



Volume 1, Issue 6

November 2016



Tomah Public Library

Friends of the Library



Christmas Silent Auction & Fundraiser December 6th

Plans are underway for the 2016 Christmas Silent Auction and Fundraiser. This year's event will take place Tuesday, December 6 from 3-7 pm at the library.

The goal of this year's event is to raise funds to contribute to the upgrade of the library security cameras. Here's how you can help:

- *Make a donation to the silent auction. Items can be large or small. Hand-crafted items are especially popular. Items can be dropped off at the library anytime on or before December 5.*
- *Volunteer to donate two dozen cookies or bars. Cookies can be dropped off at the library the day before the auction.*
- *We also need lots of large baskets to package silent auction items. They can also be dropped off at the library any time before December 1.*
- *Come to the auction and invite a friend!*



Summer Reading Program Benefits Animal Shelter

Words are powerful even when they are read. This summer Tomah area kids used the power of reading words to help feed and care for cats and dogs by participating in the library "Paws and Read" summer reading program. As the kids read, they earned credit to turn into donations of food and other necessities for animals at Chasing Daylights Animal Shelter (CDAS).

Collaborating with CDAS was the brainchild of Youth Services Librarian David Deprey, who researched ways to create interest in the program and to give the kids a chance to turn their accomplishments into a community service benefit. "I think at a young age it is key to learn that your actions can have a large, positive impact locally and I thought a library, along with their summer reading program, could foster this development," said Deprey.

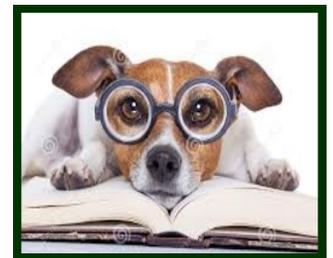
All the kids that enrolled in the program took home a read-

ing log sheet and set their own target to reach their individual goal. Once their goal was reached, completed logs were returned to the library and they were awarded prizes including new books, a bit of chocolate, a coupon from the Station for an ice cream treat and a free pool pass. This year, a donation will also be made to CDAS for each child that successfully completed the program.

According to CDAS's Becky Ladd, the shelter is totally dependent on donations in order to offer the services they provide for the animals that come into their facility. A donation of \$5 for each child that completed the program will be donated to CDAS. That's a whopping total of \$1500 for the 300 kids that tuned in a reading log! "We have such wonderful community support," Ladd said. "We wouldn't be here without this generous community. Every single penny counts. We are so appreciative of this donation."

The summer reading program was expanded this year to include all age groups, including adults. Age appropriate story time and chapter book sessions, book review clubs, pizza and a movie and coloring clubs were all part of the activities available throughout the summer.

Expenses for the summer reading program are covered by Friends of the Library. Money is raised through a perpetual book sale at the library and an annual silent auction fundraiser held the first Tuesday of every December. The money raised is also used to supply items on the library wish list that are outside the scope of the annual budget.



Friends: Help Us Update Our Records

The Tomah Public Library will be celebrating the library's 100th birthday in 2017!

We need your help. Our membership roster is seriously

outdated. We would like to be able to keep you informed about what is coming up to commemorate this exciting event in the history of the

library and the Tomah community. Please take a few minutes to provide us with an update of your telephone number and email address. Thank you!

Send an email to:

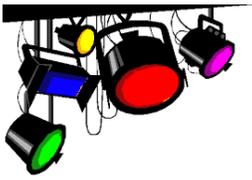
friendsofthetomahpubliclibrary@gmail.com

Include:

Your name

Telephone Number

And Email Address



Employee Spotlight - Library Director Irma Keller



The Tomah Public Library is about to celebrate its 100th birthday in 2017. "This beautiful and historic building has been anchoring the city of Tomah for nearly a century," says Library Director Irma Keller. It's an exciting time and I'm so happy to be a part of it."

Irma has some history with the library too. She has been on board since October 13, 1997. She began as a part time library aide until a position was created for a fulltime library assistant and she became the Library Director on April 1, 2007. She has been happily serving in that capacity ever since.

She was born, raised and graduated from high school in Hammond, Indiana. She earned her Bachelor's degree from Indiana University and holds two Masters degrees. Her Political Science Masters was earned at UW-Madison and the second through an on-line program with UW-Milwaukee for Library Science.

When asked what her goals for the library are, she said, "I want to be able to offer one-on-one interaction with patrons, set a standard for how patrons are treated and continually expand library services." The library currently offers programs that invite patrons to the library for evening events that have not always been available. An evening story time session was added for kids who aren't able to attend the daytime sessions. Activities for older kids and adults have also been added that include movie nights and coloring clubs. The annual Summer Reading Program is constantly being revamped and expanded to attract summer readers and make sure they get the most out of the program. "We want patrons to look forward to coming to the library so watch for new adult programming in 2017, she said"

"Outside of the library, I'm a reader, of course, crafter, quilter and I'm addicted to Sukoku," she says with a laugh. Irma is currently listening to a new Tana French audio book. "I'm a big fan of audio books." She would like to see more people take advantage of the hundreds of audio books available at the library. "So often, people will say they don't have time to read. Audio books give a reader the freedom to listen to good books while they are driving or doing chores. I love, love, love them!" The next time you are in the library and are thinking about trying an audio book ask Irma for a recommendation. You could find a whole new way to love books!

What's New at the Library?

The library staff has been very successful at finding innovative ways to attract all age groups to the library and offer new and exciting activities. Check these out:

- An area of the children's library has been converted into a **Teen Section**. Older kids now have a place to call their own where they can find books and reading material appropriate for their age.
- Thursday is **movie night**. Movie selections alternate every other week between films for kids in grades 6-12 and movies for adult audiences. Popcorn is always available!
- **Crafternoon** is being offered every Wednesday afternoon between 3:00-5:00 pm for kids in grades K-12. The kids supply the

creativity and the library supplies the arts and crafts supplies. (Kids 7 and under may attend with an adult.)

- A new story time session has been added called **Babytime**. Books and activities for babies between the ages of 6-18 months and their parents are offered every Wednesday at 10:00 am. This a great opportunity to introduce little ones to the joy of coming to the library.
- Once a month, a **Saturday story time** session has been added for kids that are not able to attend a weekly story time. Regular story time sessions are still available on Monday nights at 6:30 pm and Tuesday mornings at 10:00 and 11:15.

- The **perpetual book sale** has returned to the library! The selection of books has been significantly expanded and is housed on a much larger bookshelf. You can almost always find a treasure to add to your own library for a nominal price. Hardcover books are \$1.00 and paperbacks are \$.50 unless otherwise marked

If you visited the Library this summer, you know that the building was without air conditioning. The good news is that the old system has been replaced and is ready to keep patrons and staff cool next summer. Circulation didn't suffer but most people chose not to stay in the building very long. The staff survived uncomfortable conditions and are looking forward to a cool environment in 2017.

