

# Latah County Library District

## DIRECTOR'S REPORT July 2010

### Activity Summary

- Summer reading programs were in full swing this month. Activities for "Make a Splash! Read!" at area libraries, including the Moscow library, were highlighted in a Daily News article on June 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Other library news to receive widespread publicity concerned the July 4<sup>th</sup> evening fire in the Moscow library outside bookdrop. The fire was caused by lit fireworks placed in the bookdrop and destroyed \$1,000 worth of books and movies as well as a bookdrop cart. The dropbox itself was also damaged.
- Ten days after the bookdrop fire and following a huge outpouring of community support for the library, a young man stepped forward to admit responsibility. He expressed remorse and the desire to make full restitution for the fire damage. A very welcome development and we are following up with the police department.
- On Saturday July 10<sup>th</sup>, several members of the library staff and board attended a Troy Days celebration of Dorothy and Ellis Anderson, longtime supporters of the Troy library.
- On behalf of the Potlatch library, local author Pat Cary Peek contributed a column to area newspapers celebrating the 10 year anniversary of their new library building. The library will host an open house in honor of the anniversary on Saturday July 17<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM.
- On July 17<sup>th</sup> the Bovill library and Friends group will sponsor a pie social from 2:00 – 4:00 PM and have an entry in the Bovill Days parade at 1:00 PM. The library is hosting activities this same weekend for the White family, longtime library supporters, in acknowledgement of their special contribution.
- Genesee Branch Supervisor Connie Sobczyk attended the Genesee City Council meeting on June 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Moscow circulation staff member Sally Perrine contributed a newspaper column of summer reading staff picks to the local newspaper.
- On June 22<sup>nd</sup> I attended a meeting between VALNet and CIN board members to discuss the future of our consortiums and the possibility of joint planning.
- The task force creation proposed by the WIN consortium leadership as a mechanism for investigating new funding and governance options was not approved by the WIN board. The latest suggestion is to wait until the next regularly scheduled WIN board meeting this fall to discuss other options.
- I attended a meeting of the VALNet directors on June 30<sup>th</sup> in Lewiston. The directors agreed to review the VALNet strategic plan and explore other options for integrated library system software. They also agreed to seek clarification from WIN regarding consortium goals.
- At the request of the Idaho Commission for Libraries, each of the district libraries conducted a series of tests of broadband speed at each location. This information will be used to support the statewide grant request for broadband connectivity improvements.

### Department and Branch Reports

#### Bovill Branch Report – Paula Winter

- June was busy with the start of summer reading. Programs have been well attended and I have 31 sign ups so far.
- As always it was a pleasure to host the board members for their June meeting. A reception with good food was held for Sylva as this was her last meeting and she stepped down from the board.
- Some landscaping was done in the front of the building and looks very nice.
- Still working on tying up odds and ends of projects that the Friends have going.
- Otherwise just business as usual.

#### Deary Branch Report – Debbie Fischer

- After back surgery (planned) and a heart attack (unplanned), it sure feels good to be back working again. Many thanks go to Maxine and Gina, our great subs, who kept the library humming while I was gone.

Hopefully, Deary won't need subs for a while – I think we have kept them from the other libraries long enough!

- Summer Program is going well – we have 39 signups and a few finishers. We average about 20 kids per program. Lynne Rains and Sue Mitchell had the kids color quilt blocks about "summer fun" to be sewn into a quilt for the Library wall, and "Batsy" presented a "Frog Prince" puppet play. The kids loved them both.
- We have had a lot of positive comments concerning the library remodel. It has been hot in here without the air conditioner, which was not that efficient anyway. The ceiling fan helps a lot, and sometimes we open both doors to facilitate a breeze. We have a big orange longhaired cat who meows from outside, so I brought a bowl of food in case he was hungry. I have not seen him since!
- We had a summer worker who cleaned out all the weeds and hosed down the outside of the library building. Lynne Rains planted flowers in the planters in front. We also hired Jill Wilson to clean, since Shera is unavailable during the summer.

