

Library News....Check It Out!

Submitted by Teresa E. Newton, Director
Lawrence County Public Library

What We Did Last (Fiscal) Year...

The statistical report for fiscal year 2002/03 is completed, and I'm pleased to give you a snapshot of some of the things we accomplished:

Circulation (Items Checked Out of the Library): 100,840

Reference Questions Answered: 5,030

Visitors: 49,709

Programs Offered (for children & adults): 61 programs

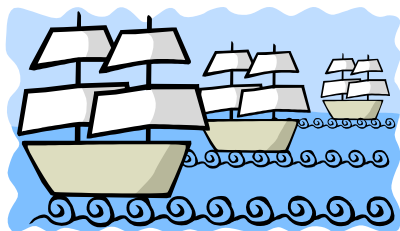
Average # of Computer Users Per Week: 252

New Library Cards Issued (for first time users): 1,074

In addition to these things, we ordered and processed several hundred new books, books on tape, books on CD, and microfilms. Cataloging with the computer system has eliminated some of the steps that we used to have to do, but processing a new item is still a very labor-intensive job. Old books were repaired or sent to the bindery. More than 300 books were borrowed from, or loaned to, libraries outside of our county. Persons with overdue items were called or sent letters in an effort to retrieve missing library materials. The records of everything at the Loretto Branch Library were converted to MARC format and brought into our computer system so that we have a joint catalog and circulation system. An Arts Build Communities grant was written and funded to bring a professional storyteller and a professional cartoonist to Lawrenceburg to entertain and educate children during the summer months. Cards and letters were sent to the families of persons who had memorial books added to the library in their names.

As you can see, the library staff is seldom idle. At the present time, we are doing a major weeding of the library books in addition to the everyday tasks mentioned above. Removing these out-of-date or badly damaged items will help us to know what sections of the collection need to be updated the most. We are ordering many new items, especially for the children's department, to assure that we have current materials for the children.

Columbus sailed the ocean blue in 1492.....and the library will be closed on Monday, October 13th, in observance of Columbus Day.



Books have been processed in memory of the following persons: Lucien and Elizabeth Caperton, Jarrod Carter, Orry Carter, Dot Ellingboe, Samuel Gordon, Chelsea Grinnell, Leon Gobbell, Ogle Hayes, Kimberly Matney, Elaine McDonald, Luther Wynn, and Jr. Williams.

We thank each of you who made memorial donations to the library. More books are on order and will be processed soon.

If you would like to make a donation to the library in memory of, or honor of, someone, please call 853-7323 or 762-4627.

Storytime for four- and five-year-old children is once again being offered on Thursday afternoons. The thirty-minute programs begin at 1:30 PM.

Speaking of Books.... Reviews For You

Claire and Present Danger is the newest Amanda Pepper mystery by Gillian Roberts. You may recall that Amanda is an English teacher at a private school in Philadelphia who just happens to run into dead bodies every now and again. In this current book, Amanda's fiancé, C.K. MacKenzie, has left the police force to work on his graduate degree. He is working part-time as a private investigator and Amanda moonlights as his assistant. An elderly client hires the duo to do a background check on her son's soon-to-be wife. When the client dies, Amanda is convinced that she was murdered and continues to search for clues. This is not the most exciting mystery series that I read, but the books are interesting enough that I read each new addition. This one was a welcome distraction while I was sitting with my mom at the hospital last week. I think you would enjoy this book more if you have already read some of the earlier titles in the series, or go back and read them before you read this one. Let me know what you think.

Karin Slaughter is considered by some to be similar to Patricia Cornwell in her writing style. Having just read her book *A Faint Cold Fear*, I found Ms. Slaughter falls into the category of those who think their writing has to have foul language and four-letter words to be a bestseller. I don't find that necessary to enjoy any book. Her book's main character is Sara Linton, pediatrician/coroner of a small Georgia college town. While investigating a suicide/murder that she was called in on by police chief Jeffrey Tolliver, her ex-husband who she is currently dating (are you still with me?), her pregnant sister who happens to be with Sara is brutally attacked. Since her sister's unborn child is bi-racial, could this crime be racially motivated? A few days later, there is another suspicious suicide/murder, and well...you get the gist. This book is loaded

with dark, brooding, self-destructive characters that for the most part have unhappy childhoods, criminal pasts, are substance abusers, or at the very least, are in therapy. In short, it's hard to like any of them. The book jacket will lead you to believe this book is a great read, but Ms. Slaughter is hardly as polished as Patricia Cornwell. For starters, the book's forensic/autopsy scenes are too graphic and explain more than we need or want to know. I thought I would change my mind as I read more, but it just didn't happen for me. Then again, everyone who reads the book may have a different opinion. I mean, give me a break, what are the chances that someone who writes murder stories has the *real* last name of Slaughter? You decide. Ms. Slaughter was one of three luncheon speakers at the recent Ingram Book Publisher's Showcase, which I attended. She was a very good speaker—but I don't think I want to read other books by her if this is a typical one.

Timely Thoughts.....

In honor of the Halloween season, here are a few "seasonal" riddles:

How can you tell that vampires like baseball?

What's it like to be kissed by a vampire?

How can you tell the invisible man is lying?

What can't you give the headless horseman?

Why isn't a ghost a good gardener?

What do they teach in witching school?

What do you call a witch's garage?

Why doesn't a mummy ever take a vacation?

