

September 15, 2009



SENECA LIBRARY DISTRICT

# Seneca District Newsletter

## The Heart of the Community

“Sometimes the key to a vibrant, healthy community can be right under our nose, hidden in plain sight, so to speak.” This is what Wayne M. Senville, Editor of the *Planning Commissioners Journal*, has to say about public libraries. He refers to the comments of noted architect & writer Witold Rybczynske who believes libraries are far from unneeded in the Internet age—in fact, they’re making a comeback as key anchors in our downtowns.

Reporter Annie Stamper writes that: “Particularly in small towns, the library is often the hub of the community, providing a place for residents to meet, as well as to learn.” The public library ranks right up there with city halls & post offices as keys to strong communities. Mr. Senville points out that libraries can bring substantial benefits to the downtown area. The library draws a significant number of people to the area on any given day and helps add to the “authenticity of a town.”

If you have any doubt about the use of public libraries take a look at these statistics provided by Mr. Senville. In 2006, there were 1.4 billion visits to our country’s 9,208 public libraries. In contrast in 2007, attendance at major league baseball games, NFL football games, NCAA men’s & women’s basketball & football games all total less than 15 percent the number of visits to public libraries.

Libraries are gaining recognition for “their ability to attract tremendous foot traffic, provide long-term tenancy, and complement neighboring retail & cultural destinations.” In addition, library buildings fit in a wide mix of public & private sector developments.

This article also points out the importance of libraries in middle-income communities. Individuals in the middle-income bracket can’t always afford Barnes & Noble, yet they are well educated so the library becomes a critical public service for them.

The public libraries are also important to communities because they provide increasingly scarce “neutral public space.” In today’s world there are very few civic organizations that can supply a space accessible to all segments in the community.

Mr Senville concludes that “in a growing number of cities and towns, the library has become the hub of the community, drawing large numbers of new users...Libraries generate increased business for local merchants, while those shopping and working downtown visit the library as part of their day. Libraries and community. They’re really inseparable.”

Based on: Senville, Wayne M., “Libraries at the Heart of Our Communities.” *Planning Commissioners Journal*, p.12-18, No. 75, Summer 2009.



## District Happenings

### Congratulations:

Friends’ Memorial Library in Kane has been awarded a *Picturing America* kit. *Picturing America* comes from the National Endowment for the Humanities in cooperation with ALA. The program uses art as a tool to teach American history. The kits include 40 color reproductions of selected art works (24”x36”) and a resource book that provides ideas and background. Kane plans to use these materials to present programs for all ages.

Warren Public Library received a very generous memorial donation in memory of Chris Marti from the Henry Family Foundation. It is earmarked for children’s programs that support early literacy.

St Marys Public Library has received a

bequest from the estate of Suzette Babin. They are using some of those funds to purchase new custom made wooden ends for their shelving.

### Events:

Friends’ Memorial Library in Kane will hold their annual used book sale on Friday, October 2, 2009 from 10 AM to 4 PM and on Saturday, October 3, 2009 from 10 AM to 1 PM.

Bradford Area Public Library announces that the OneBook Bradford committee has chosen *Becky: the life and loves of Becky Thatcher* by Lenore Hart as the 2009-2010 community read. Ms. Hart will be in Bradford on March 31, 2010. Other activities related to the book are

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## District Happenings (cont'd from page 1)

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planned including a visit from Mark Twain himself (aka Mike Randall) in January.

### **Farewell:**

Warren Public Library bid farewell to Children's Assistant Trish Gentilman who left to pursue other endeavors. Many of you have met Trish at the Summer Reading Workshops.

**Patron:** I am looking for a globe of the earth.

**Librarian:** We have a table-top model over here.

**Patron:** No, that's not good enough. Don't you have a life-size.

**Librarian:** (pause) "Yes, but it's in use right now."

**Q: Why did the librarian slip and fall on the library floor?**

A: Because she was in the non-friction section.

**Q: What did the detective do when he didn't believe the librarian's story?**

A: He booked her!

**Q: Do you know how many librarians it takes to screw in a light bulb?**

A: No, but I know where you can look it up!

**Q: Where are there more nobles than in the royal court?**

A: In the library. All the books have titles.

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### **LIBRARY JOKES**

**Q: What happens when you cross a librarian and a lawyer?**

A: You get all the information you want, but you can't understand it.



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## District Reminders

◆ **PaLA Northwest Workshop**—*Leaders in Libraries: Marketing Your Library in a Tough Economy*—Friday, September 25, 2009; 9 AM to 3:30 PM; Cross Creek Resort, Titusville, PA

◆ **QuickBooks for Libraries**  
Wednesday, September 30, 2009; 9 AM to Noon; Warren Public Library **OR**  
Friday, October 23, 2009; 9AM to Noon; Warren Public Library

◆ **District Meeting**  
October 9, 2009—*What's the BIG Ideal? Making*

*Math & Science Come Alive for Children & Families in Your Library* presented by Bonnie Hogue—9 AM to Noon, Wilcox Public Library

◆ **An Ounce of Prevention: Health Reference Basics**—view the April 2009 teleconference from College of DuPage—Friday, October 30, 2009 in the Slater Room of Warren Public Library from 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM

◆ **Audit/Financial Review:** All audits/financial reviews **must** be in the District Office by 4:30 PM on Wednesday, September 23, 2009.



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## District Professional Collection

**Fry, Robert P., *Who's minding the money?: an investment guide for nonprofit board members.* Washington, D.C.: BoardSource, 2009.**

Overseeing a library's investments falls squarely on the board. When investment policies are developed by informed boards that supervise their financial advisors, the returns almost always outweigh the risks. But when boards are hands-off, because they lack knowledge, they can end up approving investments that are inappropriate for their library.