#### Genesee Branch Report – Connie Sobczyk

- Summer Reading began with sign-ups on June 7. Presently, we have 88 enthusiastic registered participants and 23 have already completed their first goal. Three programs have already been completed with 4 more to go!
- Three parents helped to decorate the library for the "Splash" summer reading theme. They met on Saturday June 5 and did a marvelous job creating an ocean world.
- 20 Kindergartners visited the library at the end of school, June 4. They were all given library card applications. I was surprised that most of them who did not have cards showed up that the following Monday evening with their parents to get their own.
- June has been a busy month. Our annual Friends' Community Day Book sale was held on June 13. Preparations from volunteers help make this a successful fund raiser and an opportunity to move out the old to make room for the new.
- Carol and I met with City council/library liaison, Linda James on June 10 to discuss possibilities of the City working with Genesee Friends and LCLD in sharing funding options for electrical updates at the library.
- On June 15, I attended the City Council to ask if they would be interested in helping with sharing expenses for any of the library's remodel plans. I brought pictures of our enthusiastic youth participating in the programs to help illustrate how well attended the programs are during the summer.
- Lastly, I am so thankful for the wonderful volunteers who stepped forward to help with Genesee's Book Sale and Summer Reading Programs. It has made a very stressful summer doable.

#### Juliaetta Branch Report – Linda Dahl

- My second month at the Juliaetta Community Library – still loving it! Getting to know the patrons and families makes me feel right "at home". Attended a Community Barbecue and recognized friendly faces of folks who support the library.
- Summer Reading is "Making a Splash" here in the Juliaetta/Kendrick area. It is fun to see the children get excited, show me their favorite books and boast of how much reading they have already completed. We have 64 participants signed up and working on their reading goals.
- Our first program was Outreach Services Manager Betsy Bybell and she was very popular with the children, singing songs and reading "Punia and the King of the Sharks" with a squeaky lobster prop. Betsy also told the story "Why koalas have no tails" and "Tidalick", a story from Australia. Next we had Jen Bruns from the Fish and Game presenting "Animals That Make a Splash". Jen had a very attentive audience, as both children and adults took a keen interest in her many displays and hands on activities. Afterwards, no surprise, MANY animal books were checked out, as I had some ready and on display, anticipating the requests.
- I am keeping busy with Summer Reading and getting to know the library inventory. We may be a small rural library but we have a lot to offer. Also active gathering information of the community's favorite genre's and authors as I begin to see what I would like to order for the patrons. I have a few "twens" doing some "preview" reading for me so as to advise me on what books they want to see in their library.

- One highlight of my month was the visit by two Canadian sisters, traveling northern Idaho. Weary from their long drive, they noticed the library sign and stopped in to refresh themselves. Explaining their visit they expressed their love for libraries and knew when they saw the "open" sign, they would find a "haven". What a perfect comment, as I have always thought of libraries as "havens", and was glad to provide one for these travelers. I also gave the sisters information on the area and scenic drives around Latah County. Needless to say, they left smiling and refreshed!

#### Potlatch Branch Report – Donna Quiring

- Started off the month by visiting the elementary school and promoted Summer Reading in grades K-6.
- Summer Reading is in full swing. As of 6/30 we had 191 sign-ups and 19 finishers.
- Programs have been well attended with 153 kids and 58 adults attending 3 programs.
- Plans are moving along for the open house. Invitations have been sent and now just a few last minute details.
- We have a Boy Scout from Genesee working on his Eagle Scout project. He will be working on getting the children's garden and around the library weeded, new bark laid and building an outside storage shed. He has to have his project finished by August and then I have a Potlatch scout who will be doing some more work around the library for his Eagle Scout Badge, but his timeline is two years. I think I can keep him busy!
- Finally been able to enjoy the new air-conditioning!

#### Troy Branch Report – Margie Fitzmorris

- Andrew, from First Step, had to install a new Zonet box to get my public computers to be able to print from the new printer.
- George did an audio rotation. Thanks George!
- Blenda Henrich is back at the Library again this summer volunteering and Betty Leslie is again our official Summer Reading photographer. What would we do without volunteers?
- Summer Reading Program is going great. 127 sign-ups and 18 finishers so far. The programs have been well attended.
- "Batsy" came out and did a wonderful puppet program. The kids always love her shows.
- I attended a special Friends meeting to discuss the plans for Troy Days.
- Preparing for the Troy Days Parade. This year the Friends of the Troy Library are honoring Dorothy and Ellis Anderson for being the wonderful Friends that they are and have been. They will be riding in Ellis' "special" car driven by his daughter and there will be cake at the Library after the parade @ the Library July 10<sup>th</sup> @ approximately 10:30 a.m.