Pentwater Township Library

October/November 2018

Needed Roof Project Completed

Earlier this year we learned after the library roof was inspected that the 22-year- old roof was seriously deteriorated and needed replacing. The Library Board accepted bids for the Library Roof Project in August and A. Tanner and Sons were awarded the job after receiving six bids from roofing companies as far away as Traverse City and Grand Rapids. We stayed open while the old roof was torn away and a new weather barrier and roof were installed. The more than 5,000 square foot roof is giving us a new brighter look already. Besides putting a new roof on, repairs were made to the roof deck and more insulation was installed to reduce energy costs.

The library board and director plan for these capital projects by including a contingency fund line, so that we can handle our facility problems. Other future capital projects will include exterior painting and outdoor improve-ments including sidewalks and landscaping.

Special thanks go to Steve Bass, the award-winning designer, who has been helping our community be everything it can be. Steve has come up with a wonderful design for the library exterior and has helped up choose compatible colors for our roof and exterior painting. We look forward to completing many of the designs and projects Steve has proposed for us as funds are available.

Smart 911

Library patrons in August and September learned about our area's new Smart 911 system from Ray Hasil and staff of the Mason Oceana Emergency 911 office. "Awareness of the new system now serving more than 45 million residents nationwide could save your life," said Library Director Mary Barker.

During the presentations at the library patrons were given the opportunity to sign up for the free service using library computers to log on to the Smart 911 website at https://smart911.com/

Use of the Smart 911 system is especially important for residents who no longer have land lines and rely exclusively on cell phones.

The Library Director said that she created an account with Smart 911 for her own family because she wanted to know more about what kinds of questions they ask people when you start an account. " It's great," she said, " since my kids are off on their own, we can have their information recorded as a contact, in case we have an emergency."

The system has places to record your medical information, number of residents in the household, cars, pets, medical conditions that first responders might need to know. "I found it very easy to use and have gone back into the program to add a little bit more." Barker continued. "The nice part is you get to decide what you want recorded on the site, and if later you don't want it listed you have full control to change the information any way you wish."

The only time that 911 sees the information is when you call 911 from the phone number you have listed on the system. "We only use cell phones at our house, so the regular 911 operation isn't able to have our home address." Currently as many as 70% of households in the area use cell phones

First responders can now have better information about you and your situation and can more accurately get to where you are using the new system. In emergencies, remembering all the important bits of information can be difficult.

If you want to sign onto the new system yourself on your internet-connected home computer you can just got to the website at https://smart911.com/

Or you can come to the library and use our computers and library staff is here to help.

Library Endowment Fund Growing

The Pentwater Library Endowment Fund was begun with the help of the Community Foundation of Oceana County. The endowment is really starting to grow with the help of people who have requested that donations go to our endowment. "It's really encouraging to see the endowment fund grow," said Library Director Mary Barker. "We were the last library in Oceana County to have an endowment fund, so we really felt that we were losing valuable time to get a fund started."

The fund is needed because the ways libraries have been funded in the past are slowly changing. Endowment funds assure that a vital community resource will be there for future generations.

The August 29th storm just reminded us that our library is another kind of vital resource for the community. It was the place to go to during and after the storm. Every seat in the library was taken as people charged cell phones, connected to the internet to get news, and even continued their employment with our Internet connection. The library helped, too, by entertaining children and even helped charge wheel chair batteries. It's also a nice cool place when weather is hot and muggy and a warm cozy place when winter comes. In emergencies the library is often one of the first places to have electricity turned back on.

Yes, we will always be a place where people come to have a variety of their needs met for information and entertainment and our endowment fund will help us maintain the facility for the future. Donations big and small are welcome. You can donate online at https://oceana-foundation.org or by mail at Community Foundation for Oceana County, 242 N. Michigan, P.O. Box 367, Shelby, MI 49455.

Memorials and Donations

In Memory of Carma Hame and Jeff Matricia by Garrison Park Association

In Memory of Marilyn Richardson by Lisa Ann Wheatcraft

Donations to the Pentwater Library Endowment Fund by Bass Lake Property Owners in Memory of Stanley Baker, Miriam Baker, James Byrne, Stanley Wanzer

Book Club Friends (Mary Sue Rischar, Suzanne Green, Susan Patterson, Kathy Cox, Sally Barsley, Carol Morgan, Linda Adams, Ruth Feuerstein, and Caroline Schwass) in Memory of Martha Collins

Cash Donations from Joyce Bottum, Cyndy Callog, Jane Paine, two Anonymous

Donations to the Pentwater Library Endowment Fund by Elaine Letarte, Tom and Sally Kyros

Preschool Story Time

8 Week Session ~ Fall 2018

Sep 28 to Nov 16 ~ Friday at 10:30 AM

New theme every week with
Stories, Rhymes, Music and Craft

Library Gearing Up to Accept Credit Cards

Many patrons who make a lot of copies, faxes, pay program fees, or fines have wondered why we don't accept credit cards. We will be doing that soon. Square is coming to the library this winter. The new equipment will only be good for credit cards with a chip and we do have a minimum of $5.00. The library was reluctant before because we wanted an inexpensive secure way to accept cards compatible with our other systems and still provide the convenience for our patrons. We are always looking for new ways to serve you better. If you have an idea or suggestion, please talk with any of the library employees.

Frankenreads

It is now 200 years since a 19-year old English woman published a unique publication that has intrigued and frightened readers. Mary Shelley's book Frankenstein was an instant hit then and has spawned dozens of publications, movies and analysis and remains surprisingly popular today.

Libraries in Oceana County have been working together to make the Halloween month of October into a celebration of the famous book and encourages readers to join in the special events and most especially to read one of the many copies currently available in a special display as you enter your Pentwater Township Library.

Special Halloween Treat at the Library

Last year our haunted library thrilled hundreds of area residents. This year to continue the Frankenstein theme the library is hosting Dr. Frankenstein's Haunted Lab during Pentwater's trick or treating on Wednesday, October 31 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. This is a free event for adults and kids. We promise that it will be fun for all.
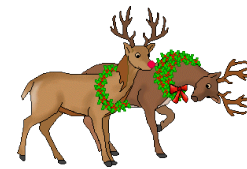
From the screams! of Halloween ~
we enter into the gentle season of Christmas.

CHRISTMAS IS FOR KIDS!

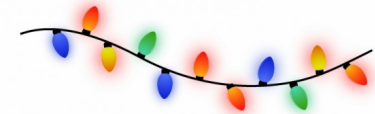Join us for an evening of Christmas delight!

Monday, November 26

5:30-7:00 PM

Outside the library

Come and see two of Santa's reindeer and hear all about them from the Elves from Rooftop Landing Reindeer Farm.

Inside the library

Mrs. Claus will be frosting sugar cookies in her kitchen and would love to have the children come and help her—and then take a cookie home with them.

Then, be sure to have a visit with Santa Claus with his rosy cheeks and twinkling eyes. And before you leave, he's got a special gift to give all the children.