

LOWELL LIBRARY LINES

A PUBLICATION OF THE LOWELL PUBLIC LIBRARY

March 1995

IT'S IN THE NUMBERS!

We just love to see those numbers keep on climbing. The fact is more and more people come to the library and its Shelby and Schneider Branches each year and the number of materials they check out is steadily increasing.

According to our 1994 Annual Report, over 8,000 residents had library cards at the end of the year and new registrations come in every day. Borrowing of materials in '94 was up 14.9% from the previous year as patrons checked out over 236,261 items. 164,145 people visited the Lowell library proper last year. That figure does not include people only using the meeting rooms. The meeting rooms were used 870 times.

Programming is always popular at the library and its branches. Last year we scheduled 281 adult programs and 248 children's programs, with a total count of 12,316 in attendance. Summer Reading Club took off like a bullet, attracting over 978 children who read 37,806 books.

We are delighted with the demand for use of our personal computers. Last year 1,213 blocks of time were reserved for computer use. Did we really answer 7,380 reference questions last year? YES!

Our patrons, community organizations and local business persons were also good to their library. They donated everything from pennies for our wishing jar to a flag pole, and money for microfilming our local newspaper. Gifts of money for furnishings, magazines and books, materials for our sight impaired patrons, and many other gifts and memorial donations were also received.

Members of the library board, leasing corporation, endowment members and Friends, our literacy tutors, and other volunteers give of their time in so many ways to make our library better. We appreciate their support so much!

NOW THAT'S SERVICE

The post office in the heart of the town of Shelby is getting a new neighbor and the Shelby Branch Library is getting a new home. Area residents will soon be able to mail their letters and visit the library... all in the same building. Since the late 60's the post office has been housed in one section of a building on Shelby Road while a bank, and later a cafe, took up space next door in the same building.

Thanks to the efforts of the Library Board of Trustees and an award of \$75,000 in Build Indiana money, the library was able to purchase the building to provide badly needed space (1200 square feet) for the branch library. The library houses a collection of over 5,000 items with a registration of 358 patrons.

Plans are underway to renovate the portion of the building housing the library, making it handicapped accessible. New equipment will be installed, and in the future a public access terminal will be connected to the main library.

THE CONSTRUCTION ZONE

It's a job for a sledgehammer! The Schneider Branch Library, located in the Schneider Community Building, is about to receive some hard knocks of the positive kind.

A wall in the library leading to a storage room will be knocked down and trimmed out to provide the Branch Library with 152 square feet of extra space for its collection. The library hopes to complete the construction by late spring.

Thanks to the Schneider Town Board for giving us thumbs up for the project and to the Schneider Lions Club and the Friends of the Library for helping to fund the remodeling.



TALES OF THE RIVER

The French explorers called this living stream the Theakiki. Many years later it became the Kankakee River. The river has many stories to tell and one of the keepers of its tales is self-professed River Rat Din Beckrich, an expert fisherman who will present "The Best of Fishing on the Kankakee" on Saturday, March 4, at 2 PM in the Library Program Room.

Beginning fishermen and old timers alike will enjoy listening to Din spin his tales of this exciting and sometimes turbulent river. Din knows where to find the best fishing spots on the river and what kind of tackle and bait to use to lure the big ones to the hook. He shares his secrets as he takes his audience on an armchair journey down the river, coloring his narrative with wonderful stories, both fact and lore. Join us for this exciting river journey. Pre-register by calling 696-7704.

For more history of the Kankakee read Tales of a Vanishing River by Earl H. Reed, first printed in 1920, and The Kankakee, River of History written by Marion Isaacs. These publications can be found in the Indiana section of the library.

ALL RIGHT ! A BAKE SALE



Library patrons and staff can indulge a sweet tooth or two at the YOUNG ADULT BAKE SALE on March 18, from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM in the Library Foyer. The busy bakers, YA's and their parents, will donate their profits toward a listening center for the YA area.

LIBRARY BOARD TO MEET

The Lowell Public Board of Trustees will hold their regular meeting on Monday, March 20, at 7:00 PM following an Executive Meeting at 6:30 PM.

FRIENDS TO MEET

The Friends of the Library will hold their regular meeting on Wednesday, March 15, at 7 PM.

FRIENDS TAKE TO THE ROAD

On January 31, library staff and Friends of the Library members, Mine Hirata, Richard and Vivian Boer, and Tom and Kathy Spencer joined members of the Hammond Library board and staff to travel to the State House Building. There they met with legislators of the House and Senate to ask for their support for House Bill 1377, sponsored by Representative James Conlon of Crown Point. If passed, the bill would allow libraries at the maximum rate a modest increase in their rate each year while keeping under the tax freeze.

Another proposal, House Bill 1298 would provide \$1 per person from State funds for libraries. This would help fund access to the Internet and reimburse libraries for the cost of reciprocal borrowing.

Stomping for legislation that will provide better service to libraries across the state is serious business, but how nice it was for our Friends of the Library to do so in such pleasant company as the group from Hammond. For the Friends, the trip to the capital was exciting and hopefully, fruitful. Their message was important to the future of Indiana libraries, and they were heard. Among the legislators they talked to were Representatives James Conlon and Chester Dobis, and Senators Sue Landske and Sandra Demsey.

