from the director

We had another banner year at Sycamore Public Library! Restoric LLC did a wonderful job of restoring the windows on the upper level of our Carnegie building along with the pediment, pediment lettering, and the cornice on the roof. Thanks to State Representative Jeff Keicher for sponsoring us for the grant and to City Treasurer Adam Orton for helping with the administrative pieces. The windows are now ready to take on another 115 years!

In conjunction with the Carnegie Window project, we decided to move forward with reclaiming the space occupied by the Joiner History Room, which required us to remove a wall the bisected the space. New partner Meijer stepped in to provide us with a gift that covered expenses for the project. The space now features some of the original library shelving—being used to house the expanding large print collection—and a quiet reading room for adults. If you haven’t seen the changes, I encourage you to stop by and take a look.

We also completed the first year of our intergovernmental agreement with the school district. This agreement allowed us to issue 110 library cards to students attending and teachers employed by Sycamore Public Schools; it also allowed the library to secure 12 marketing videos to use to promote our programs, collections, and resources!

Unfortunately, the last six weeks of our fiscal year found us in the midst of an unprecedented pandemic, which required us to shut down and stay in our homes along with almost everyone else in Illinois. We used that time to create and implement a plan to start offering virtual programming which—considering everything else going on—was a big success. We appreciated all of your nice emails, messages, and notes of support as we worked to redefine library services and ramp up our digital collections so we could be “open” even when we were “closed”. While even today we are on a modified schedule of open hours and library procedures, we are happy to be seeing your faces again, even though they covered by masks! We appreciate your help in continuing to make the library as safe for everyone as possible and are looking forward to the day when it will be back to business in usual!

In good health,

Monica Dombrowski
Executive Director

mission statement

We promote curiosity, encourage development of 21st century skills, & foster a sense of community through engaging & responsive collections, programs, services, & spaces while being careful stewards of our resources.

board of trustees

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contact board@sycamorelibrary.org
2019 highlights

- We received substantial donations this year totaling over **$100,000**, $15,000 of which came from our newest Sycamore business, Meijer.

- We completed our historic **window restoration project** through the help of a grant.

- After completion of the window restoration project the large print collection was shifted to the Carnegie building to create a quiet reading area.

- The **Friends of the Library** continues to grow not only their memberships, but also their reach.

- **Community partnerships** continue to grow with new and enhanced programs being offered in conjunction with the schools, park district, and other area organizations.

LIBRARY PARTNERSHIPS
45+ community partners

GRANTS
$115,000+ awarded

LIBRARY VISITORS
111,554
DID YOU KNOW?
We Circulate:
HOTSPOTS
EARLY LITERACY KITS
MUSEUM ADVENTURE PASSES
VIDEOGAMES
LAUNCHPAD TABLETS FOR KIDS

As well as books, CDs, DVDs, audiobooks, magazines + more

TOTAL CIRCULATIONS
184,480
BOOKS
121,782
& audiobooks
CHECKED OUT

41,931
CHECKED OUT
& DVDs

6,835 library cards

40,105
Wi-Fi Connections
8,442
Computers Hours Used
176
Meeting Room Rentals

library budget
$1,283,711

E BOOKS, E AUDIOBOOKS,
E MOVIES, + E MAGAZINES
IN THE COLLECTION...

213,415 CHECKED OUT
youth & teen services

- Welcomed Lisel Ulaszek as new Youth & Teen Services Manager in October 2019.
- In response to COVID-19, moved toddler and preschool programming to virtual formats in late March.
- Added a new youth electronic resource—TrueFlix which offers online nonfiction series books, videos and other resources.
- Created Book Bundles—a mix of picture books, readers, nonfiction and multimedia that encouraged children and parents to explore library materials on varying subjects.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Broadened youth program offerings to include Homeschool Hour (a program targeted at homeschool families,) as well as coding classes, STEAM Storytime and a monthly craft program for elementary age patrons.
- Continued work on categorizing picture book collection & completed purchase of remaining bin-format shelving to allow for front-facing display of all picture book categories.
- Expanded participation in Battle of the Books program to include Cornerstone Christian Academy. All Sycamore elementary schools both private & parochial now participate in this program.
- Increased continuing education opportunities for staff including in-person attendance at Prairie State Story League and virtually through a number of webinars, conferences, etc.

13,100 children & adults attended
406 PROGRAMS
The Adult Services Summer Reading Challenge had over 1,800 adult reading logs submitted for almost 3,800 hours of reading.

New audio book shelving was purchased for the second floor for more user friendly access.

Manager, Kim graduated from the Sycamore Chamber of Commerce Leadership Academy. She also continued to build relationships with other community partners like Sycamore Lions Club, Kishwaukee Women’s Network, Sycamore Park District, Opportunity House and Oak Crest Retirement Center.

Kim and a team of Sorority Sisters from Alpha Kappa Alpha at NIU moved Adult Services Department stacks of shelving upstairs to create better sightlines and more defined “work” areas that encourage quiet study.

Kim represented the Library at the Sycamore Park District’s Self Care Fair on February 29th, where she showcased self-care materials and programs. Over 60 attendees stopped by the booth to get more information about our upcoming health and wellness events.

Library Assistant Curtis Valasek was promoted to Team Lead in the Adult Services department.

Library Assistant Trudy Hickey was promoted to Team Lead in the Tech Services department.

Library Assistant Kelsey Graham was promoted to 25 hours per week.
Another year of adding MORE to SycaMORE

Thank you for letting us serve you!