

Information Services Report May 2017

The Information Services Department has been working on several projects that address some of the goals in the strategic plan for outreach and PR.

Greater Stillwater Chamber Community Showcase

This event took place at the end of March. Bayport Library bought table space at the event and offered to let us join them in providing information to the community about libraries. Susan from the Information Services staff attended the event. We had good attendance and issued library cards to new patrons on site.

Stillwater Earth Day with SEED, Stillwater Main Street and Sustainable Stillwater MN

Staff from both Information Services and Children's Department attended the event. Before the event, organizers asked staff for specific information to be distributed, including a brochure of the community services that the library has on its website and a basic guide to where to find topics that relate to Earth Day. Information Services staff created some lovely brochures with the information and distributed them. The Children's Department project of a collaborative LEGO build was the highlight of the event for a number of children, with one mother having to drag her children away from building to take a ride on the gondola.

Library Literati

Karen from the Info Staff is working on a project to broaden the conversation about books at the library. The idea is that everyone is aware that library staff reads but our choices can be kind of from the same perspective (older, well-read women), so we are recruiting regular readers to represent the broad perspective of people that actually use the library. Karen has 8-10 readers that are giving recommendations and willing to be highlighted as community readers. We will share a short biography of each of the readers and highlight their book choices in the library and on Facebook. The participants have embraced the idea with such enthusiasm that they even self organized a group meeting to know each other better. In addition to the PR element, it's clear that this will give us an extra tool for Reader's Advisory work.

Throw Back Thursday highlighting the Saint Croix Collection

A common social media hashtag is #throwbackthursday where people share older photographs of their history. Some organizations adopted this hashtag to highlight organizational history. Information Services Staff decided that this was an opportunity for us to highlight the wealth of information contained in our Saint Croix Collection. Sue has been posting pictures from the collection since the beginning of the year, and they continue to be some of our most viewed and commented on Facebook posts. The library's Facebook page has continued to grow in popularity, and we have more people following us than Washington County Historical Society and near Washington County Libraries in popularity.

Big Read

The library once again partnered with ArtReach on the NEA Big Read project. For Club Book, the library held a talk featuring Dashell Hammit's daughter and hosted a display of falcons in our new seating area. Staff continues to work with ArtReach on brainstorming next year's titles and possible programming tie-ins.

Washington County Workforce/Adult Basic Education

Aurora met again with Washington County Workforce and Stillwater Public Schools Adult Basic Education to evaluate the project we worked on this past Spring and to plan for the future. More sessions are being organized for the Summer and Fall with the commitment to offer this project on a quarterly basis. Because there is no space in Stillwater for a resource room or direct service to multiple clients, Washington County Workforce is interested in hosting some training at the library. The library is interested in finding ways to serve the many people library staff assists in job searches without sending them to Woodbury, since many of the library's patrons find the distance a barrier. The last session of an open lab for participants featured working on building computer skills and getting basic resumes drafted.

**Thank You Notes from Stillwater Homeschool Group
for a library tour on April 19, 2017**