*Who's minding the money?* Helps board members understand how and why they should oversee the library's investments. The book avoids financial jargon and covers topics such as setting investment goals, creating helpful policies, scam-proofing, avoiding conflicts of interest, what to look for in an investment advisor, and a glossary of investment and legal terms. Also included in this tool are sample investment policies, alternative investment due-diligence guidelines, and a self-guided investment audit.

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## More District Professional Collection

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**An ounce of prevention: health reference basics. (DVD)**  
**Glen Ellyn, IL: College of DuPage, 2009.**

With rising health care costs and economic stress, more and more individuals are seeking out health information online and in print. Is your library meeting their needs? Is your library effectively marketing your health-related resources?

This program discusses quality print and electronic resources as well as the role of library staff in the information seeking process. Guidance is given on the need to respect patient privacy, to accommodate the cultural diversity of patrons, to match the right type of resource to specific individuals, and how to navigate touchy health reference situations.

We will be using the above DVD for a District workshop on October 30, 2009. (see "District Reminders")

**Sethi, Maneesh, Game programming for teens. Boston:**

**Course Technology PTR, 2009.**

Do you know young adults who enjoy video games & are into technology? This volume shows them how to design & develop a complete video game with no prior programming knowledge required. The author covers BlitzMax, a simple game programming language; graphics, and other dimensions such as keyboard input & music. These skills are explained step-by-step so that each chapter builds upon the previous till the reader has developed his own game.

A CD-ROM, included with the book, contains all the source code from examples in the book; art; sound & music libraries; and 30-day trial versions of software.

*Note: This volume is one of the titles recommended by Rose-Mary Honnold at the **Teen Temptations** workshop. It has been placed in Warren's public collection. I would encourage you to borrow it for teens with this interest.*



## Quick Notes

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◆ **Programming Librarian**

Programming Librarian is an online center for information related to presenting cultural programs for all types & sizes of libraries. The site has 2 sections: the library & the blog.

The library contains program planning resources with information on topics such as fundraising as well as events & celebrations you can develop into programs. The blog provides grant announcements, short pieces on various topics written by bloggers. Go to: [www.programminglibrarian.org](http://www.programminglibrarian.org)

◆ **Library Success: A Best Practices Wiki**

This wiki was designed as a one-stop shop for great ideas & information for all types of libraries. Librarians are developing great programs & doing neat things with technology that no one outside of their library knows about. While there are numerous blogs sharing information about the library world, there is not one place where all this information is collected & organized. That is what this site attempts to do. Check it out at: [www.libsuccess.org](http://www.libsuccess.org)

## Meet the Librarian

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Please allow me to introduce Elizabeth Nicholson! Elizabeth is the new Director for the Tidioute Public Library. Officially, she began her duties as Director at the end of May 2009.



Tidioute Public Library in March 2009. Shortly thereafter, Miss Nicholson was hired as the Director.

Tidioute is her home town and has been all of her life. She graduated from Tidioute High School and in 2006, from Clarion University where she earned a degree in Liberal Studies with minors in both History and French.

Elizabeth is currently living at home with her parents. In her spare time, she helps with children's programs at her church. For entertainment and relaxation, Elizabeth enjoys knitting, reading (of course), canoeing and birding.

After college Elizabeth returned to Tidioute to work at her Father's business, King Building Supply. In addition to working with her Father, she began volunteering at the

Welcome to the Seneca District, Elizabeth!



**Seneca Library District**



## MOMENTS IN OUR LIVES

### SENECA LIBRARY DISTRICT

Seneca Library District  
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*Serving libraries in five counties.*

**We're on the web at  
[www.warrenlibrary.org](http://www.warrenlibrary.org)**

- ◆ **Lois Strycula**, Seneca District Consultant, is pleased to share that her granddaughter, Clarissa Ann, was baptized on August 9, 2009.
- ◆ **Kimberly Wilson**, Director of Sugar Grove Free Library, is proud to announce the birth of her first grandchild on July 11, 2009. His name is Jonathan Michael (alias Slurpy) and he weighed in at 7 lbs. 12 oz. Kim claims that he already likes having Grandma read to him. Congratulations Grandma!

*"In the nonstop tsunami of global information, librarians provide us with floaties and teach us how to swim."*

Linton Weeks, *Washington Post*, Jan. 13, 2001

## Mythology

- ◆ The nine Muses of Greek mythology were Calliope, Clio, Erato, Euterpe, Melpomene, Polyhymnia, Terpsichore, Thalia, & Urania. They were the daughters of Zeus & Mnemosyne.
- ◆ The mantichore had the head of a man, the body of a lion, & the tail & feet of a dragon.
- ◆ The diet of the Minotaur periodically included seven youths & seven maidens.
- ◆ Iris was the goddess of the rainbow.
- ◆ The Chimera was a fire-breathing female monster with a lion's head, a goat's body & a dragon's tail.
- ◆ In Greek mythology Arges, Brontes & Steropes were all Cyclopes.
- ◆ Persephone was the queen of the underworld & wife of Hades.
- ◆ The ancient Greek god of dreams was Morpheus.
- ◆ According to classical mythology the first mortal woman was Pandora.
- ◆ Legend says that the unicorn's horn was white at the base, black in the middle, & red at the tip.
- ◆ According to Norse legend, two goats pulled Thor's chariot across the sky. Thor is the god of thunder.
- ◆ Lamia had the unusual power of plucking out and replacing her eyes at will.
- ◆ Helios was the god who drove the chariot of the sun each day. The chariot was drawn by 4 horses with golden manes.

