

January, 12, 2016

- Our Children's Librarian Kayla Graff has resigned to accept a full time position at a local firm. Retired teacher Lori Madsen will step into her shoes.
- Board approved the proposed 2016/2017 budget of \$123,350, with \$74,798 plus employee benefits from the City.
- We received a \$1,521 Pocahontas County Foundation grant for Maker Space equipment. The County Libraries received a grant to hire a speaker during National Library Week and have a booth at the County Fair.

February 2016

- No meeting, just an agreement to pay the monthly bills.
- Assistant Director Deb Hertz became a full time employee.

March 8, 2016

- We're using "Maker Monday" classes to highlight our new Maker Space.
- Leo's Kitchens from Storm Lake installed new laminate countertops on the circulation desk, in the work room, and added a counter to the window area outside the workroom.
- The City accepted the 2016/2017 budget as presented.
- New high circulation of 4474

April 12, 2016

- Author Linda McCann will visit each Library in Pocahontas County during National Library Week. She will be talking about her books, "Prohibition in Iowa" and "The Civilian Conservation Corp"
- The Board decided to go with Laurens Plumbing's bid to replace our lights with LED using the ballast option. We will wait until the beginning of the next fiscal year (July 10) for budgeting purposes.
- We are starting a new program matching adult volunteers with elementary students to read together after school.
- We will be switching the host of our digital archive of the Laurens Sun to Advantage Microfilm. We will also be adding editions from 2009 to present.
- April total circulations blows away the former highs, with a record 5394! This is partly due to the online reading of our TumbleBooks.

May 10, 2016

- We hosted Ruth Steinkoenig, who talked about her book of life memories "Fasten Your Seat Belts, This is Going to be a Bumpy Ride!"

June 14, 2016

- Summer Reading theme is “On Your Mark, Get Set, READ!” Story Times will be Wednesdays at 1:30. Special programs include Blank Park Zoo, Pocahontas County Naturalist, IPTV’s Dan Wardell, and Pockets Full of Fun puppets. Of course, we will also have LegoMania all day every Friday.
- Middle school “May Term” students spent some time at the Library learning about and using our genealogy resources.
- Hosted Ruth Agle, author of “Hazel Twig and the Hollyhock Hideaway” a program which had been postponed a number of times because of the weather.
- Annual employee evaluations were again very positive. 3% raises effective July 1st.

July 19, 2016

- Former L-M middle school teacher Brad Wilkening presented a program entitled, “Lessons of the Holocaust”
- Librarians took turns manning a County Library booth at the Pocahontas County Fair.
- New York Time Best Selling author Heather Gudenkauf was spoke on our regular Book Club evening. We just read her book “Little Mercies.” Her program, like her books was “just plain wonderful!”
- Staff member Lori Madsen will be returning to teaching in the fall, so has submitted her resignation. Retired L-M Kindergarten teacher Jeri Wenell will be taking over duties as our Children’s Librarian.
- Due to changes in State law, our patrons who are minors no longer need parental permission to use our computers. Minimum age is still set at 12 for computer use.
- We have had 2 local farmers report to us that our farm ground is not being farmed properly. We will discuss this at our meeting with Bethany.

August 17, 2016

- Former Laurens resident, Madyson Main spoke about her time spent working in a Romanian Orphanage.
- At a joint meeting was held with the Bethany Lutheran Church Council and the Library Board. Rich Ehlers reports the weeds have now been sprayed. Library Board President Pat Boughey and Church representative Rich Ehlers will talk to Wal-Jan Farms to see if they wish to continue to farm the land and let them know that their farming practices will be evaluated. Rent lowered to \$250 per acre in line with the farm rent survey.
- Pocahontas County Historical Society will be paying to digitize the book, “Pocahontas County, Iowa, History” It will be available for patrons to access from the Laurens, Pocahontas, Rolfe, and Fonda Libraries’ Advantage Newspaper archives.

- Laurens Plumbing has started replacing some of our bulbs with LED. We will keep the same fixtures, just new LED bulbs and ballasts. Work will continue as they have time.

September 13, 2016

- We have received our Accreditation, Tier 3 letter from the State Library of Iowa. This status is effective until June 30, 2019
- Staff has been weeding the J & Y nonfiction section.

October 11, 2016

- Lots of programs this month! “A Culinary History of Iowa” with Darcy Maulsby, Laurens Ecumenical Youth Group talks about their mission trip, Be Scam Smart, and of course, our Halloween Magician Larry Dunbar.
- Laurens Public Library Foundation again held their Pancake Supper as a fundraiser at the Christian Church.
- New Library Foundation Projects include a new drinking fountain with a water bottle filler.

November 8, 2016

- Most of our indoor LED lights have been installed. Rebate form has been filed with LMP&C for those installed so far.
- Pocahontas County Libraries meeting will be held in Rolfe this year.

December 13, 2016

- We had our annual Holiday meeting at the home of Lois Jirgens.
- “One Time Pay Increase” of \$250 for full time & \$125 for part time employees will again be paid in Chamber Bucks.
- Board passed the proposed 2017/2017 budget of \$126,525, with the City’s share being \$79,430 plus employee benefits. This will be submitted to the City for their approval.