

Librarian's Report

For October 3, 2022 Meeting

1. Report on “Coffee by the Books” program

On September 16, the library had its first coffee program for citizens 50 years old or older. Nine people participated in the program that included coffee, pastries, old Sparta News-Plaindealers and Bulldog yearbooks from 50 years ago. There were discussions on buildings that are still around and old neighborhood grocery stores. All attendees appeared to enjoy the program. The next one will be October 7 at 10:15 a.m.

2. Water Fountain Update

I have left a message with Joe Deutschmann about either replacing or updating our water fountain. I hope to have more information soon.

3. 4th Annual Library Crawl

From October 1 through October 31 our library, as well as 123 other libraries in the Illinois Heartland Library System are taking part in the 4th annual library crawl. Patrons from participating libraries visit other libraries and get their “passport” stamped. Patrons of the Sparta Public Library are eligible to enter their name in a drawing if they visit 6 or more libraries. The winner will be the person who visits the most libraries. The prize is a beautifully decorated fall centerpiece put together by Sue Pirtle.

4. Front Door Assistance

Notices for assistance getting into the library's front doors were put on the front doors, on the outside LED sign and in the County Journal. I have contacted and sent pictures of our doors to Liberty Glass Company in Perryville for an estimate to purchase and install automatic doors.

5. Mini-Construction Grant

The Illinois State Library has announced that the FY 2023 Live and Learn Construction Grants applications are now available. Applications are due on or before January 15, 2023. I plan to apply for a Mini-Construction grant in the amount of \$35,000. With the board's approval, I would like to apply for funds to install automatic front doors, update the children's area and have the library's interior

painted. I'm still in the process of getting estimates, so it may not be possible to afford all three of these.

6. Early closing for October 31, 2022

This is Trick or Treat night. The staff is willing to work, but it is felt that there will not be many patrons coming to the library that evening. Also, if the library remains open, that there should be treats to hand out.

For your consideration: The board needs a motion, discussion, and vote to close 5:00 pm or earlier for that evening.

7. Upcoming Events

Oct. 1: Library Crawl begins

Oct. 3: Board of Trustees Meeting 6:00 pm

Oct. 3: PNG Spaghetti-Marshmallow Challenge, 3:30 pm

Oct. 7: Coffee by the Books program, 10:15 am

Oct. 7: PNG 3D Doodle Pens, 3:30 pm

Oct. 17: Kids Club Zone "Western Theme"; 4:30 pm

Oct. 20: PNG Spaghetti-Marshmallow Challenge, 3:30 pm

Oct. 21: Coffee by the Books, 10:15 am

Oct. 24: PNG 3D Doodle Pen, 3:30 pm

Oct. 27: PNG 3D Doodle Pen, 3:30 pm

Popcorn Thursdays are Oct. 6, Oct. 13, Oct. 20, & Oct. 27 until popcorn is gone!

Respectfully submitted by Susan Colbert on October 3, 2022