

2017-2018

# ANNUAL REPORT



## FROM THE DIRECTOR



**Helen Rigdon**  
Library Director

As the adage goes "time flies when you are having fun," and I am having a great time as Director of the Sioux City Public Library. I cannot believe it's almost been a full year since I moved to Sioux City and started my position. Sioux City has become home to me and I appreciate all the Library staff who do the day to day work and offer great services to Library patrons.

Sioux City Public Library continues to champion early childhood literacy. Children introduced to reading early tend to read earlier and excel in school compared to children who are not exposed to language and books at a young age (American Academy of Pediatrics). Through such programs as 1,000 Books before Kindergarten and our annual Summer Reading Program, children can learn the skills they need to be successful throughout their lives.

With support from the Library Board of Trustees, the Library added the EnvisionWare package in May. EnvisionWare adds new printing features and gives patrons flexibility when paying fines and fees. I invite you to learn more about EnvisionWare in the *Enhancing Spaces* section of the annual report.

The Board of Trustees, staff, and I will continue evaluating services to ensure that the Library meets the needs of all Sioux City citizens. The Library is attending more outreach events and is increasing adult programming offerings. If you have an idea for a topic, please let Library staff know.

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The Library participated in a number of community events over the summer months, including Parks & Rec sponsored pop-up parks and the PRIDE street fair. Staff representing the Library reached 391 new people, increasing the Library's visibility in the community by sharing information about Library services and engaging with community members while assisting with youth crafts.



*Kelsey Patterson assists with making maracas, and a young attendee shows off her corner monster bookmark at two of the pop-up parks this summer.*

**Aalfs Downtown Library**  
529 Pierce St.

**Morningside Branch Library**  
4005 Morningside Ave.

**Perry Creek Branch Library**  
2912 Hamilton Blvd.

**Online Branch Library**  
[www.SiouxCityLibrary.org](http://www.SiouxCityLibrary.org)

# MAYOR COMMENDS YOUTH : SUMMER READING



Families of Zachary and Jacob Todt, and Hudson Clabaugh smile together at the Commendation where they received recognition for being the first to complete the Library's 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten initiative.

Mayor Bob Scott took a moment before the City Council Meeting on Monday, August 14, to commend Ainsley Sealine, Hudson Clabaugh, Jacob Todt, and Zachary Todt for being the first to complete the Sioux City Public Library's 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten initiative. The program, launched in January 2017, helps parents and caregivers prepare their children for kindergarten through the simple and enjoyable act of sharing books. By the end of June 2018, over 100 children were participating in the challenge and 29 received their 1000-book medal.

1000 Books Before Kindergarten is now included in the Siouxland-wide initiative *0-3 Prime Age to Engage* as a tool to increase childhood literacy. Sioux City Public Library is among 70 planning partners joined in the effort to educate families and caregivers on the importance of engaging and reading with children from a young age.



Raleigh Barondeau's lucky entry was drawn from 1,593 cards, winning her the Summer Reading Challenge grand prize karaoke machine.

Young patrons enjoyed visits from animal ambassadors, solving a mystery case, conducting experiments, and conquering reading challenges during the Library's 2018 summer reading initiative. 2,424 children and teens took part, making 5,587 visits to the Library during the months of June, July, and August.

This was the second year for the Summer Reading Challenge where participants earned a chance to win the grand prize for every three hours they read. A total of 1,593 cards were turned in, equaling 4,779 hours of reading.

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**132 more hours** of reading were logged than in 2017.

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## ENHANCING SERVICE

Sioux City Public Library added the following services and digital resources to enhance the Library experience for patrons:

- **Transparent Language**

In December, the language-learning database switched to Transparent Language, adding more than 80 languages for users to choose from. Transparent's immersive and in-depth learning for over 100 languages is perfect for learning to speak, read, and write new languages as well as mastering the English language with ESL in +25 languages.

- **Freegal Music**

In addition to five free song downloads per week, full-service cardholders can now stream thousands of artists from nearly 40,000 record labels ad-free, anytime,

anywhere using Freegal Music. Music lovers streamed nearly 15,000 songs since the feature was added in December 2017.