Don't know the answers? See *Ghoulish Giggles & Monster Riddles* or ask a librarian!



On Display...

Check out the display of miniature tea sets. They are in the display case near the meeting room doors. The collection belongs to Kathy Brazier. Maggie Williams is sharing a very small part of her cookie jar collection with us this month. They're sure to make you smile.



New Books—Lawrenceburg

FICTION:

Fatal Tide, by Iris Johansen

Death By Hollywood, by Steven Bochco

The Wedding, by Nicholas Sparks

Bleachers, by John Grisham

Remember When, by Nora Roberts and J.D. Robb

A Faint Cold Fear, by Karin Slaughter

Dune : the Machine Crusade, by Brian Herbert

Popped : a Regan Reilly Mystery, by Carol Higgins Clark

Last Car to Elysian Fields, by James Lee Burke

The Pleasure of My Company, by Steve Martin

Our Lady of the Forest, by David Guterson

Blacklist, by Sara Paretsky

A Perfect Day, by Richard Paul Evans

Split Second, by David Baldacci

Avenger, by Frederick Forsyth

NONFICTION:

Madam Secretary : a Memoir, by Madeleine Albright

Boogers Are My Beat : More Lies, But Some Actual Journalism, by Dave Barry

The Bounty : the True Story of the Mutiny on the Bounty
Being Presbyterian in the Bible Belt, by Ted Foote
Diabetes Cookbook for Dummies
Hocus Pocus! : Halloween Crafts For a Spooktacular Holiday
Eating Right For a Bad Gut
Everything You Need to Know About Lyme Disease
Hive Management, by Bonney
Ina May's Guide to Childbirth, by Ina May Gaskin
Eating For IBS
Who's Looking Out For You?, by Bill O'Reilly
The Great Lakes Cottage Book
Views From the Sleeping Bear
The Harley-Davidson Century

The Friendly News...

Friends of the Lawrence County Public Library

The Friends of the Lawrence County Public Library met on Friday, September 12th, at 9:30 AM. President Margie Hudson called the meeting to order. Minutes of the previous meeting were not available. Judy Bottoms presented the Treasurer's Report. The report was approved as presented.

In old business, Teresa Newton reported that the shelving, which was ordered in May for the Loretto Branch Library, was finally supposed to be shipped this week. She reminded members that the group had pledged \$750 toward the cost of the shelving.

The book sale has been very successful to date. People continue to bring in new items each day and all tables are still full. After some discussion, it was decided to extend the sale until Noon on Saturday, September 20th. Volunteers will be asked to man the sale on those extra days. All leftover items will be dealt with on Monday, September 22nd.

The Books for Babies project was discussed. If the project is to continue, new supplies of bibs and other materials will have to be purchased and organized soon. After much discussion, it was decided to rewrite the literature contained in the package and to purchase more bibs and bags. There was some concern that we have not had any feedback from parents who received the packages at the hospital. Teresa pointed out that it was more important that the children be read to than to receive feedback from the parents.

Members still wish to offer story programs for toddlers and their parent/babysitter/etc., but don't feel they can be ready to do so until January. Teresa and

Margie will plan a workshop for volunteer training in the coming weeks and contact interested volunteers.

The accountant continues to work on the application for non-profit status for the Friends. The application should be ready for submission soon.

In new business, Teresa reported that authors with local roots who would like to have a book signing at the library have contacted her. Other members of the group knew other local writers and it was agreed to try to plan a local authors' day for early November. Everyone was asked to contact writers that they know and ask if he/she would be interested in taking part in the event. Tentative dates are November 2 or 9.

It was pointed out that the meeting room has a serious humidity problem and that a dehumidifier is needed. There was discussion about whether to purchase a portable model, or a unit which would be connected to the HVAC unit. Carrie Dodd will ask a local expert to stop in and make suggestions. A vacuum cleaner is also needed for use in the meeting room. Donna Crews will donate one and the group voted to purchase a second vacuum cleaner for the library.

Margie announced that officers for the coming year would need to be elected at the November meeting. Most of those present did not wish to be an officer, but will consider doing so before the next meeting.

Mary Benson asked Teresa to prepare a wish list for the Friends to be presented in November. This list of library materials will be purchased with funds from the used book sale. This was our best sale ever—approximately \$3400 was earned.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 AM.

The next meeting of the Friends will be held on Friday, November 14th at 9:30 AM. All library supporters are urged to join us!

News From the Loretto Branch Library

The annual used book sale will be held **October 7-18**. Proceeds from this sale benefit the **Loretto Branch Library**, so support your community by **shopping for books during this time**.

New books added recently include:

FICTION:

Don't Look Now, by Linda Lael Miller

The Time Traveler's Wife, by Audrey Niffenegger

The Hotel Riviera, by Elizabeth Adler

Bleachers, by John Grisham

The Wedding, by Nicholas Sparks

Popped : a Regan Reilly Mystery, by Carol Higgins Clark

Fatal Tide, by Iris Johansen

Remember When, by Nora Roberts

NONFICTION:

The Many Loves of Christmas, by Thomas and Nanette Kinkade

Caving, by Peter Swart

Hidden Tennessee

DK Aquarium Owner's Guide

New shelving for children's books will finally be installed this month. This will allow us to add more books to that area—and will make it easier for you to find the books you want. Delivery and installation is scheduled for Monday, October 20th.



