

LEXINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY ANNUAL REPORT 2014-2015



Library Events

The Library Improvement Grant, which is funded by the Lexington Library Memorial Fund and the Lexington Community Foundation, provided a variety of programming for the community of Lexington during the 2014-2015 season. The 2014-2015 season runs from August 1, 2014 to July 31, 2015.

Adult and Family Programming

- *Jon Chandler Music* – Jon writes songs of both the historic and contemporary west. His music is reflective of his heritage.
- *A Victorian Christmas* with Sue McLain – A Humanities Nebraska program that provided an opportunity to view Victorian fashions, Christmas trees, decorations and gifts. A Victorian tea followed the presentation.



- *Winter Tales* – Storyteller Michael Reno Harrell has an easy style of storytelling based on his personal experiences. With humor and self-penned songs, he takes listeners back to the days of bicycles, fireworks, piano lessons, good dogs and bad school lunches.
- *Crab Grass Country* – Crab Grass Country is a band that plays the songs of the Grand Old Opry, Flatts and Skuggs, the Carter Family, Woody Guthrie, John Denver, Johnny Cash, Patsy Cline, Buck Owens, and more.
- *Cowboy Poetry and Song* – Deb Carpenter-Nolting and Tim Carpenter provided an afternoon of cowboy poetry and song.
- *Rural and Old Time Mountain Music* – Dana and Sue Robinson are two guitar-playing, banjo-frailing, fiddle-sawing and harmony singing interpreters of the American experience. Their unique blend of contemporary songwriting and traditional Appalachian music bring to their performance a deep understanding of America's musical heritage.
- *Shannon Baker* – Author of the Sisters in Crime Desert Sleuths and the Nora Abbott Mystery Series, Shannon described the research required and the accuracy involved in writing a mystery novel.





- *On Our Own Soil* by Pippa White – Pippa portrayed stories of American citizens from both the North and the South during the Civil War, making it possible for the audience to understand what it was like to live through our country’s greatest ordeal. Soldiers, nurses, children, generals, townsfolk - all told their stories as war became a way of life for the nation for years.

- *Fancy and Trick Roping* – Joan Wells began trick roping at the age of four. Joan won the title of World Champion Trick Roper in 1979 and was inducted into the Cowgirl Hall of Fame in 1989.

- *Civil War Quilts with Nebraska Author Stephanie Grace Whitson* – This program was offered in collaboration with the Plum Creek Quilt Guild’s Annual Guest Night. It featured the significance of Civil War Quilts while highlighting Stephanie Grace Whitson’s latest novel, Daughter of the Regiment. In 2014 Whitson celebrated her 20th year as a published novelist.



- *African-American Homesteaders and Cowboys of Nebraska* - A Humanities Nebraska Program by Vicki Troxel Harris. In the 1854 census in Nebraska there were 14 Blacks listed as slaves. After the Civil War, African-Americans came to Nebraska as cowhands, laborers, cavalymen and homesteaders. Harris recounts many of the oral histories she has collected about cowboys including Jim Kelly and Amos Harris from the Lexington area.

- *Job, Peter and Chuck* – Voted the #1 band in their hometown of North Platte for several years running, Job (Vigil), Peter (Rogers) and Chuck (Salestrom) focus on light rock and pop hits from the ‘60s and ‘70s and have fun doing it.



One special children’s program was held in conjunction with the Library’s Wednesday Storytimes. Storyteller, Indiana Bones performed folktales, stories and tall tales for the children.

Summer Reading 2015

The themes for Summer Reading 2015 were *Every Hero Has a Story* for children age birth through Grade 5; *Unmask!* for the teen population; and *Escape the Ordinary!* for adults. The summer reading program for preschoolers through Grade 5 was extended from six



weeks to two months. The month of June was dedicated to programming and activities involving superheroes. The month of July was dedicated to programming and activities that honored our local heroes including the Fire Department, law enforcement and Mayor John Fagot and his guide dog, Izzy. This theme was one of the most adaptable summer reading themes the library has used.

Library Initiative Programs dedicated to Summer Reading 2015

- The Adventures of Super Librarian with Keith West
- Mrs. Science with Lucinda Faunce
- Tarzan and Friends by Crane River
- Edgerton Explorit by the Edgerton Explorit Center
- Super Hero Meet and Greet
- Super Hero Magic with Jeff Quinn
- Hercules and the Heroes with Kyle West

- Lexington Volunteer Fire Department
- Dawson County Sheriff's Department
- Mayor John Fagot and Izzy
 - Spoke on good character and working in your community
- Influential Nebraskans – Dawson County Children's Museum Presentation



The Tarzan and Friends presentation by Crane River Theater of Kearney and the Explorit Center Program were so popular, we scheduled two sessions of each program.



The library did not have a program for teens to track their reading on reading logs during the summer, but we did offer teen programming, *Teens on Tuesday*. The programs alternated between movies (often with popcorn or pizza) and Wii gaming. These activities have continued into the school year.



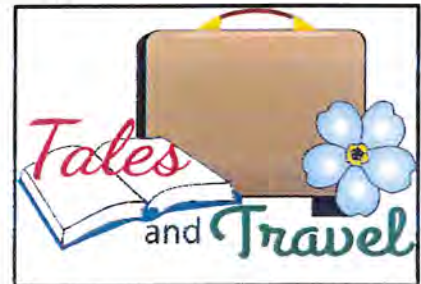
Forty two adults registered for the adult summer reading program in 2015. The adult reading program was based on reading or listening to books and turning in simple reviews for prize drawings.

