



Along the Way

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Address:

Way Public Library
101 E. Indiana Ave.
Perrysburg, Ohio 43551
1-(419) 874-3135
fax (419) 874-6129
www.waylibrary.info

Hours:

M-Th 9 am -8:30 pm
F-Sat 9 am -5:30 pm
Mary Meyer, Editor



LIBRARY HOLDS FORUMS ON MARCH LEVY

On February 9-11, Way Library held three open forums to answer questions about its 1-mill, four-year operating levy on the March 2 ballot.

Director Nancy Kelley, members of the Support Your Library Campaign steering committee and several library board members were on hand to answer questions about the levy.

The following questions were among those fielded at the forum:

Q. You just expanded and renovated the library. Why don't you have funds to operate the new facility?

A. When the library passed its bond levy to construct a new library, the board expected higher operating costs and a possible decrease in state funding. However, no one anticipated the extent of the funding cuts nor the rising costs of utilities. The 1-mill levy would raise about \$475,000 each year for four years to replace this lost revenue.

The library would be coming to the voters even if we had not expanded our facility. For 123 years we have managed to run the library without levy-generated operating funds. Now we join the many Ohio libraries who turn to the public for help.

Q. Can you lay off staff to save money?

A. We are operating with 24.2 FTE employees, compared to 26.1 in 2000, despite the fact that the library has doubled in size. We have decreased our staff and maximized efficiency; additional layoffs would further diminish the quality of our service.



Support Your Library Campaign member Elaine Bishop, right, discusses the library levy with Way patron Dorothy Beyer. Director Nancy Kelley, right rear, provides information at the morning open forum in Way Café.

Q. Why is the levy just for city residents? Can you charge township residents to use the library?

A. Township residents, like all Ohioans, pay for libraries through state income tax. But Way is one of 20 municipal libraries in Ohio, and state law determines that we can only tax city residents through a levy. Because of statewide funding, reciprocity of services is required — i.e., Perrysburg citizens are allowed to borrow materials from Toledo libraries and township residents can hold a card at Way. Any attempt to charge township residents for library service would most certainly be challenged in court.

Q. How much will the levy cost me?

A. The owner of a home with a \$200,000 market value will pay about \$62 in additional taxes each year for four years—or 17 cents per day.

Q. How can you expect me to pay more taxes? These are tough times!

A. If we had to choose, we would not be on the ballot— especially now. But the library's mission to serve as a community hub and provide free public access to information is even more critical when times are tough.

Events in March

March 2 — **Don't forget to vote.**

March 4 — **Book Sale**, 4-8 p.m.

March 4 — Preschool storytime registration begins online.

March 13 — Red Cross Babysitting Class, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

March 20 — Perrysburg Symphony Chorale children's concert, 3 p.m.

March 23 — Read to the Dogs, children's area, 7 p.m. The series runs for six weeks through April 27.

March 25 — Mother Goose story time registration begins online.

March 25 — Reel Talk, 10 a.m.

March 25 — **Book Sale**, 4-8 p.m.

March 27 — EBay class, 10 a.m.

Oral History Series to be featured in national magazine *Public Libraries*

Way Librarians Richard Baranowski and Teresa Calderone soon will hit the national news, bringing well deserved recognition to the library's effort to document local history through its Front Porch Oral History Series. Their article, "Reconnecting the Past Through Oral History," will be featured in the March/April issue of *Public Libraries*, the magazine of the Public Library Association, a division of the American Library Association.



Way's own Richard Baranowski and Teresa Calderone, front, videotape Linda and Frank Brahier for the series. This photograph will appear in the journal alongside the article written by the two librarians.

In accepting the submission, the magazine's editors pointed to the article's "high ratings on interest to public librarians."

Mr. Baranowski and Ms. Calderone have taped more than 30 interviews with local residents as they reminisce about their home town. Some of the Front Porch residents mentioned or quoted in the article are Zeke Warncke, Charlie Kopp and Al Huber.

Following the crowd: top choices in 2003

The SEO network to which Way Library belongs has released some interesting information about the system's most frequently borrowed library materials during 2003.

Harry Potter remains a hands-down favorite in most categories.

Top Music (tapes, books on CD and compact discs):
Home (compact disc), circulated 1,088 times.

Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire (book on tape), 1,088 times.
Up! (compact disc), 893 times.

Top Books:

Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix, 4,118 times
The King of Torts, 3,866 times

Top Video/DVDs:

Monsters, Inc. (videocassette), 4,232.
Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone (videocassette), 3,991.

Renewing library items...online!

1. Go to the Way Library website; www.waylibrary.info
2. Click the tab My Account
3. Enter your library card number without spaces
4. Enter the last four digits of your telephone number
5. Click on Items Out
6. Click on the boxes to the left of the items you wish to renew
7. Click on the Renew button
8. Check Due Date Box

D-Day program planned

A special program to commemorate the 60th anniversary of D-Day and to recognize battle veterans is planned for Wednesday, April 28, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the library.

Local residents will discuss the role they played in the invasion or "D-Day plus." Anyone with artifacts or an interest in contributing to the program should call Richard Baranowski at 419-874-3135 x110.

A librarian or Google? Why not both?

Have popular and readily accessible computer search engines replaced the reference librarian? A recent New York Times article entitled "When a Search Engine Isn't Enough, Call a Librarian" makes a strong case that reference librarians play an even more critical role in the dissemination of accurate and truthful information.

