, and Cedar Creek Deputy Assessor Cynthia Vick discuss reassessment notices. Question and answer period follows.

### "Blood Pressure/Diabetes Testing"

Thursday, March 8 Shelby - 9 AM - 11 AM

Lowell - 12:30 PM - 3 PM

First come, first serve basis. Participants wishing diabetes testing should fast for two hours before the testing.

### "Karate Demonstration"

Saturday, March 10

Joc Walker, instructor, will demonstrate several karate movements.

### "Friends to Meet"

Members of the Friends of the Library will meet at 6:30 PM on Wednesday, March 21 at Dante's Restaurant.

New members are always welcome.

Contact Sue Wingate at 696-8131 for membership.

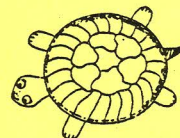


To pre-register for programs call:  
Lowell Library - 696-7704  
Shelby Branch - 552-0809  
Schneider Branch - 552-1000

## CRAFT CORNER

"Pond Critters" at Craft Corner

At the Lowell Public Library and its Schneider Branch youngsters will be making pond critters.



### CRAFTS

Lowell - Pre-School - Thursday, March 8 at 10:30 AM. They will make a turtle.

School Age - Thursday, March 8 at 3:30 PM. They will make a frog.

Schneider - Both crafts on Thursday, March 15 at 3:30. They will make turtles and frogs.



### EASTER TIME

Shelby Branch Library youngsters will create a bunny basket and a baby chick basket for the Easter session.

Pre-school crafts are Thursday, March 22 at 4:00 PM.

School age crafts are Thursday, March 29 at 4:00 PM.

## "TODDLER TIME"

Stories and games for toddlers

18 months to 3 years.

Shelby - Each Monday, March 5 to March 19 at 10:30 AM.

Lowell - Each Tuesday, March 6 - March 20 at 10 & 11 AM

Each Wednesday, March 7 to March 21 at 10 AM.