- **EnvisionWare**

EnvisionWare was added in May, streamlining printing at the Library and enabling patrons to pay fines and fees with credit/debit cards. Payments can be made both in person at the Library and online from home. The printing feature allows patrons to print from their mobile devices or from their home computer and come into the Library to pick up their prints. Both EnvisionWare features give patrons more control and freedom.

## CIRCULATION

Checkouts of downloadable material continue to trend up.

**19,538 eBooks** checked out (+9.9%) and **14,785 eAudiobooks** were borrowed (+18.4%).

Active cardholders borrowed 396,884 items (down 3% from last year), and downloadable materials, including Freegal Music, accounts for 14.5% of total circulation.

## VOLUNTEERS

During National Volunteer Week (April 15-21, 2018), Sioux City Public Library thanked 98 volunteers by placing books into its collection in their honor.

Volunteers donated **2,603 hours of their time** to the Library.

Serving a key role in many facets of Library service, volunteers deliver materials to the homebound, support our Perry Creek Branch with their time, assist with fundraising efforts, and contribute to the planning of other initiatives such as One Book One Siouxland.

## ENGAGING READERS



Rock painters came out to enjoy a literary painting event themed from *The Great American Read* as part of our Adult Summer Reading program.

Sioux City Public Library partnered with Beyond the Bell to start an after-school book club in the City's middle schools. The book club debuted at West Middle in November, moved to North Middle in January and East Middle in March, meeting once a week for seven weeks to explore *The War that Saved my Life* by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley. Through discussion and interactive programming, the group delved into topics and themes in the book—even creating a book trailer using iMovie. Incorporating Book Club into the Summer Reading initiative offered more teens the opportunity to engage in reading and activities.

In April, Siouxland came together around the book *Hidden Figures* by Margot Lee Shetterly for One Book One Siouxland, a community-wide reading initiative. 624 people attended 31 functions, including featured events such as visiting with

Ruth Jones, Ph.D. from NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center (dubbed a 'Modern Figure'), a night of live storytelling in partnership with Siouxland Public Media's ODE, and hearing from the hidden figures of Siouxland in a program attendees described as "astounding."

The Adult Summer Reading program is following PBS' national campaign *The Great American Read*. As PBS collects votes to determine America's favorite novel, Library patrons are reading books from the list, voting for their favorite, and entering into monthly drawings for prize bags filled with literary memorabilia. More than 580 Great American Read summer reading handouts have been picked up in June, July, and August. The program will end in October with a Trivia Night a couple weeks before PBS reveals America's most-loved book.



Staff **proctored 92 tests** for distance education test-takers, up from 54 the previous year.



Staff scheduled **169 Tech Consultations** to assist patrons with their devices, 31 more than last year.



**1,422 community uses** of our public meeting spaces, up 38% from last year.



**44,581** (-12.6%) public-use computer logins. **55,320** (-1.4%) WIFI logins.



**14,459 people attended** 526 Library sponsored events throughout the year.



Staff issued **4,357 new Library cards** this year.



The Library welcomed **293,711 visitors** over the past year.

- 202,717 at Aalfs Downtown
- 66,826 at Morningside Branch
- 24,168 at Perry Creek Branch



The Library now holds **208,970 physical books and recordings** in three locations.

- 15,363 new items added
- 16,793 outdated or damaged items withdrawn

**Creating opportunities for a lifetime of learning to empower and enrich our community.**

*Adopted by the Board of Trustees, June 2016*

## BUDGET SUMMARY

Operating Budget (Not Audited)

**\$3,077,001** City Adjusted Budgeted Amount

### Expenditures:

\$2,326,513 Personnel  
 \$269,922 Materials  
 \$480,566 Building/Operations/Equipment

### Revenue:

\$86,093 Fines/Fees

### Gifts and Grants Received:

\$78,742 Library Foundation Endowment  
 \$32,519 Friends of the Sioux City Public Library  
 \$17,667 State of Iowa Funds

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

### President:

Richard A. Moon

### Vice President:

Hope Schaefer

### Secretary:

Charles (Bill) McKenny

### Trustees:

Janet Plathe  
 David Halaas  
 Todd Stanley  
 Jane Vereen