

January 9, 2018

- Kyle Wenell reported the farm entrance won't be constructed this year.
- Discussion was held regarding our Mission Statement. The Board agreed that it needs updating to better reflect our Library. We will do research and discuss more next month. It currently reads:
"The Laurens Public Library maintains current titles reflecting popular cultural and social trends plus recreational experiences; provides information and answers to a broad array of topics; offers local history and genealogy services; promotes lifelong learning opportunities for community residents; and facilitates interaction and participation in community activities."

February 13, 2018

- After researching mission statements from other libraries, and studying our current one, the Board adopted our new and updated Mission Statement that better reflects our Library: "The Laurens Public Library promotes enrichment in the local community by opening its doors to all people, while at the same time fostering culture and education for everyone."
- The Library Foundation sponsored a "Tropical Getaway Dinner" to coincide with the Chamber's promotion February 22nd. Funds raised to be used for the Music Garden. Two of the six instruments already have sponsors – The local Kiwanis and the Oleson family, in memory of Dean, Dwight, & Leota.
- Staff has been taking advantage of online training opportunities.
- Staff update: Bonnie Stevens retired February 15, Laura Todd took over duties February 27.

March 13, 2018

- After February's fundraiser, we have raised approximately \$27,000 of the \$34,000 need to complete the Music Garden. Hometown Pride will install the instruments.

April 9, 2018

- Due to the change in the way the farm rent is now paid, a budget amendment was necessary. The extra half year of rent (\$9576) will be put in a Library Reserves Fund.
- Mrs. Tate's middle school students reported on their trip to Washington DC
- "Our Neighbor's The Amish" was a well-attended program at the Library.
- ALLI Art Classes begin April 30 for four consecutive Mondays. Holly Zinn from the Pearson Art Center taught us clay hand building, digital photography, oil painting, and jewelry making.

May 8, 2018

- ALLI Art Classes are all filled to capacity.
- Programs this month included a Healthcare Forum with Pharmacist Brad Olsen, and a return engagement of Brad Wilkening's "Lessons of the Holocaust."

- Thanks to a contribution by 100 Women Who Care of Pocahontas County and a grant from the Iowa Arts Council, the Music Garden is fully funded!
- The Library roof sustained damage from the May 1st hail storm. The insurance adjustor told City Clerk Hilary Reed that our 11 year old steel roof is “shredded” and there is also damage to the fascia on the north and west sides.

June 19, 2018

- Summer Reading theme is “Libraries Rock.” Story Times were Wednesdays at 1 o’clock. Special programs included “Fonziba Drums” and “Pockets Full of Fun” puppets. LegoMania all day every Friday.
- Automatic flush mechanisms have been installed on our toilets. The staff loves this improvement!
- Ayrshire author Robin Allen spoke about her new book “The House on Godwit”
- Director Glenda Mulder shared the employee’s reviews, stating that we have a wonderful Library staff. The Board reviewed Mulder’s performance. All employees to receive a 3% raise beginning July 1st.
- Music Garden instruments have been ordered and the layout is complete.

July, 17, 2018

- Tim Leith resigned from the Library Board, as they are leaving Laurens.
- The banner informational display “In Hands, Trunks, and Hearts: What Norwegian Immigrants Bring to Iowa” was on loan from the Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum. The Chief Curator spoke at a program.
- IPTV’s Kids’ Clubhouse premiered the episode that was filmed in our Library, featuring area kids. A Premiere Party was held at the Library, where it was live-streamed.

August 14, 2018

- Denise Wasko brought her alpacas to a Library Story Time. She also read the book she wrote about them.
- Music Garden concrete pads are poured, awaiting the instruments, which are on order.
- Leslie Goddard presented her program “Hamilton’s Women.”
- An Art Wave came to Laurens, bringing a spontaneous collaborative weaving class. Each participant wove a square, all were combined by Flock 9 Studio to create an art piece that now hangs on our south wall.
- Farm rent will remain the same (\$266) next year. The cost of the driveway (\$1251), desired by the tenant, will be split equally between the Library, Church and tenant.

September 11, 2018

- There was enough funding left in the ALLI program that the State Library funded one more class for us. Lisa Rasmussen of the Humboldt Arts Council led “Natural Stone Beaded Necklace” class.
- “Take it Tuesday” is a new monthly craft class lead by Assistant Director Deb Hertz.

- As the school years starts, so do Tot Time, Brown Bag lunches, and other visits with L-M classes.
- Laurens native Gwen Conklin presented “You Can Go Home Again” about her return to the area after living in California for many years.
- Jason Aschenbrenner joins the Library Board.

October 9, 2018

- On the menu of the Library Foundation’s Fall Fundraiser was a pulled pork sandwich, coleslaw, cheesy potatoes and pineapple upside down cake.
- New projects for the Library Foundation include: Digitizing the Laurens Sun 2015-2017, an outdoor charging post, new chairs, projector & PA system.
- Programs included Historian Kathy Wilson “Changing Roles of Women”, A Women’s Self Defense Class, Rachel Potter’s “Summer in Tanzania,” a report from our Sister City delegation’s travels to Laurens, France, and of course, Halloween Magician Larry Dunbar.
- Eric Price was appointed to fill a position on the Library Foundation Board.
- Music Garden instruments have arrived!

November 13, 2018

- Music Garden instruments have been installed by Hometown Pride committee members and various volunteers.
- The Library piano was tuned by Carter Nath.
- Pulitzer Prize winning author Art Cullen was here to premiere his book, “Storm Lake: a chronicle of change, resilience, and hope from a heartland newspaper”

December 11, 2018

- End of year “One Time Pay Increase” for the staff is now \$300 for full time and \$150 for part time employees, paid in Laurens Bucks.
- A new patron use laptop was purchased. This will also be used for programming.
- There was a question about drainage in a wet spot on the farm. Johnsen Excavating explored it. No action to be taken at this time.
- 2019/2020 budget reflects a 2% overall increase. \$132,950 total, with the City paying \$83,947 plus all employee benefits. Board approved it’s submission to the City.
- Director Glenda Mulder is recertified as a Public Library Director, Level 3 until December 31, 2021