Librarians help patrons use the search engines so that they are not overwhelmed by the sheer volume of information. Librarians know which search engine to use and how to best use it. Believe it or not, the admittedly old-fashioned library shelf is sometimes the best information source of all. After all, it's filtered!

Library welcomes new board members

Way Library has two new trustees, Perrysburg residents Rose Marie Gerkovich and Mary Thom Williams. Perrysburg City Council approved the appointments in January.

At the board's December 2003 meeting, Director Nancy Kelley recognized the service of trustees Andrew Black and Linda Phillips. Their terms expired at the end of the year.

Replacing these veteran board members will be two individuals who are no strangers to a library setting. Mrs. Gerkovich has volunteered at Way Library for 15 years and audited the books of libraries, schools and municipalities while employed by the State of Ohio until her retirement in 1992. Ms. Williams, with an MLS from the University of Michigan, has worked for the Toledo/Lucas County Public Library since 1980, serving as librarian, branch manager, assistant human resources manager and, currently, staff training coordinator.

Mrs. Gerkovich moved to Perrysburg when her husband Al was transferred here 33 years ago. The couple has four children, 13 grandchildren and one great-grandchild. For 20 years, Mrs. Gerkovich has served as an AARP tax volunteer.

Ms. Williams has three daughters — a senior at Howard University, a recent recruit to the U.S. Army, and a fourth grader at Fort Meigs Elementary in Perrysburg.



Mary Thom Williams



Rose Marie Gerkovich

Magnificent Magazines!

Regular patrons of Way Library may have had trouble finding their favorite magazines last year. The library's magazine subscription service ceased circulation....that is, went bankrupt.

Now, it's 2004, and our new service, Ebsco, is up and running. Many lapsed and some new subscriptions have arrived, including popular favorites like *People* and *Consumer Reports on Health*.

Check out these new magazines: For youth, U.S. Today's Sports Weekly, *Transworld Skateboarding*, and *Animerica*. For adults, *Bookmarks* and *Romantic Times*.

More than 200 magazines are in the collection, and almost all circulate. Check out the collection, kept in a cozy corner next to the Way Café.

News and Notes

Congratulations to ...

Corliss Walker. She won the book "Aprons" by Joyce Cheney at the Feb. 7 apron program.

Needed... brown paper bags!

The Friends of Way Library are seeking new or used brown paper grocery bags for their book sales. They can be left at the circulation desk.

Wanted: Avid Readers! The Thursday evening (7-8:15 p.m.) book discussion group has openings. March: The Red Tent.

'Wit, Whimsy, Merriment & Mirth' on March 20

The Perrysburg Symphony Chorale will present a special musical program at 3 p.m. on Saturday, March 20, in the library. The concert will feature best loved children's classics.

Alice, Mr. Toad, Mr. Mole, the Jabberwock and a pirate crew will appear in this Youth Services offering. Admission is free; door prizes will be awarded.

AARP Tax Help continues through April 14

The AARP tax consultants are still setting new appointments to help low and middle income taxpayers fill out their tax forms.

The volunteers will be available for 9:15, 10:15 and 11:15 a.m. appoint-

ments on Wednesday and Thursday, and occasionally on Tuesday and Friday mornings.

Appointments must be made in advance by calling the Information Desk at 874-3135, x119.

Interactive mystery 'Willard Way' is now history

By the time this newsletter reaches readers, the Way Public Library Foundation will have staged its unique interactive mystery play, "Who Whacked Willard at Way?"

See next month's newsletter for pictures and news of the February 28 event. Because of the enthusiastic response to this new concept, the Foundation hopes it becomes a tradition. Whodunit? By now we all know!



Sharing a favorite book with a new friend

Christine Nelson, 7, daughter of Sharon and Jeff Nelson, enjoyed Reading to the Dogs. It's back, beginning Tuesday, March 23, at 7 p.m. To register, call 419-874-3135 x116.

Reel Talk, Mar. 25: Marty

The classic American film "Marty" will be featured at the Thursday, March 25, Reel Talk.

The film won four Oscars in 1955: best film, best actor for Ernest Borgnine, best screenplay, best director.

Guest film scholar will be Dennis Vaughn. Admission and refreshments are offered free of charge.

WAY PUBLIC LIBRARY

101 E. Indiana Avenue
Perrysburg, Ohio 43551

Phone: 419-874-3135
Fax: 419-874-6129
Editor's email: meyerma@oplin.org



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Apron fashion show draws standing room only crowd

More than 100 people attended "Memories of the Apron," an interactive fashion show on February 7 at Way Library. They wore aprons, shared their memories of aprons, and chuckled at the amusing anecdotes which were part of the show.

Co-presented by the library and the Wood County Historical Museum, the show also was packed with scholarly information about the history of aprons gathered by apron committee member and Bowling Green State University student Penny Soboleski. The apron has a rich history, stretching back to antiquity.

Specialty aprons included reproductions from the Victorian and Civil War eras and the late 19th century. Authentic aprons from the 20th and 21st centuries also were shown. Enthusiastic audience members wore their own aprons, ranging from lovely decorative aprons handmade in foreign lands to a simple apron converted from a hand-embroidered bodice, contributed by Liz Larson-Shidler of Perrysburg.

The Center Spotlight Chorus entertained during a post-show reception.

This program united the generations, as senior citizens brought young family members to get a glimpse of history. An intergenerational program on Friday, February 20, continued the apron theme.



Above, the "apron committee" was comprised of, from left, Anna Bristol, Mike McMaster, Debbie DiGennaro and Penny Soboleski. In the other photographs, models and audience members alike proudly show their aprons.