Friends urge you to join them in their effort to keep information capabilities of Indiana libraries from lagging behind. Write or call to your legislators in support of your library. More information on House Bills 1377 & 1298 (including addresses and phone numbers) can be found at a special display located next to the library's public copier.

NICE NOTES!



Thank you.... to Din and Betty Beckrich of Lowell for their donation of a can of pennies for the Library Wishing Jar. And thank you to our neighbor to the north, Venita Roberts of Merrillville, for donating two shoeboxes full of pennies. Thank you.... to the Women's Club for their recent donation in support of the Library.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

March



LIBRARY QUILTERS

LOWELL - Each Monday, Mar. 6 - 27
9:00 AM - 12 Noon

BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING

SHELBY - Thursday, Mar. 9
9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

LOWELL - Tuesday, Mar. 14
9:00 AM - 10:30 AM

Screening is conducted on a first-come, first-served basis by a technician of St. Anthony Medical Center.

CHILDHOOD IMMUNIZATIONS

LOWELL - OAK HILL SCHOOL
Monday, Mar. 13
9:00 AM - 2:00 PM



LIBRARY LOCATIONS

LOWELL - Thursday, Mar. 16
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

SCHNEIDER - Thursday, Mar. 16
12 Noon - 6:00 PM

SHELBY - Monday, Mar. 27
10:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Immunizations at Oak Hill School, the Lowell Library and its Shelby Branch are offered as a free service of the Lake County Health Department. Immunizations at the Schneider Branch Library are offered by St. Anthony's Medical Center. Please bring your immunization records.

"THE BEST OF KANKAKEE RIVER FISHING"

LOWELL - Saturday, Mar. 4 - 2:00 PM
Din Beckrich will share his secrets for catching the "big ones" on the Kankakee River. Learn the history and lore of this fascinating waterway.

"CREATE AN EASTER BASKET" - SHELBY

Monday, Mar. 6 - 6:00 PM Julie Dutlinger will teach participants to create a charming Easter Basket. The fee for this program is \$18.



"EXPLODING THE GREAT TAX MYTH"

LOWELL - Tuesday, Mar. 7 - 7:00 PM
American Express Financial Planners Thomas Giampaolo and E. Kent Elie will discuss strategies to minimize your taxes.

"STRESS & MARRIAGE: FINDING TIME FOR EACH OTHER" - LOWELL

Monday, Mar. 13 - 7:00 PM David Deacon of the Family Stress Clinic will discuss the need of couples to find time for each other in a stress filled society.

"WEAVE A SWEETHEART BASKET" - SHELBY

Thursday, Mar. 16 - 9:00 AM. Julie Dutlinger will teach participants to weave a Sweetheart Basket using wooden reeds. The fee for this workshop is \$22.

"ALL ABOUT SELECTING, & PLANTING TREES IN LAKE COUNTY" - LOWELL

Thursday, Mar. 23 - 7:00 PM Talk to the tree expert, Mark Kepler of Purdue Cooperative Extension Service, Crown Point. Mark will tell you which trees to select and which ones to avoid in our area for the best growth outcome. Bring your questions and tree problems.

"SELF-ESTEEM, LEARN TO BE YOUR BEST FRIEND" - LOWELL

Tuesday, Mar. 28 - 7:00 PM
Mark Nickolaou of the Restoration Counseling Center, Ltd. will discuss how to build your self-esteem, handle such emotions as anger and jealousy, deal constructively with criticism, celebrate your strengths, and develop self-improvement skills.

TAX AID CONTINUES

Tax aid continues for low to moderate income persons, handicapped or elderly tax-payers. The service is offered by volunteers of AARP (American Association of Retired Persons) at the library and its branches. Call for an appointment.

TO PRE-REGISTER FOR PROGRAMS CALL:

LOWELL PUBLIC LIBRARY 696-7704
SHELBY BRANCH LIBRARY 552-0809
SCHNEIDER BRANCH LIBRARY 552-1000

Lowell Public Library
1505 E. Commercial Avenue
Lowell IN 46356

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
LOWELL IN 46356
PERMIT NO. 159



Happy St. Patrick's Day



STORY TIME

Stories, games, and dances are activities your child can enjoy learning while attending Story Time. Children 3-5 years of age may be pre-registered for Story Time by calling the library at 696-7704.

SHELBY - Mondays, - Mar. 20 - Apr. 24
9:30 AM

LOWELL - Tuesdays, Mar. 21 - Apr. 25
10:00 AM or 1:30 PM

Wednesdays, Mar. 22 - Apr. 26
10:00 AM or 1:30 PM

SCHNEIDER - Thursdays, Mar. 23 - Apr. 27
9:30 AM



CRAFT CORNER

Gators, gators everywhere! Preschoolers attending Craft Corner will be making alligator hats and school age students will make an alligator bookmark. Children may be pre-registered by calling the library at 696-7704.

LOWELL - Thursday, Mar. 9
Preschool - 10:00 AM
School age - 3:30 PM

SCHNEIDER - Thursday, Mar. 16
Both ages - 3:30 PM

SHELBY - Thursday, Mar. 23
Preschool - 3:30 PM

Thursday, Mar. 30
School age - 4:00 PM