



Hiawatha Public Library  
150 West Willman Street  
Hiawatha, Iowa 52233  
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## **December 2018**

### **Librarian's Report:**

Director Jeaneal Weeks attended the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation Celebration of Community at the African American Museum in Cedar Rapids. This was a wonderful opportunity to meet others with connections to non-profits and leaders involved in fundraising in the metro area.

Jeaneal Weeks and Erin Zaputil met with the wage committee on 11/26/18 to discuss the city wage plan and to collaborate on a scenario for presentation to the full board on 12/11/18. Brenda Powers and Jeaneal Weeks will meet with the finance director later in December to present an approved request.

Jeaneal and Erin continue discussions with shelving vendors to provide further detail of shelving needs and possible configurations in the expanded building.

Weeks continues to meet monthly with library directors Hollie Trenary of the Marion Public Library and Dara Schmidt of the Cedar Rapids Public Library. Hollie is navigating her position as new director and tackling MPL's proposed new building and expansion. MPL is also considering offering library services in smaller satellite spots around Marion to reach a wider area of the community to accommodate current service needs as they work through the details and time issues of a building a larger library in collaboration with the City of Marion and a private developer.

Weeks continues to work on the library's accreditation application due February 28, 2019. The application is largely complete with a few tasks and projects to finish up. She is on track to have it completed and approved by the February deadline.

### **Operations Report:**

Erin coordinated the speakers for HPL's shared staff training day with Marion Public Library on November 9. Anne Duggar from the Catherine McCauley Center shared Cultural Humility training, and Emily Zimmon from Willis Dady shared ACES (Adverse Childhood Experiences) training. Staff from MPL coordinated the beautiful gathering space at Lowe Park in Marion and



provided a delicious lunch. It was an incredibly fulfilling morning of learning with our MLN partner.

Our IT representative Jon from Inteconnex successfully moved the library staff computers onto the City domain. Our documents server is now hosted on the City server. This move allows us greater security, backup and support.

Erin is also working with Jon on a plan to upgrade the patron computers with new solid-state drives. For a minimal cost the impact on the speed of the computers would be significant. These drives can be reused in any new computers that may be purchased as part of the building expansion project.

Erin, Jeaneal and Alicia attended the Future Ready Iowa Summit at Kirkwood in Hiawatha. This was a great experience. Erin especially enjoyed learning about how other area businesses are assisting underrepresented populations gain employment. Within her workgroup Erin advocated for further inclusion of the library in community efforts to grow Iowa's workforce. Jeaneal advocated for inclusion of underrepresented populations in efforts to provide jobs and training for older displaced workers and those already in the job market who may have given up on seeking employment.

Erin attended the Iowa Library Association Planning Day in Johnston. This is always a wonderful time of collaboration with other Iowa librarians. Erin shared the need for a welcome email to new and renewing members of ILA explaining how ILA works, the various committees and subdivisions within ILA and available leadership opportunities. The idea was met positively and will hopefully be implemented in the future.

Erin continues to meet with the other MLN circulation managers. The group continues to be productive in finding ways to streamline processes throughout the MLN.



## Youth Services:

Youth Services Librarian Alicia Mangin met with Laura Columbus, Senior Coordinator of Education at United Way of East Central Iowa. Columbus heads Reading into Success whose goal is to ensure that students read proficiently by the end of third grade. Hiawatha Public Library and other community partners hope to share reading data from various summer reading programs during June and July 2019 and establish a common identifiable reward throughout the community that signals to kids from program to program that everyone is reading for success.

Mangin also attended a training session for Teaching Interventions to Empower and Strengthen Families at St. Luke's Hospital. This free early intervention program is geared for kids 18 mos. to 5 years old and their caregivers. Professionals and parents work together to practice the skills they learn. Mangin found it rewarding.

Mangin met with Lori Ampey, Director of Programming for Southside Boys and Girls Club. Seeking to make the Club more inclusive, Ampey was instrumental in establishing LGBTQ programming and the LGBTQ Youth Center at Tanager Place. Wishing to provide inclusion to the area young adult population, Ampey advised Alicia on starting LGBTQ programming at Hiawatha Public Library. The Library's first event, *you belong@your library*, is Saturday, January 19 at 3:00.

During November, Youth Services introduced Ramps & Pathways to children. This STEM curriculum involves inclined planes and the movement of objects through the use of wooden blocks of various sizes and wooden cove molding ramps and provides limitless possibilities for young minds. Ramps & Pathways was first introduced as an adjunct to Lego Club and then was the main event for Little Engineers on November 16. More than 30 preschoolers and caregivers joined together for an hour of building and problem-solving.

Youth Services hosted a plethora of events during November for young children, tweens and teens but it was special guest Curious George who filled the community room from corner to corner on Saturday, November 3. He shared stories, hugs and of course, a bit of trouble with over 120 kids. Curious George was happy to ham it up for photos with his young friends.



### **Adult Programming:**

On November 10<sup>th</sup> the library hosted Greg and Jen from the Paranormal Spectre Group. They showed video clips from haunted places they had investigated in Iowa. Some of the places included: Edinburgh Manor, Villisca Ax Murder House, and Farrar Schoolhouse. There were 22 patrons in attendance. We also had a few patrons ask if we could have them again. Overall, we received lots of good feedback from this program.

On November 17<sup>th</sup> we hosted a Harry Potter Themed Escape Room. People sign up for a time slot and then have 30 minutes to try to solve the puzzles and find the key to escape. This program was hugely popular. It sold out in a matter of hours. We are working on dates to offer it again and brainstorming for ideas for new escape rooms to offer in the future. 22 people participated.

On November 24<sup>th</sup> certified and trained yoga instructor Lauren Shuster led patrons in a relaxing Chair Yoga session. She offered a bit of a relaxing break during this holiday season

HPL continued our sock drive for the month of November by collecting new and gently used socks to give to the Willis Dady Shelter. For the month of November, we collected 198 pairs. With October and November, we have collected 528 pairs of socks to give away.

Food for Fines was a huge success! Hiawatha patrons donated **2,176 lbs.** of food which provides **1,813.33 meals.** Food for Fines is a MLN collaborative effort.

### Upcoming December Programs

December 3<sup>rd</sup>: HACAP Mobile Pantry 2:00

December 4<sup>th</sup>: Financial Literacy Class-“Got Debt?” 6:30

December 8<sup>th</sup>: Chair Yoga 8:45

December 15<sup>th</sup>: Self-Publishing Lab with Cynthia Petersen 2:00

December 22<sup>nd</sup>: Chair Yoga 8:45