Library Sponsored Events 10/01/2014 – 09/30/2015

- Masquerade on Main Street
- Movie Matinee for Adults
- Gently Used Book Sale
- Children's Unwrap an Adventure at Christmas
- Christmas Coffee, Cider, and Cookies
- Hospice Memorial Tree
- Kindle, Nook and iPad One on One Classes
- Family Movie Night
- Preschool Storytime
- VITA Tax Help
- Quilters @ the Library, who eventually chose the name 3TLS - (Third Thursday Library Stitchers)
- Canned Foods for Fines for the Food Pantry



- Smart Investing @ Your Library
- Dawson County Career Fair
- YMCA Healthy Kids Day
- National Library Week
 - Theme – Unlimited Possibilities
- Pillowcase Project
 - In collaboration with the Red Cross
- Tales and Travels Memories Project at Brookdale
- Sizzlin' Summer Shindig



Two groups at the Library that continue to grow are the Monday Afternoon Book Club and the Novel Stitchers. The Monday Afternoon Book Club now has over 20 members. This group meets to discuss a variety of fiction and non-fiction materials. The great advantage of being in a book club is that members are all challenged to read materials they might not otherwise select.

The other group that continues to grow is the Novel Stitchers. The Novel Stitchers meet every Tuesday afternoon to stitch favorite projects, while perusing the library's newest materials. The group includes ladies who knit, crochet, embroidery, quilt, needlepoint, and occasionally tat. They are a busy group of ladies.

Friends of the Library

The Friends of the Library has grown to 13 members this year. I still lead the group and Karen Thompson is the Library's liaison. The Friends of the Library select a special project each year for the GiveBIGlexington campaign. The goal for the 2014 campaign was to replace the computer chairs. The Friends raised \$1,388.75 with matching funds from the Foundation of \$397.38. A service fee of \$65.11 was charged, so the total amount raised was \$1723.02. We were able to purchase 8 chairs because Eakes gave us a price break on the eighth chair to equal the amount raised.



Other projects of the Friends of the Library:

- Valentine Chocolate Auction
- Books on Wheels
 - Four years ago the library delivered four items to two people; today the Friends of the Library deliver over 100 items to approximately 20 people;
- Redecorated the fireplace mantle and shelves surrounding the fireplace. The Friends of the Library used monies from a special fund raising project to purchase new accessories for the mantle and the shelves surrounding the fireplace. The items selected give that area of the library a fresh, new look.
- Books for Your Baby



- Discovery Packs
 - Update and create new ones
- Purchase the Golden Sower Nominees each year.
 - (Nebraska Golden Sower Award Program)



Building Repairs

- Deterdings of Kearney repaired fireplace which was causing the fireplace mantle and interior to turn black.
- Emanuel Construction Specialties of Omaha repaired the removable wall between the Benthack and the Miller Rooms.
- Oliver Consulting installed three new access points for Wi-Fi service and limited the hours that Wi-Fi would be available to 6:00 A.M. to 10:00 P.M.
- Rasmussen's installed a refurbished motor in the South air handler.
- The lock on the display case in the vestibule was repaired.
- Eustis Body Shop refinished the library sign surfaces on the large sign that sits on the southeast corner of the lot.
- An automatic hand dryer was installed in the men's restroom.



The Library was asked to apply for reaccreditation through the Nebraska Library Commission in 2015. One of the requirements of the accreditation process was the development of a Strategic Plan and an optional Technology Plan. The Library was approved for accreditation at the Silver Level in October, 2015. The accreditation at this level continues until October, 2018.

Financials

Revenue

- City of Lexington Library Budget - \$434,949
- Nebraska Library Commission State Aid - \$ 1,824
- Interlibrary Loan Lender Compensation - \$406
- E-rate - \$2,852

Expenditures

- Personnel and Benefits - \$281,199
- Library Materials including Electronic Format - \$55,179
- Other Operating Expenses - \$94,749
- Computer Hardware & Software including Electronic Access - \$7,166



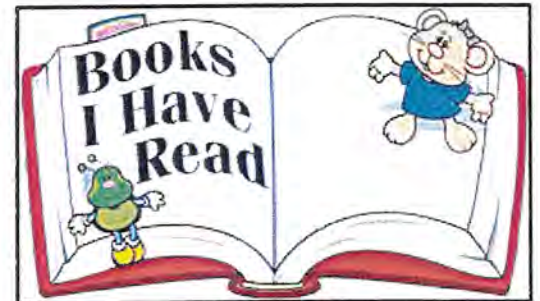
Grants Received

- Walmart Grant - \$1000
 - This grant was applied with the funds raised by the Friends of the Library at GiveBIGlexington 2013, and matching funds from the Library Memorial Fund to purchase another AWE Early Literacy Station for children ages 2 through 8.



Library Statistics

- Hours Open – 3536 hours
- Library Card Holders – 8,189
- Items in the Collection – 64,802
 - Books – 39,919
 - E-books – 19,286
 - Books on CD – 1,664
 - Downloadable Audio Books – 8,482
 - Video – 1,294
 - Magazine / Newspaper Subscriptions – 98
 - Electronic Databases – 19 (Nebraska Access)
 - Miscellaneous Items – 610
- Items checked out including downloads – 56,156
- Library visits – 84,076
- Reference questions – 4,925
- Program Attendance
 - 209 Children’s Programs with 4,598 attending;
 - 42 Young Adult Programs with 546 attending;
 - 346 Adult Programs with 1,512 attending.
- Computer Usage – 19,547
- Wireless Usage – 27, 230



Staffing Changes:

Mayra Ortiz resigned and Kevin Zelaya was hired as a Library Assistant I.